

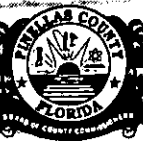
Date Printed: 06/16/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_80
Tab Number: 91
Document Title: Do something -- vote Year 2000
Document Date: 2000
Document Country: United States -- Florida
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE02115




* 8 C C 9 E 8 4 F - 4 2 F 0 - 4 8 A 9 - 8 6 3 E - D 7 9 0 6 6 B E 8 2 F 4 *

A HISTORY OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE
OFFICERS
OF PINELAS COUNTY



"Serving You Every Day"



HISTORY OF THE
CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS
OF PINELLAS COUNTY

FOREWORD

"History is biography," said the great Scottish essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle.

What better way, then, to look at the history of Pinellas County than through the profiles of the men and women who served as its constitutional officers, from the county's inception to the present day.

In 1912, Pinellas County wrestled with a different array of challenges and opportunities than it does today. The newly formed county consisted mainly of emerging communities and vast undeveloped areas. A substantial majority of the land was either unused or in cultivation. As Pinellas County struggled to establish an identity for itself, the issue of where to put the county seat became of paramount concern. Other items put before the first constitutional officers were the issues of a burgeoning population, additional school facilities and the establishment of an intracounty roadway system.

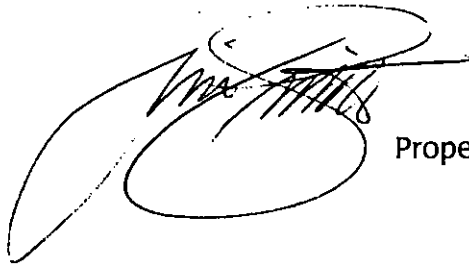
Today, Pinellas County stands as the most densely populated county in the state of Florida. Economic development heads our list of concerns, as does preserving the ecology, promoting tourism, maintaining the infrastructure and providing superior emergency services to our citizenry. Step by step, through all the various terms of office, our constitutional officers have given their input to help solve the variety of problems encountered along the way and to shape our county into what is today a glistening vacationland and an ideal home for nearly 900,000 permanent residents.

As we glance through the pages of this book, and note the vitality with which our elected leaders have discharged their public duties, we would hope to gain an understanding of the depth of commitment that exists today on the part of our elected representatives. The people who today hold these offices stand on a rich tradition of quality service.

This retrospective is published as a tribute to past office holders, acknowledgment of those who serve today and inspiration to all who will come to fill these shoes in the future.

Karleen F. De Blaker

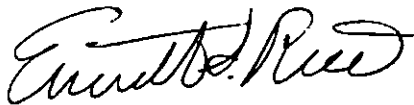
Karleen F. De Blaker
Clerk of the Circuit Court



Jim Smith
Property Appraiser

Bob Dillinger

Robert Dillinger
Public Defender



Everett S. Rice
Pinellas County Sheriff

Bernie McCabe

Bernie McCabe
State Attorney



Dorothy W. Ruggles
Supervisor of Elections



W. Fred Petty
Tax Collector

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many individuals have worked to make this publication possible. The following are deserving of special thanks in the production of this booklet.

Darryl Paulson, Ph. D., Professor of Government and Coordinator of the College of Arts and Sciences at the St. Petersburg Campus of the University of South Florida.

USF Student Researchers:

Earl Fratus, Gerard Breslin, Debra Mixon, Marion Neal, V. P. Walling, K. C. Suzuki, Kathleen Gibson.

Pinellas County Department Representatives:

Alicia Addeo, Pinellas County Park Department, Ft. DeSoto Park
Pat Brady, Tax Collector's Office
Joan Brock, Supervisor of Elections' Office
Ella Heartsfield, Public Defender's Office
Willie W. Hasty, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Printing Services
Carol A. Heath, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Court Services Division
Tom Iovino, Property Appraiser's Office
Don Ivey, Heritage Village
Dorothy Nitz, Supervisor of Elections' Office
Marianne Pasha, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Sara Pleso, Property Appraiser's Office
Loretta Rame, State Attorney's Office
Jerry Woron, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

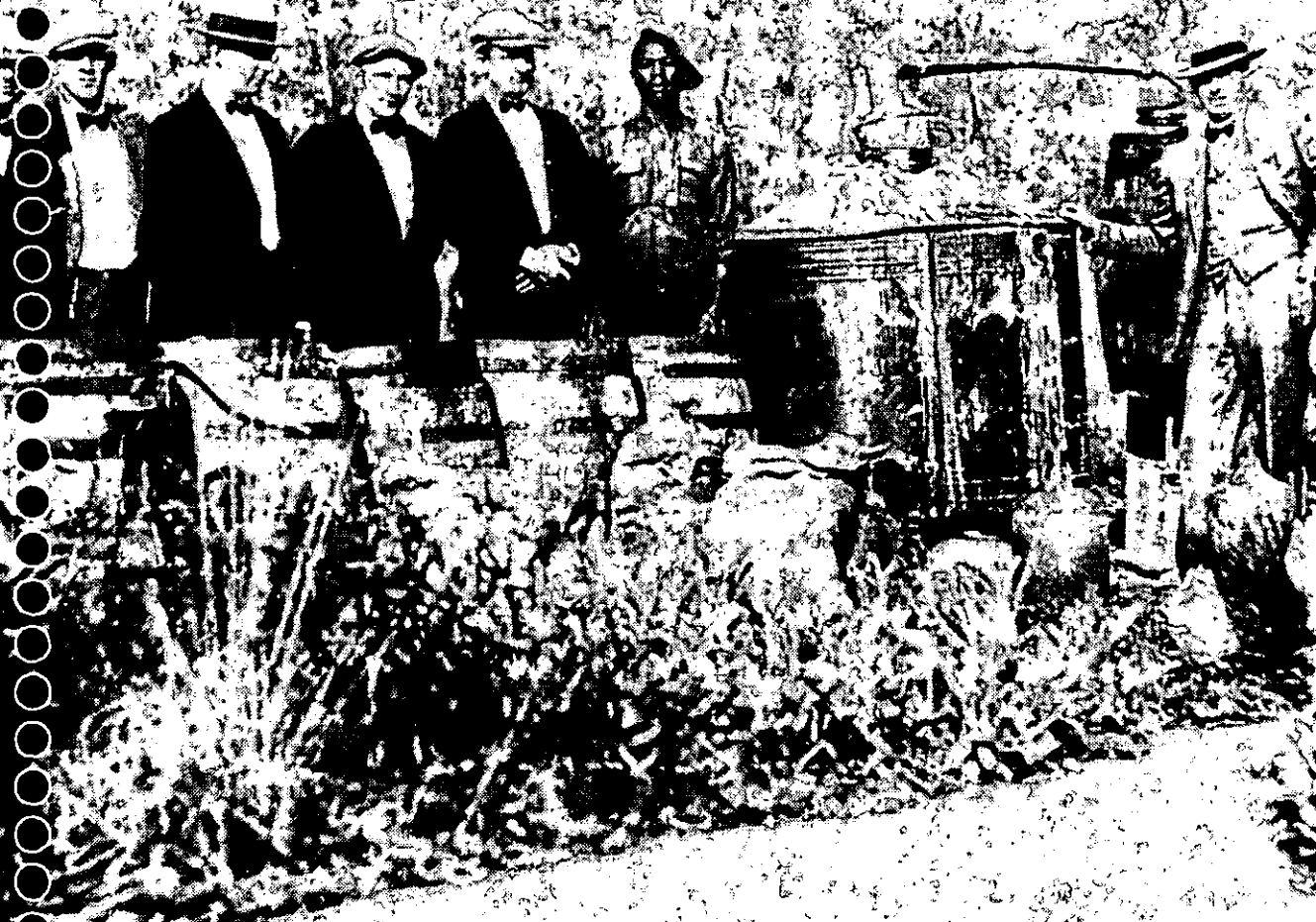
Pinellas County Department of Public Affairs:

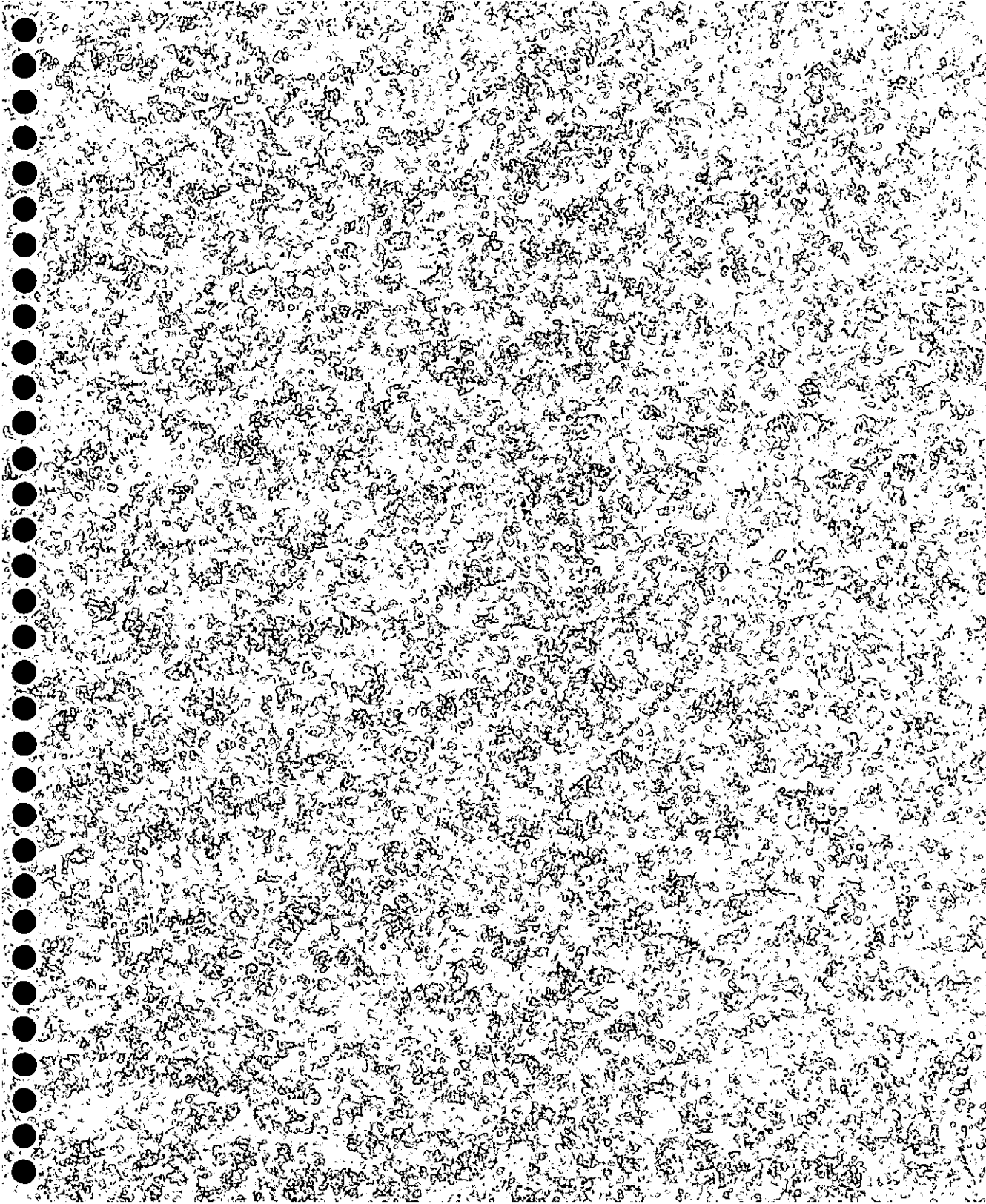
Ronnie J. Goodstein, Director
Len Ciecieznski, Senior Public Information Specialist
Debra J. Lansdowne, Graphics Illustrator
Michael Roiland, Photographer


Other sources:

Special acknowledgment goes to the St. Petersburg Times' library and research staff for their helpful assistance in preparing this booklet.

Briefly







The development of Pinellas County is reflected in the profiles of the many men and women who served as Pinellas County's constitutional officers. Each one has left his or her legacy, and collectively they have brought us forward to where we are today. Some names made headlines, others served quietly and without fanfare. But each left an indelible imprint in what today forms our county's unique historic heritage.

Their stories are contained in the pages of this book. We invite you to turn the pages, and acquaint yourself with this fascinating history.

INTRODUCTION

On May 23, 1911, while people in Clearwater were in the midst of a festive victory celebration, Florida Governor Albert Gilchrist signed an important piece of legislation.

The bill to which the governor affixed his signature was an act providing for the creation of Florida's 48th county, to comprise and include all that territory of the County of Hillsborough that had commonly been referred to as "West Hillsborough."

Pinellas County would be born as a result of that legislation.

On November 14, 1911, a referendum made the bill official. The residents of "West Hillsborough" voted for independence by a tally of 1,379 to 505. On December 15, as provided for in the bill, Governor Gilchrist made the following appointments.

For Clerk of the Circuit Court he appointed C.W. Weicking of St. Petersburg. This office was to keep the records and minutes of all court business and record deeds, mortgages, plats and maps of lands, judgements and similar legal documents. The Clerk would keep the financial records of the county and serve as county auditor, monitoring the expenditures of all county officials who handle public funds.

For Sheriff, the governor appointed Marvel Whitehurst of Ozona. This office was to execute the orders of the court and detect and arrest violators of the law. He would maintain the safekeeping and care of prisoners awaiting trial or sentenced to jail, and see that quiet and order prevailed throughout his jurisdiction.

For Tax Assessor (Property Appraiser) the governor appointed T.J. Northrup of St. Petersburg. This office was to track all taxable property within the county, both real and personal. These listings would then be delivered to the Tax Collector for collection and to the Clerk of the Circuit Court as public record.

For Tax Collector he appointed Eli B. McMullen of Largo. This office was to collect taxes so determined by the millage formula calculated by the Tax Assessor. The Tax Collector also would collect the occupational licenses' tax and other miscellaneous taxes.

For County Treasurer he would appoint A. C. Turner of Clearwater. The County Treasurer was to be custodian of the county school funds and the fine and forfeiture fund of the county. It was his duty to give receipts in duplicate to all officers paying money into

the county treasury, as well as to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the inspection of the Board of County Commissioners.

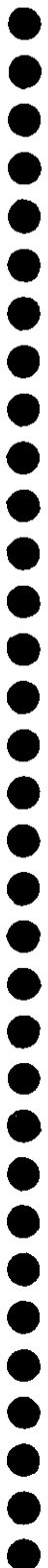
For Supervisor of Registration he would appoint Albert S. Meares of Anona (currently part of Largo). This office was charged with providing for the registration of all legally qualified voters in the county, and for the returns of all elections, together with the poll lists and oaths of the inspectors and clerks, all ballot boxes, ballot stubs, memoranda and miscellaneous papers.

As Pinellas County would remain in the Sixth Judicial Circuit along with Hillsborough and Pasco Counties (it was not until 1923 that the Sixth Judicial Circuit was reformed to comprise Pinellas and Pasco Counties only, as it remains today), Herbert Phillips remained active as State Attorney in Pinellas. His office was charged with prosecuting or defending on behalf of the state all suits, applications or motions, civil or criminal, in which the state is a party. Other duties of the State Attorney's office were 1) to summon all witnesses required on behalf of the state, 2) to attend grand jury hearings for the purpose of examining witnesses in the jury's presence or for giving them advice upon any legal matter before them, 3) to prepare bills of indictment and 4) to assist the attorney general of the state in the preparation and presentation of all appeals from the circuit court before the state supreme court.

The Pinellas County Public Defender's Office was created by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners in 1961. This office represents indigents who cannot afford a lawyer and defends them in cases that could lead to imprisonment. Indigent juveniles alleged to be delinquents are also defended by this office. Fees are determined by Florida Statute; the court determines dates payable.

On January 1, 1912, these first constitutional officers prepared to go to work as the new government of Pinellas County made ready to convene.

Politically, there have been changes through the decades. Technology has streamlined the work. Growth has created new offices and combined the duties of others. But always, our constitutional officers have abided by their pledge to serve the people of Pinellas County and uphold the responsibilities of each individual office.

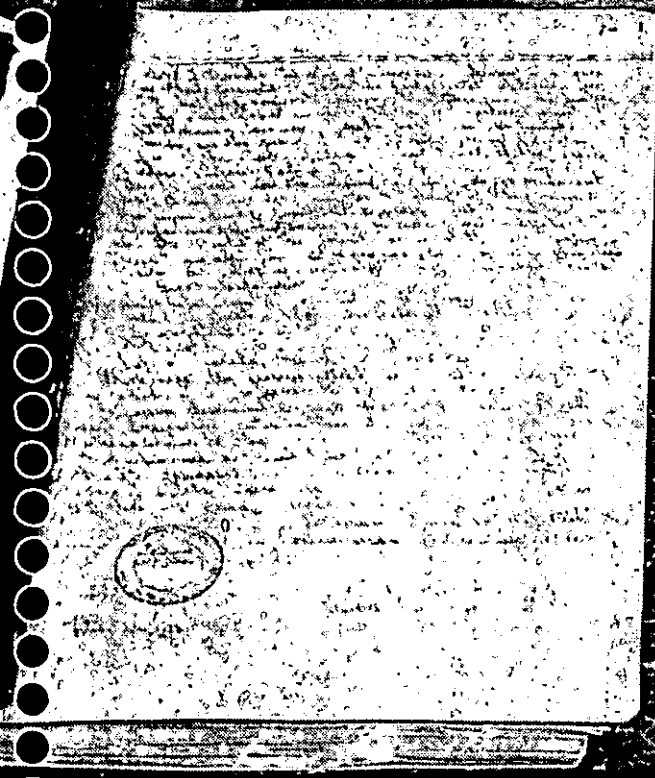


Clerk of the Circuit Court

CLERK'S LIQUOR
SEIZURE RECORD

1

FRIDELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA



LOCKET

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT TENURE

C.W. Wiecking	1912 - 1917
John N. Brown	1917 - 1925
Karl B. O'Quinn	1925 - 1936
Myrtle B. O'Quinn	1936
A. G. McQuagge	1937
Laura J. McQuagge	1937
Ray E. Green.....	1938 - 1949
William Crawford	1949 - 1952
Morrison Pearce	1952 - 1953
Avery W. Gilkerson	1953 - 1963
Esther L. Gilkerson	1963
Clyde J. Keys	1963 - 1964
Emory L. Brown	1964
Harold "Pete" Mullendore	1964 - 1981
Karleen F. De Blaker	1981 - Present

*T*here shall be in each county a Clerk of the
Circuit Court who shall be selected pursuant
to the provisions of Article VIII Section 1...
... the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall be ex-officio
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Auditor,
Recorder, and Custodian of all County Funds.

OVERVIEW

The concept of a "clerk" of the court dates back to English law, when clerks were appointed as subordinate judicial officials from members of the clergy, the most educated group of administrators at that time. The English word "clerk" is derived from the Latin *clericus*, which means clergyman.

The first provisional governor of Florida, Andrew Jackson, established the Clerk of the Court as a judicial office in the newly created counties of Escambia and St. Johns. Governor Jackson needed a dependable official to maintain a file of land records and related legal documents. All of the prominent citizens of that day needed clarification of land titles and access to records in order to do business in the new territory. Thus, the office of the Clerk soon grew into one of prominence and prestige.

Florida came into statehood in 1845, and the state's constitution, drafted in 1838, provided for a Clerk of the Circuit Court. A revised constitution written in 1885 solidified the Clerk's position as an elected official. This is considered to be one of the most important aspects of the Clerk's role as a public trustee because he or she serves at the will of the people.

Through the years, the Clerk of the Circuit Court acquired a variety of duties and responsibilities. Today, the Florida Statutes assign over 926 tasks to the Clerk. Among them, the Clerk of the Circuit Court maintains custody of court records and all related pleadings that have been filed. This position secures evidence entered in court; collects and disburses all court fines, assessments and court-ordered child support; and summons prospective jurors.

Outside of the courtroom, the Clerk maintains the official records of Pinellas County, including the official records of the Board of County Commissioners.

As custodian of all county funds, the Clerk receives and records all county revenue and has the responsibility of investing county funds. The Clerk serves as trustee in handling collection and disbursements of funding for numerous agencies and the Clerk is the chief financial officer of the county. As county auditor, the Clerk performs a "pre-audit" to establish legality of planned expenditures and is personally liable if the office knowingly approves an illegal expenditure. A primary responsibility of the office is to ensure that county funds are expended only for public purposes and for the benefit of the public as a whole. Because the Clerk has the authority to audit all county expenditures, this role is one of the fundamental checks against too much power being centralized in any one county office.

In Pinellas County, by interlocal agreement with other county officials, the Clerk has charge of County Printing Services and Mail Services. Until the mid 1960's, the Clerk also acted as a county administrator for the Board of County Commissioners.

The Clerk's authority and responsibilities are derived from the Florida Constitution, the Florida Statutes, Rules of Court and County Ordinance. The Clerk serves not only as Clerk of the Circuit Court, but as Clerk of the County Court, Recorder of Deeds, Clerk and Accountant for the Board of County Commissioners, custodian of all county funds and County Auditor.

C.W. WIECKING 1912 - 1917

In December of 1911, as Pinellas County was about to be declared a sovereign county, the voters went to the polls to decide who their public officials would be. The referendum was essentially a preference poll; Governor Albert W. Gilchrist would actually appoint the winners to their respective offices. C.W. Wiecking ran unopposed for the Clerk of the Circuit Court seat. He attained the unique distinction of garnering the most votes of any of the other candidates for office in that first Pinellas County election.

In 1912, Wiecking was elected to a full term in the Clerk's office. While in office, Wiecking invested in the John's Pass Realty Company, which laid out one of the first major golf courses in the area, as well as adjacent lots for homes facing the golf course. The venture was a success and the company thrived financially.

JOHN N. BROWN 1917 - 1925

John Brown was elected to the Clerk's office in the fall of 1916. He served until January of 1925. He founded the Ninth Street Bank & Trust Company and built the Suwannee Hotel. Brown served as president of the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce. He held a seat on the city council of St. Petersburg from 1911-1912, and served as Pinellas County's tax assessor from 1912-1916. Mr. Brown also served on the City Library Board while the library building was being built.

John Brown was born in Florida in 1876, in Webster, Sumter County. He was educated at Georgia Business College near Atlanta and graduated in 1897. Throughout his political career and after, Brown was one of the leading hotel owners in the area and state, serving as president of the Florida Hotel Association in 1934.



KARL B. O'QUINN 1925 - 1936

Karl O'Quinn was born in Kissimmee in 1893. When he was sixteen years old he was forced to support his mother and two brothers, and did so by taking a job at the Tampa Tribune in St. Petersburg. O'Quinn later went to work as an assistant to John N. Brown, when Brown was the county tax assessor. He also served for three years as county finance and state bank examiner under Comptroller Ernest Amos, and was the managing secretary for the West Coast Title Company.

Karl O'Quinn was elected to the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court in 1924, and served until April of 1936. On December 7, 1934, Mr. O'Quinn handed Florida Governor Dave Sholtz his resignation, effective January 1, 1935. Governor Sholtz named A.G. McQuagge of the Clerk's office as replacement, but after protest from State Senator James F. Sikes, the appointment was withdrawn. The Governor then appointed Frank J. Booth, one of O'Quinn's long time political rivals as his replacement. When O'Quinn heard this news, he withdrew his resignation, intending to finish out his term. A political eruption ensued, and the Florida State Supreme Court was asked to render an opinion as to whether or not O'Quinn's resignation could be legally withdrawn. The court eventually ruled in O'Quinn's favor, but Karl B. O'Quinn died in office on April 12, 1936, without finishing his term.



MYRTLE B. O'QUINN 1936

After the death of Karl O'Quinn, Circuit Judges John Bird, T. Frank Hobson and John L. Viney appointed O'Quinn's wife, Myrtle B. O'Quinn to serve as ad interim Clerk of the Circuit Court. Circuit court judges are authorized by the Florida Statutes to appoint an ad interim Clerk of the Circuit Court until the governor fills the position with a regular appointment. This allows the business of the court to proceed, which it would not be able to do otherwise. A large group of supporters endorsed Mrs. O'Quinn for the Clerk's position. Governor Dave Scholz subsequently appointed Mrs. O'Quinn to serve out her husband's term.

A. G. McQUAGGE 1937

Archie McQuagge was one of the nominees for the Clerk's position when Karl O'Quinn tendered his resignation in 1935.

McQuagge was born in Washington County in the Florida panhandle on September 6, 1884. After attending public school, he studied business at a commercial college in Nashville, Tennessee. Returning home, McQuagge entered the mercantile business and later became vice-president and general manager of the Dunn-Coleman Hardware Company. Being very popular in Washington County, he was prevailed upon to run for the Clerk of the Circuit Court in that county, and served two terms at that post.

In January of 1925, McQuagge came to Clearwater and took the post of Assistant Chief Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pinellas County. Over the next few years he studied law on his own and was admitted to the bar in 1928. In 1936 McQuagge campaigned for, and was successfully elected to, the post that had eluded him a year earlier. He served less than one year in office, however, and died in December of 1937.



LAURA J. McQUAGGE 1937

Mrs. McQuagge was appointed as the second ad interim Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pinellas County, upon the death of her husband. She served in the office for three weeks until Governor Fred P. Cone appointed Ray Green to fill out the rest of her husband's term. Mrs. McQuagge went on to serve as the president of the Upper Pinellas Women's Democratic Club and president of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Clearwater.



RAY E. GREEN 1938 - 1949

Ray Green was born in Manatee County and moved to Pinellas with his family when he was one year old. He was a graduate of Clearwater High School and Max Morris School of Pharmacy in Macon, Georgia. Ray Green worked as a pharmacist for 21 years, eventually selling his drugstore to Jack Eckerd of the Eckerd Corporation.

Green was elected to the office of mayor of Clearwater in 1935. He was then appointed to the Clerk's post by Governor Fred P. Cone to fill the vacancy created by the death of Archie McQuagge. He served as Clerk of the Circuit Court from 1938 until 1949, then went to Tallahassee as assistant state comptroller. Green was appointed to the position of state comptroller in 1955, serving in that capacity until his retirement in 1965. One year earlier, Green attained national recognition as recipient of the Robins Bowl of Hygeia Plaque. This prestigious award is given to only one individual in each state for his or her contribution to the fields of community service and health.



WILLIAM CRAWFORD 1949 - 1952

William Crawford was born in Henderson, Kentucky in 1892. He attended school in his home state and began a career in banking with the Henderson County Savings Bank. He moved to St. Petersburg in 1918, and held various positions within the banking industry there including the title of vice-president of the Ninth Street Bank.

Crawford left his banking career and entered the Clerk's office as Deputy Clerk, a position he held for twelve years. In 1948, he campaigned for the Clerk's position and was elected. Shortly after taking office however, Crawford's health took a turn for the worse. His chief deputy, Morrison Pearce served as acting Clerk until failing health finally caused William Crawford to resign in 1952.

MORRISON PEARCE 1952 - 1953

Morrison Pearce was appointed by the Governor in 1952 to fill William Crawford's unexpired term.

Pearce was born January 1, 1908, at Hope Mills, N.C. He moved to St. Petersburg with his family in 1911, where his father, J. D. Pearce, opened a drug-store. The elder Pearce was elected mayor of St. Petersburg in 1930; he appointed his son as secretary. Morrison Pearce stayed in the secretary's office beyond his father's term as mayor, and eventually took a position with the Clerk's office as the manager of the St. Petersburg branch office. In 1949, he became Chief Deputy Clerk, becoming Clerk of the Circuit Court after William Crawford's resignation.

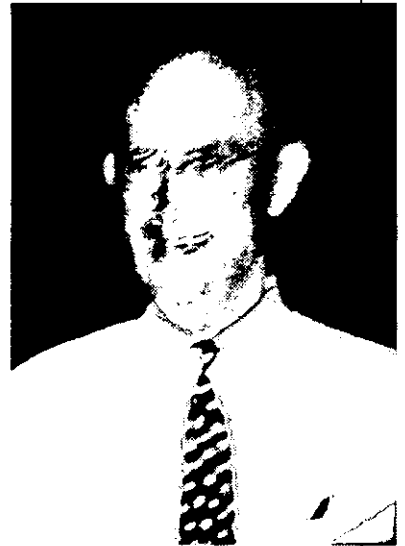
Morrison Pearce unsuccessfully ran for election in the fall of 1952.



AVERY W. GILKERSON 1953 - 1963

Avery Gilkerson was born in Toronto, Ontario on June 5, 1899. He and his family eventually moved to Minneapolis where he attended the University of Minnesota until he enlisted in the military during World War I. Gilkerson was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court in 1952 and was re-elected in 1956 and 1960. He was the first Republican to hold that position since Reconstruction.

Avery Gilkerson was known for often refusing to pay bills that county officials could not back up with legal authority. He took his role as "watchdog" of all county funds very seriously and is credited with making the Clerk of the Circuit Court one of the most powerful political positions in the county. Gilkerson died in office in 1963, at the age of 64.



ESTHER L. GILKERSON 1963

Once again, the wife of a Clerk who died in office was appointed ad interim Clerk of the Circuit Court. After Mrs. Gilkerson stepped into her late husband's shoes, employees of the Clerk's office circulated petitions supporting her permanent appointment, and sent them on to then Governor Farris Bryant. Republicans and Democrats alike also called on Governor Bryant to appoint Esther Gilkerson to fill out the term of her late husband, but he instead chose Clyde J. Keys, a member of his own political party. When Clyde Keys took over, Mrs. Gilkerson remained with the Clerk's office in a subordinate capacity.



CLYDE J. KEYS 1963 - 1964

Clyde J. Keys was born in Dillsboro, North Carolina in 1897. His father did extensive work throughout Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia as a builder and contractor. At the age of fourteen, Keys went to work for his father and served an apprenticeship until he had secured a thorough background and could go into the construction business himself. In Pinellas County, Keys supervised the construction of the Ponce de Leon Hotel, Mound Park Hospital (currently Bayfront Medical Center) and the Municipal Power Plant. In 1954, Keys served as a Pinellas County commissioner filling the unexpired term of James Shoecraft.

A long-time friend of Governor Farris Bryant and a leader in the Democratic Party in Pinellas County, Keys was a natural choice to fill out the rest of Avery Gilkerson's term of office. Malcom Ogden, who was an administrative assistant to the governor and Key's son-in-law, called Keys on the morning of his appointment to the Clerk's office in 1963 to congratulate him. Keys responded with "they have signed my death sentence." Still, Keys accepted the appointment because of his sense of honor and the obligation he felt to serve the people of Pinellas County. Ironically, he died in office just a few months later.

EMORY L. BROWN 1964

Muriel Keys, Clyde Keys' wife, declined an ad interim appointment to become the Clerk of the Circuit Court. The various department heads of the Clerk's office recommended Emory Brown to the court for the position. Brown was born in Plant City and had lived in Florida all his life. The court did appoint Brown as ad interim Clerk, but Brown was disinterested in a full appointment to the Clerk's position, and served only until Harold Mullendore was appointed by Governor Farris Bryant. Later, Brown opened a law practice in Clearwater.

HAROLD "PETE" MULLENDORE 1964 - 1981

Pete Mullendore had already received Clyde Keys' backing as the Democratic candidate for Clerk of the Circuit Court when Keys began experiencing health problems during his term of office. Governor Farris Bryant's appointment, however, was considered to be an important boost to Mullendore's campaign. After being appointed to the Clerk's position, Mullendore won his election bid in 1964, then was re-elected three more times. Mullendore, who was born in Blount County, Tennessee, was a mortgage broker-insurance agent and a real estate broker and appraiser before becoming Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Mullendore served as president of the Association of Court Clerks in Florida and in 1976/77 he served as president of the National Association of County Recorders and Clerks (NACRC). One of his proudest accomplishments while in office was the introduction of a civil service system for employees of the Clerk's office, which later evolved into a unified personnel system for county government. During Mullendore's tenure, the Florida Constitution was amended, providing for local courts to be abolished and a state court system to be established. Due to that change, office services were expanded with the Clerk assuming responsibility for Juvenile, Probate and Traffic Court records. Mullendore introduced automation for the official records and the accounting records for the office, participated in the establishment of the Criminal Justice Information System, and expanded branch office operations.

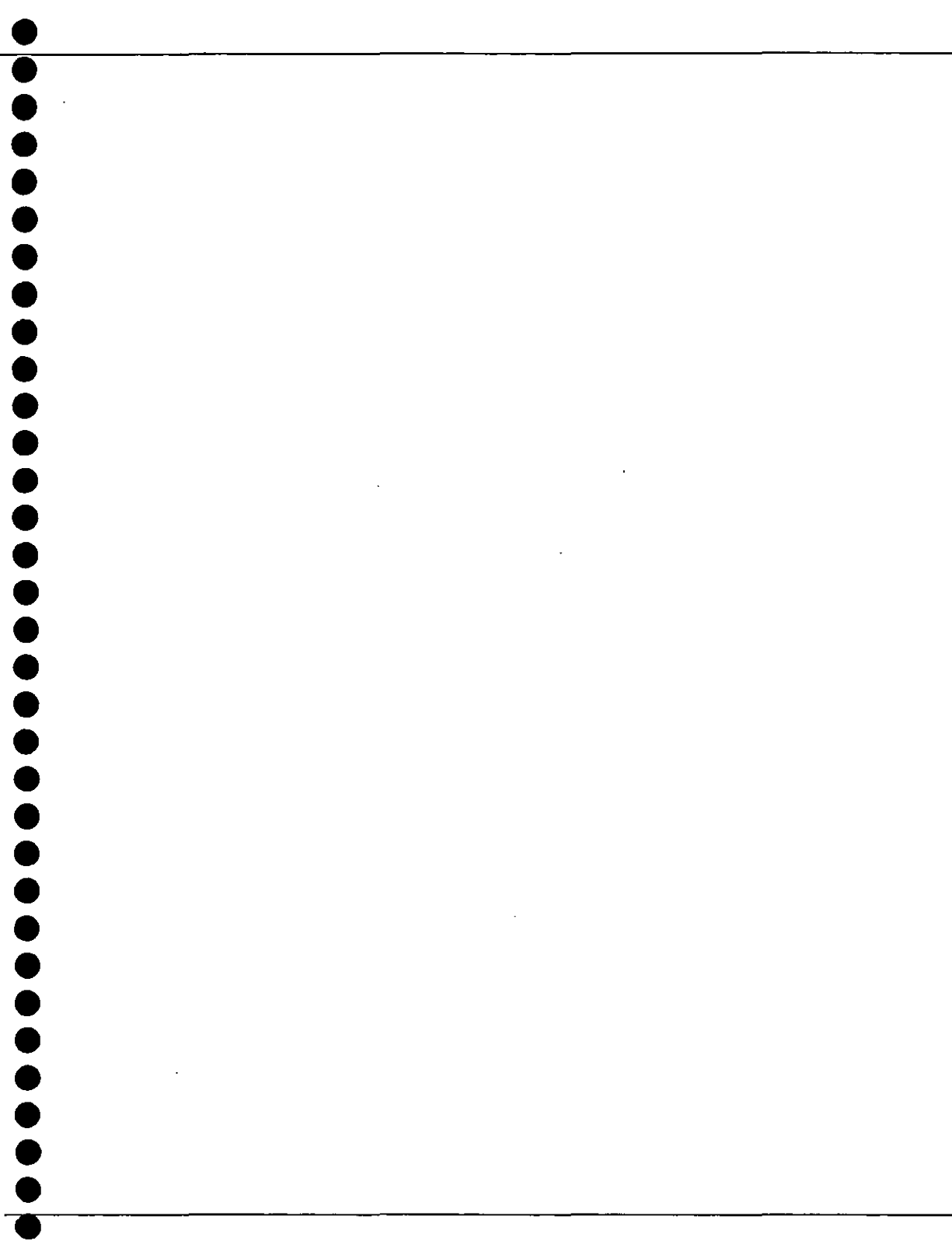


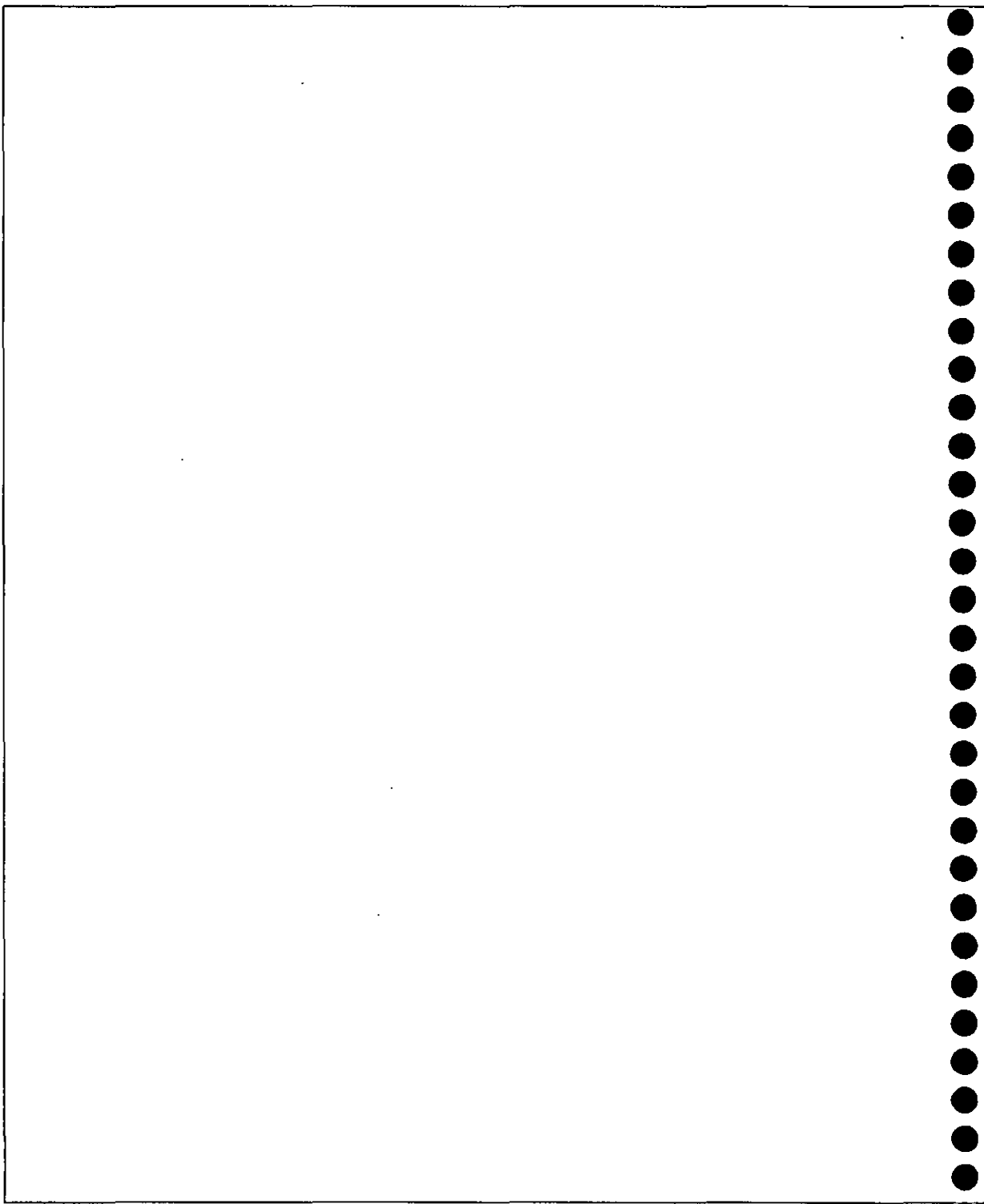
KARLEEN F. DE BLAKER 1981 - PRESENT



Karleen F. De Blaker was born and raised in Blackwell, Oklahoma and earned her Bachelor of Science degree, with majors in Office Administration and Economics, at Oklahoma State University. Upon graduation, she worked for the assistant general sales manager of Continental Oil Company (Conoco) in the Marketing Department. Mrs. De Blaker and her husband moved to Clearwater in 1961, where she immediately became active in numerous countywide civic groups. In 1974, De Blaker was the first woman elected to the Clearwater City Commission where she served three terms. In 1980, Republican Karleen F. De Blaker became the first woman elected to be Clerk of the Circuit Court in Pinellas County, and has been re-elected to that position four times.

De Blaker's financial initiatives have resulted in millions of dollars of additional income for Pinellas County through wise investment of county funds. Yearly since 1981, the Clerk's Finance Division has received Certificates of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. De Blaker has always placed a strong emphasis on the pre-audit of county expenditures (in the role of "watch-dog" of the county) and established the Internal Audit Division of the Clerk's office. During her terms in office, De Blaker has greatly improved customer service and emphasized professionalism and a strict adherence to the Florida Ethics Law. The technology of the Clerk's office has been given a boost, with innovations such as electronic bar coding of files, electronic transfer of funds, voice activated computer response, in-courtroom docketing (courtroom automation) and imaging of records. In 1994, The Florida Association of Court Clerks & Comptrollers honored Karleen De Blaker by electing her to that organization's presidency.



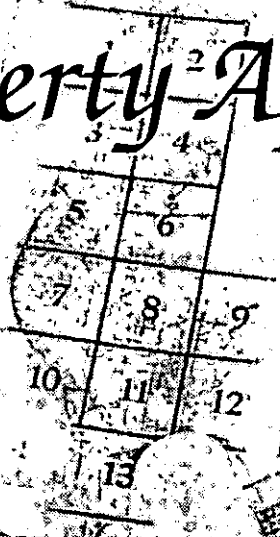


WEST COAST TITLE COMPANY
INCORPORATED IN CALIFORNIA
10000 WEST COAST BLVD
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90024

Property Appraiser

Pinellas County
LAND ATLAS

J. M. SMITH, PUBLISHER
10000 WEST COAST BLVD
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90024



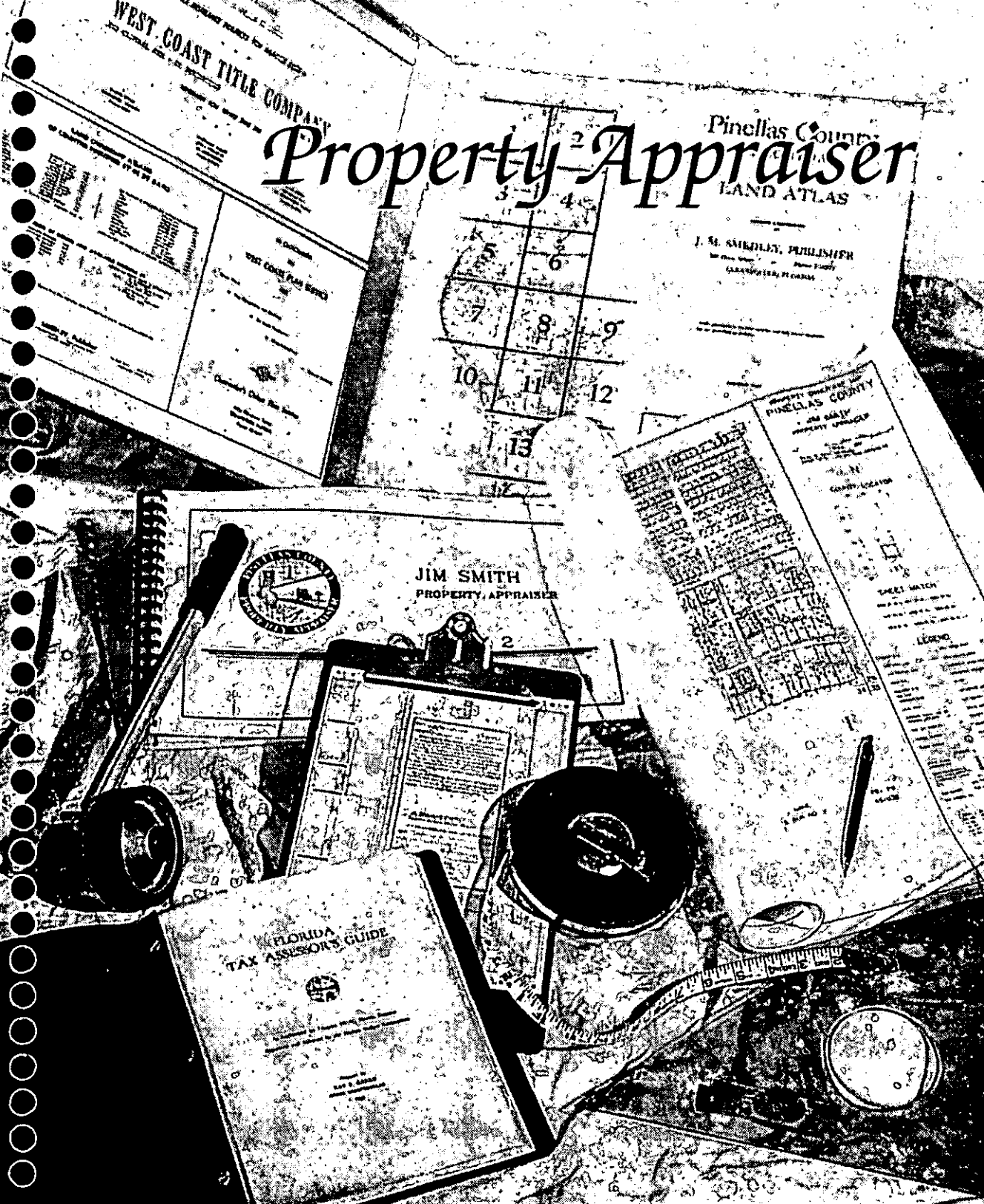
PROPERTY OWNERS LIST
PINELLAS COUNTY
ALL SALES
PROPERTY APPRAISER

PROPERTY ADDRESS	OWNER	VALUE
10000 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10001 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10002 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10003 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10004 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10005 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10006 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10007 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10008 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10009 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10010 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10011 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10012 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10013 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10014 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10015 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10016 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10017 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10018 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10019 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000
10020 WEST COAST BLVD	J. M. SMITH	100000




JIM SMITH
PROPERTY APPRAISER

FLORIDA
TAX ASSESSOR'S GUIDE



PROPERTY APPRAISER TENURE

Thomas J. Northrup.....	1912 - 1913
John N. Brown	1913 - 1917
Albert T. Blocker.....	1917 - 1925
Charles A. Wilcox	1925 - 1929/1933 - 1949
Herschel H. Sterling	1929 - 1933/1949 - 1961
Mac S. Haines	1961 - 1976
Ronald J. Schultz	1976 - 1989
Jim Smith	1989 - Present



*T*here shall be elected by the electors of each county, for terms of four years, a sheriff, a tax collector, a property appraiser...

OVERVIEW

The Property Appraiser has the legal responsibility to determine the value of real and tangible personal property in Pinellas County through the actions of the marketplace, and to appraise property accordingly so as to provide taxing authorities with accurate and uniform property values for tax purposes.

A property's market value is determined as the estimated sale price, less the cost of the sale. Three methods of determining market value are used: the market approach (tracking actual sales of similar properties in similar neighborhoods), the cost approach (calculating the cost of replacement construction) and the income approach (tracking the earning potential of income producing property). Through the study of this information, the Property Appraiser can place a fair market value on every piece of property within Pinellas County.

The state of Florida taxed only land until 1905, when the state also began imposing a \$2 license fee for cars. In 1912, as Pinellas County was established, the county tax roll listed 14,000 taxpayers and 12,131 parcels of land valued at \$4,854,288. By contrast, today, the county Property Appraiser lists 401,753 pieces of real property within Pinellas County, valued at \$47,023,016,518.

The first constitutional officers for fledgling Pinellas County, including the Property Appraiser (then called Tax Assessor), were appointed by the governor. The first elected Tax Assessor took office in 1913.

The Homestead Exemption Act, providing tax relief for those property owners whose homes were their residences, was established in 1934. The new law required property owners to file for homestead exemption on or before April 1st of each year. For years, the homestead exemption was set at the first \$5,000 of a property's appraised value. In 1980, as part of a state constitutional amendment, the homestead exemption standard was raised to \$25,000.

In 1974, as part of a state constitutional amendment, voters were asked to decide whether or not to change the name of "County Tax Assessor" to that of "Property Appraiser." Proponents argued that the Tax Assessor did not levy taxes. Rather, it was the job of the county commission and school board to determine millage rates. The Tax Assessor merely determined the value of the property to be taxed. The voters agreed, and the office of County Tax Assessor became known as Property Appraiser.

Today, every piece of property throughout Pinellas County is reappraised each year, based on the previous year's sales figures. All parcels are visually inspected every three years to note any changes in the property's physical condition.

THOMAS J. NORTHRUP 1912 - 1913



Just prior to being established as Florida's 48th county, Governor Albert Gilchrist appointed six Pinellas County Constitutional Officers, effective January 1, 1912. The county's first Property Appraiser, then called Tax Assessor, was a former mayor of St. Petersburg, Thomas J. Northrup.

During his year in office (he stepped down from his post in 1913), Northrup approved Pinellas County's first tax roll. The county's 12,131 parcels of land were valued at \$4,854,288.

JOHN N. BROWN 1913 - 1917



John Brown served as a member of the St. Petersburg City Council from 1911 - 1912. He later served as Clerk of the Circuit Court from 1917 - 1925. But in 1913, he became Pinellas County's first elected Tax Assessor. While in office, he instituted a new system of book-keeping to keep work up-to-date at all times. His tenure lasted two two-year terms.

ALBERT T. BLOCKER 1917 - 1925

Albert Blocker, another former mayor of St. Petersburg, became the county's first Tax Assessor to serve a four year term (previously, a term in office was only two years). He was elected to two terms as Tax Assessor. During his career, he founded Blocker Transfer and Storage, which is still in business in St. Petersburg.



CHARLES A. WILCOX 1925 - 1929/1933 - 1949

Before serving as Tax Assessor, Charles Wilcox held an appointment as Pinellas County's Supervisor of Elections. The four previous Tax Assessors all had St. Petersburg roots. Wilcox came from Largo; his election may be representative of a population shift northward at the time. Wilcox introduced several changes in tax assessment which have endured even today, the foremost of which is sending notices to taxpayers inviting them to file for homestead exemption. This homestead exemption could be used by property owners as a means of reducing their overall taxes.

Throughout his career as Tax Assessor, Wilcox would run toe-to-toe with his Republican opponent Herschel Sterling. Wilcox and Sterling would alternate terms in office from 1925 through 1961.





HERSCHEL H. STERLING 1929 - 1933/1949 - 1961

As the county's fifth Tax Assessor, Herschel Sterling rode the Republican wave of Herbert Hoover's landslide presidential victory of 1928, to be the first Republican to attain the office of Tax Assessor. Land values decreased 30% during Sterling's early term of office, largely due to the stock market crash of 1929.

Air conditioning became available to the average Floridian during Sterling's latter term, as the affordable window unit went on the market in 1951, marking the beginning of more modern times in Pinellas County.

Sterling and Wilcox faced one another in elections five times during the course of their careers in the Tax Assessor's office; certainly two-party politics had established itself in Pinellas County. Sterling declined to challenge Wilcox during the 1944 election, however, as the nation was embroiled in World War II. He claimed that it was not in the public's best interest to change the political balance of power of the office at that time.



MAC S. HAINES 1961 - 1976

It was during Mac Haines' 16 year tenure with the Tax Assessor's office that its official title was changed to Property Appraiser (1974). The computer era was ushered in during Haines' term in office as well. The technological shift brought the record keeping process from addressograph machines and labor-intensive paper files to the modern electronic world, although the speed of those early computers was nothing like that of modern equipment. Office workers could actually get up from their desks, walk to a card file and pull out the property cards in question in the time it took for those early computers to retrieve the appropriate data.

Mac Haines died in office on November 4, 1976, just two days after he lost the November election to Ronald J. Schultz.

RONALD J. SCHULTZ 1976 - 1989

Ronald Schultz began his first term of office early, as he was appointed by Florida Governor Ruben Askew to fulfill the remaining obligations of Mac Haines' term of office.

While teaching at the University of South Florida and pursuing his Ph.D. in 1970, Schultz developed a sales/ratio method of determining property appraisals. Buoyed by public support for his methodology, Schultz was successful for his bid for the Property Appraiser's office in 1976.

As Pinellas County Property Appraiser, Schultz continued to use computers to streamline the flow of information within that office. In addition to maintaining a computer mapping and property record system, he devised a program that allowed the county to reappraise property every year.

Significant state laws affecting property taxation were passed by the Florida Legislature while he was in office, including the Truth In Millage legislation, which set a definite distinction between the Property Appraiser's office and the taxing authorities. For the first time, tax liabilities were broken down between millage rates versus assessed value, so citizens could clearly see which factors were responsible for a change in the amount of their taxes.

Ron Schultz later became Property Appraiser in Citrus County.



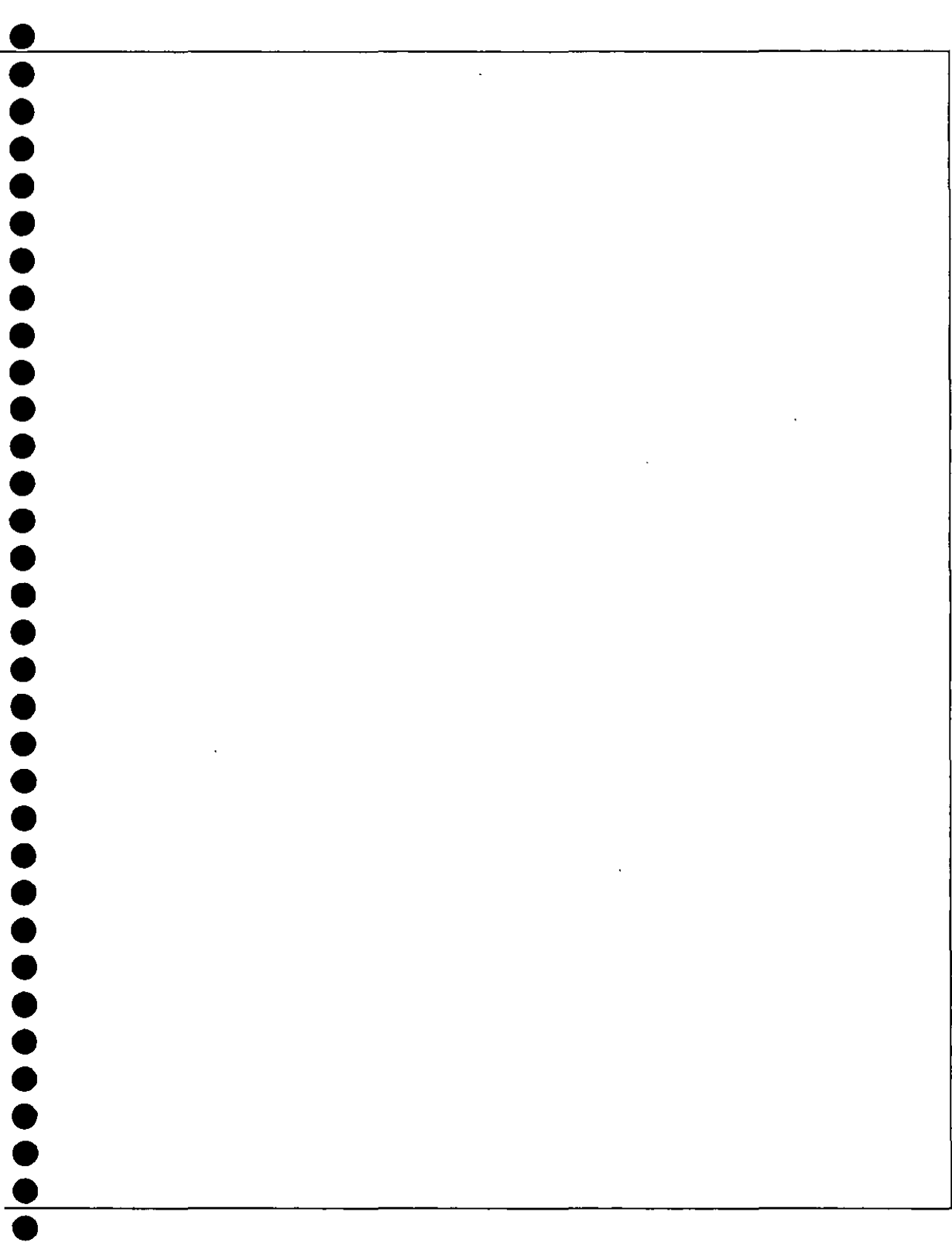
JIM SMITH 1989 - PRESENT

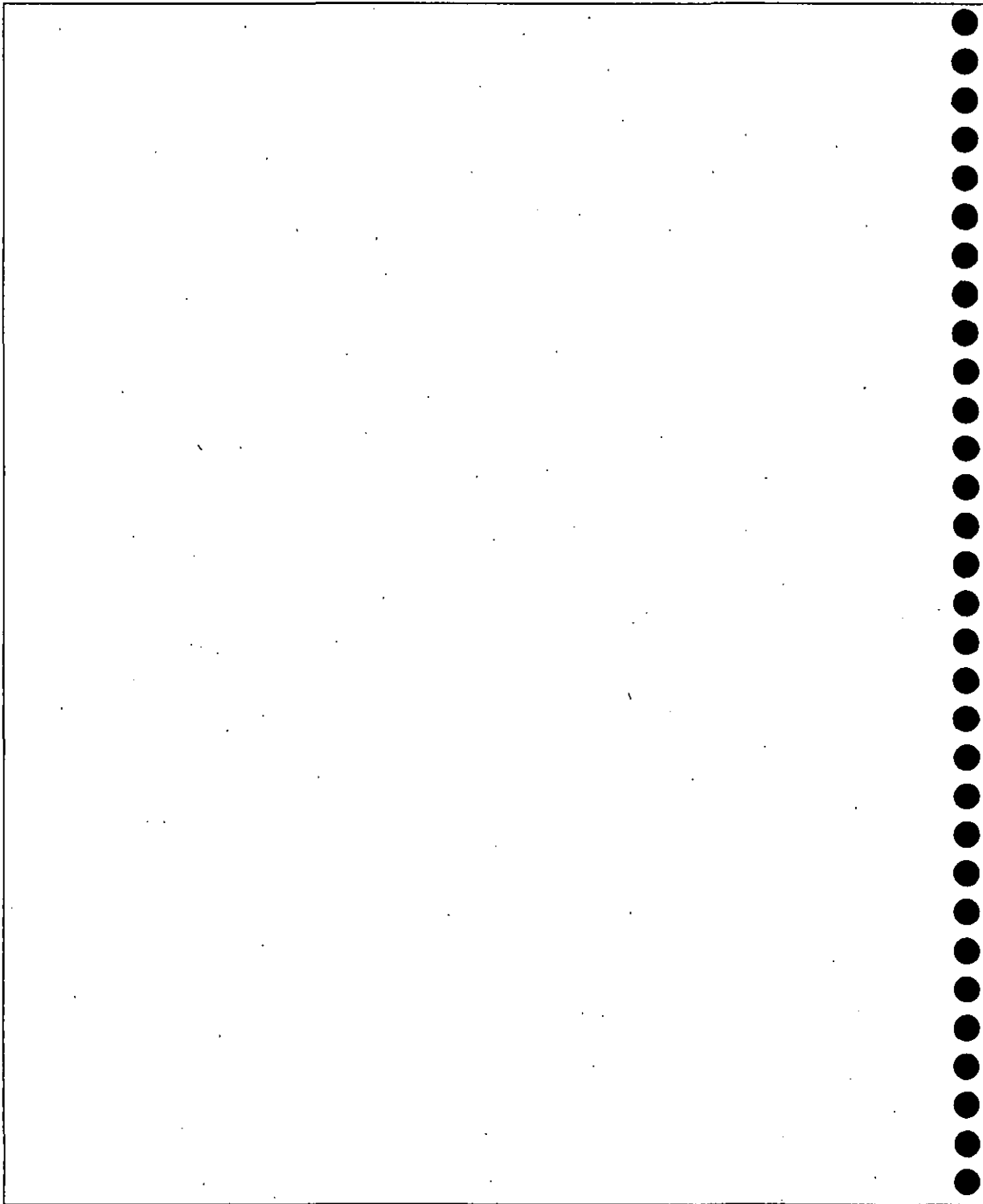


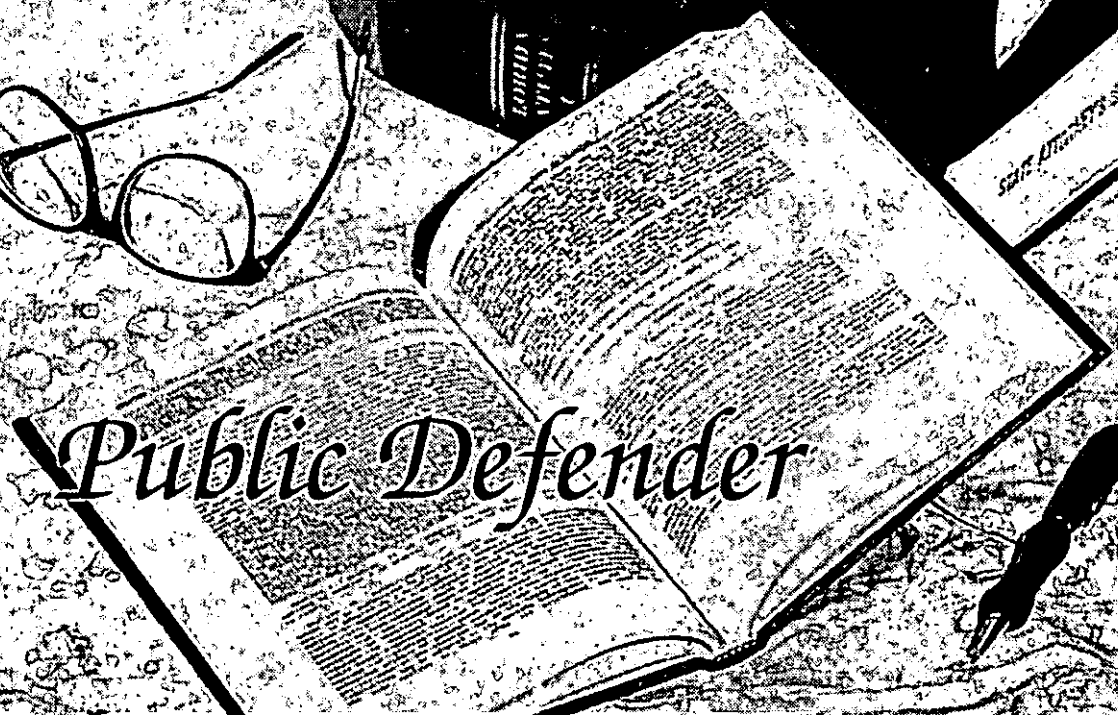
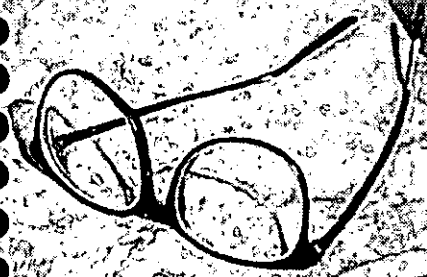
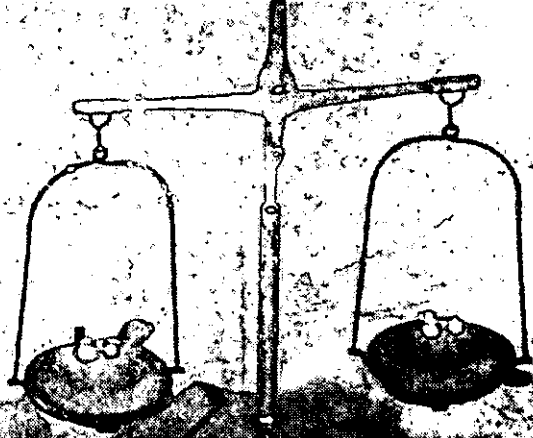
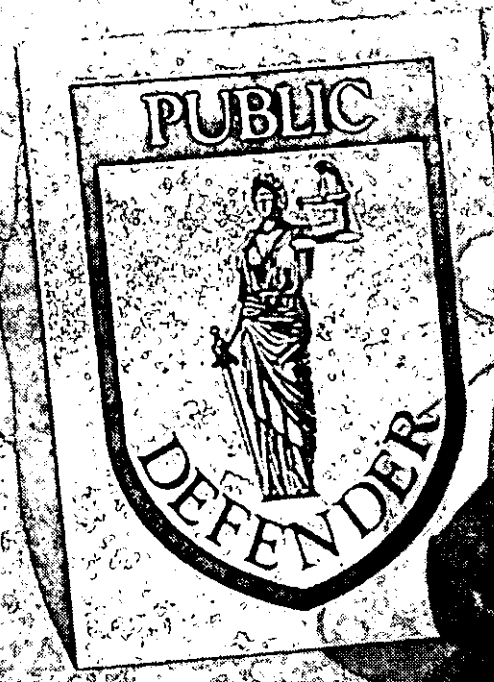
Jim Smith entered politics in 1978 when he ran for and won a house seat in the Florida Legislature. While serving as a legislator, Smith recognized a need for government to be operated more like a successful business and vowed to do so if given the opportunity to head a governmental office or department.

That opportunity came when Jim Smith was elected Property Appraiser for Pinellas County. As a prior owner of an electronics firm, Smith immediately set about utilizing the business experience he possessed. Cost efficiency, professionalism, and friendly, business-like customer service were stressed.

Among other accomplishments, Smith has implemented automatic homestead exemption renewal and year-round filing for new applications, established the office internet site (<http://pao.co.pinellas.fl.us>) which provides a powerful database search feature to the public free of charge, instituted the use of handheld data collection computers to facilitate the collection of appraisal information, and pursued an aggressive revenue recapture program where property database information is processed and sold to end users.







Public Defender

PUBLIC DEFENDER TENURE

Robert Jagger 1961 - 1997
Robert Dillinger 1997 - Present



*I*n each judicial circuit a public defender shall be elected for a term of four years. He shall perform duties prescribed by general law. A public defender shall be an elector of the state and reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the circuit. He shall be and have been a member of the Bar of Florida for the preceding five years. Public defenders shall appoint such assistant public defenders as may be authorized by law.

OVERVIEW

The Pinellas County Public Defender's office was originally created by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners and officially opened its doors on October 1, 1961.

While the sixth amendment to the U.S. Constitution ensures the right to a speedy trial, nothing in the constitution specifically provides for a defendant's right to be represented by an attorney. However, the 14th amendment does guarantee that the state shall not deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law. In 1932, in *Powell vs. Alabama*, it was argued that standing trial without an appointed attorney violated a citizen's right to due process. The Supreme Court agreed, deciding that "the courts of all of our states are required to appoint counsel to represent indigent persons accused of capital cases."

A later case, *Gideon vs. Wainwright*, in 1963 prompted the high court to further affirm a defendant's right to counsel, not only in capital cases, but in all criminal cases. The court believed the necessity for legal assistance, not the nature of the sanction, should be the controlling consideration.

Subsequent to this decision, the Florida Legislature created a mandatory Public Defender system throughout the state, which includes the Sixth Judicial Circuit comprising both Pasco and Pinellas Counties. Public Defenders are elected for a term of four years.

Prior to the creation of the Public Defender's office, circuit court judges appointed attorneys to represent the indigent on a catch-as-catch-can basis. It was an informal procedure whereby judges would decide whether defendants were capable of representing themselves. If not, judges would appoint an attorney from whomever happened to be available in the courthouse that day. This procedure caused a bit of disgruntlement among local attorneys and prompted the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners to create the Public Defender's position, two years prior to the state's legislative action.

In its first year of operation, the Public Defender's office represented 324 defendants in 470 felony cases, or more than 60% of all felony cases within the county.

Today, the Public Defender's office represents more than 39,000 cases a year, representing 75-80% of all cases within the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

ROBERT JAGGER 1961 - 1997



When the Board of County Commissioners created the Pinellas County Public Defender's office in 1961, Stetson University College of Law graduate (1958) Robert Jagger was selected from among three candidates to head up that office. After the Florida Legislature created the Public Defender system throughout Florida, Jagger, a Republican, was fearful of losing his position to another appointee designated by Governor Farris Bryant, a Democrat. However, Governor Bryant crossed party lines and confirmed Robert Jagger as the Public Defender for the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Jagger placed more emphasis on managing the Public Defender's office than on trying cases in the courtroom. One of his most memorable innovations was the *Public Defender Clinic Program*, whereby third year Stetson law students would gain actual courtroom experience as they defended indigent clients.

In 1968, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association bestowed on Robert Jagger the coveted Reginald Heber Smith Award. This award is a yearly commendation honoring top public defenders nationwide.

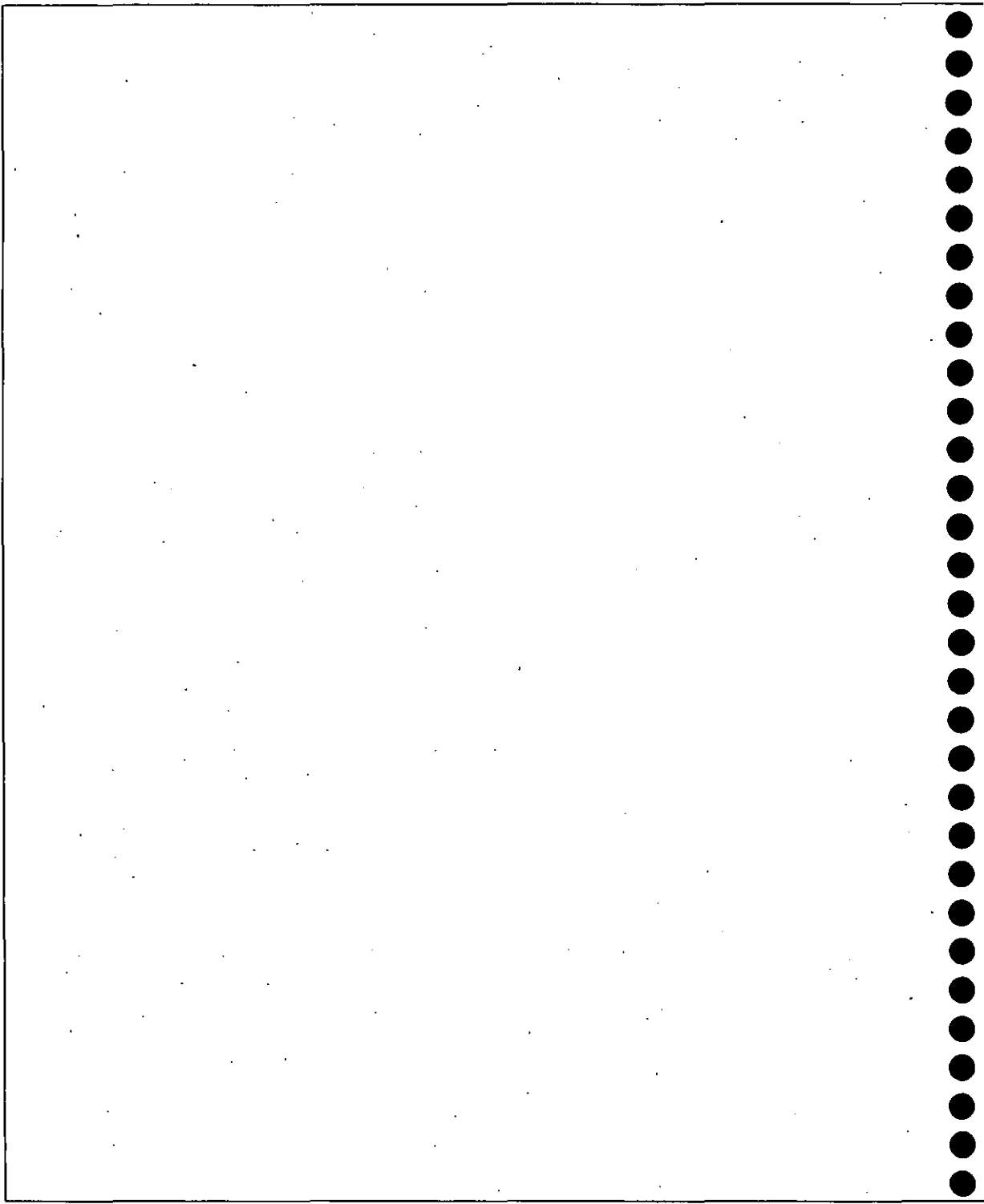
Although Jagger spent little time in the courtroom, he did help to develop the talents of many young lawyers and judges who presently practice in Pinellas County and the state of Florida. One of his young proteges was Robert Dillinger, who participated in Jagger's Public Defender Clinic Program while a junior at Stetson in 1975. Years later, Dillinger opposed Jagger in the 1996 election; perhaps the first time in the history of that office that contention of any kind made the headlines. After a hardfought battle, Dillinger emerged victorious. Today, Robert Jagger practices law in St. Petersburg with his son, Edwin.

ROBERT DILLINGER 1997 - PRESENT

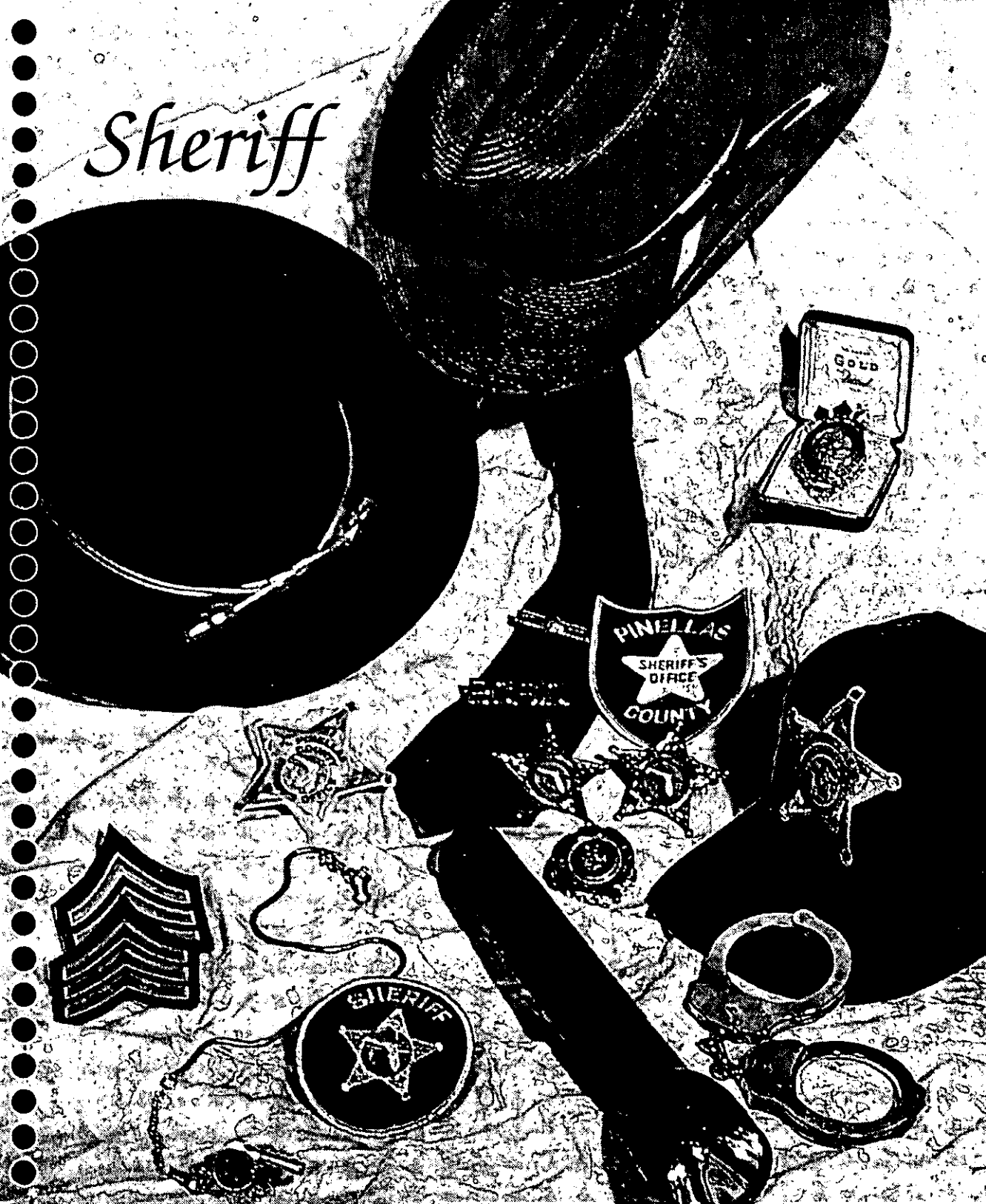
Bob Dillinger graduated from Columbia University in 1973 and from Florida's Stetson University College of Law in 1976. Upon earning his law degree and passing his bar examination, Dillinger joined the Public Defender's office as an Assistant Public Defender in 1976. In 1982, he left the Public Defender's office and entered private practice, handling both criminal defense and civil jury work. Certain few of these cases were high profile, and earned him recognition in the public eye. His diligence and dedication to the law merited him the prestigious Nelson Poynter Award as an outstanding lawyer in the community. He won the Pro Bono Award in 1990 and received recognition as a member of Who's Who in 1993. In 1996, he defeated Robert Jagger for the position of Public Defender for the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

As Public Defender, Robert Dillinger remains committed to the rights of the poor, and is an advocate for treatment for the mentally disabled. Since his installation in office, Dillinger has added several lawyers to the Public Defender's staff along with support personnel, including paralegals and mental health workers.






Sheriff



SHERIFF'S OFFICE TENURE

Marvel Whitehurst	1912 - 1920
Lorenzo E. Sloat	1920 - 1921
William S. Lindsey.....	1921 - 1925
Roy Booth.....	1925 - 1929/1930 - 1933
Gladstone R. Beattie	1929 - 1930
Ernest G. Cunningham.....	1933 - 1941
Todd Tucker	1941 - 1953
Sid Saunders	1953 - 1958
Donald S. Genung	1958 - 1975
William T. "Bill" Roberts.....	1975 - 1981
Gerard A. "Gerry" Coleman.....	1981 - 1989
Everett S. Rice.....	1989 - Present



*T*here shall be elected by the electors of each county, for terms of four years, a sheriff...

OVERVIEW

Back in 1912, the early Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) reflected the rough and rural nature of the county at that time. Bootlegging, moonshining and gambling were daily occurrences, and the Sheriff's Office was kept busy running after a host of colorful criminals. During the era of Prohibition, 1919 through 1933, the Sheriff's Office pursued liquor law violations of every kind. The arrest of a team of confidence men made the headlines early in PCSO history. The arrest made news. So did the escape, as the prisoners sawed through the iron bars of the Pinellas County Jail with tools smuggled to them from the outside.

During the 20 year period of 1930 - 1950, the Sheriff's Office was much different than the law enforcement institution we know today. Sheriff's deputies rode in their own cars, wore civilian clothes and carried their own weapons. The county was divided into several districts, each of which had an elected constable and a justice of the peace to supervise legal matters. Various municipal police departments enforced the laws, as did the old County Patrol. The Sheriff's Office ran the County Jail, and they enforced the protocol of the courts, sometimes going out and rounding up jurors when the selector pool was depleted.

Financing was accomplished through a fee system in those early days. For every arrest made, warrant served, journey traveled and prisoner transported, the Sheriff earned a fee, a preassigned amount that was entered on the books for accounting purposes. Eventually the fee system was eliminated and replaced by a departmental budget supported by county taxes.

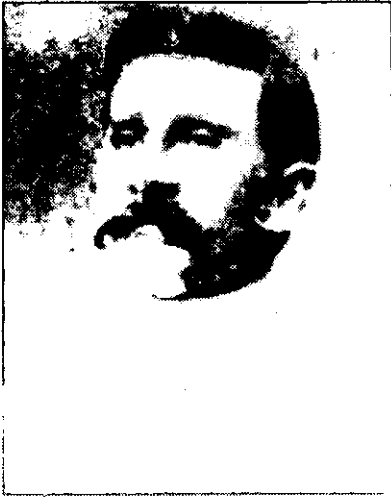
It wasn't until 1959, and the tenure of Sheriff Don Genung, that the Sheriff's Office began to take on a modern identity. The Sheriff's Office absorbed the County Patrol in 1960. A year later, the Sheriff's Office bought a fleet of 1961 Plymouth Fury automobiles to serve as patrol cars. Sheriff's deputies were put into uniform and issued standard weapons.

Deputies received special training from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. In 1965, the Sheriff's Office instituted the Pinellas County Sheriff's Recruit Academy, which gave Sheriff's Office recruits 320 hours of training over an eight week period. By 1972, the training had increased to 480 hours. Sheriff's Office personnel were given the benefits of civil service, along with health benefits and a retirement plan.

Improvements in technology and law enforcement strategy continued to evolve during the next 30 years. The Sheriff's Office instituted a K-9 unit, and a flight section, which today has four helicopters and two fixed-wing aircraft. In 1989, after a tragic collision between two pleasure boats on the intracoastal waterway, the Sheriff's Office secured funding to supplement its marine unit. It now comprises ten fully trained marine deputies, two supervisors and nine watercraft.

Presently, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office consists of more than 2200 deputies, bailiffs, detention deputies and support personnel. It is the sole countywide law enforcement agency and has jurisdiction over all areas of Pinellas County. In addition, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has law enforcement contracts with the cities of Indian Rocks Beach, Madeira Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Belleair Shores, Dunedin, North Redington Beach, Redington Beach, South Pasadena, Seminole, Safety Harbor and Oldsmar. The Sheriff's Office also patrols county parks and nature preserves as well as St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport. Also, the Sheriff's Office operates the County Jail, which has just expanded by 796 additional beds, bringing total capacity to well over 3,000 beds.

The Sheriff's Office serves civil process and provides security to all county courthouse locations.



MARVEL WHITEHURST 1912 - 1920

When Pinellas County came into being as the state's 48th county in 1912, the governor at the time had the power to appoint all the constitutional officers. For the office of Sheriff, Governor Albert Gilchrist asked the Democratic Executive Committee to hold a party election. Marvel Whitehurst emerged as the popular Democratic choice and was appointed Pinellas County's first Sheriff.

Whitehurst won the county's first regular election in 1912, and re-election in 1916. However, scandal marked his tenure in office. He was accused of turning a blind eye to certain criminal charges leveled against his deputy, W. L. Strickland, and was accused of not acting swiftly enough to stem the activities of a local confidence operation. Whitehurst was removed from office by the governor in 1920, yet valiantly struggled to win back public confidence and the popular vote. He lost his bids for office, both in 1920 and 1924.

Whitehurst died in 1930. He received a full military funeral due to his service in the Spanish-American War, and was buried in Curlew Cemetery in Palm Harbor.

LORENZO E. SLOAT 1920 - 1921

Lorenzo Sloat was appointed as interim Sheriff to fill the vacancy left when Marvel Whitehurst was removed from office. He announced early on that he would not be a candidate in the 1920 election, perhaps because of the magnitude of the race going on between Marvel Whitehurst and Democratic front runner William S. Lindsey. Lindsey won the election, and stepped into office in early January of 1921.

WILLIAM S. LINDSEY 1921 - 1925

For eight years prior to becoming a Pinellas County Sheriff, William Lindsey had worked for the St. Petersburg Police Department, serving as chief for the last six months of his career there.

Lindsey served only a single term as Sheriff. The election of 1924 was a maelstrom of political activity. The Democratic primary had six candidates vying for their party's support, among them Marvel Whitehurst. Lindsey received only 70 votes in that contest. Roy Booth won the 1924 Democratic primary; then went on to win the election as the county's fourth Sheriff.



ROY BOOTH 1925 - 1929/1930 - 1933



From the political brawling that occurred during the 1924 election, Roy Booth emerged victorious to attain the office of Pinellas County Sheriff. He spent much of his time in office running after bootleggers in this Prohibition period. One report recounted that the Sheriff's Office had made 30 arrests in 30 days, including arresting one man for selling whiskey that was "alleged to have driven three well-known men crazy."

Booth lost the 1928 election to Republican challenger Gladstone Beattie. Almost immediately, Booth filed suit, alleging certain irregularities in the voting procedures and demanded that the ballots be recounted. Seventeen months and two trips to the Florida Supreme Court later, Booth won approval for his request. A recount declared him the victor, and he was restored to the Sheriff's Office in May of 1930.

In his years as Sheriff, Booth established the first County Traffic Patrol, consisting of two motorcycle patrolmen whose duty was to check reckless driving. He opened the first Sheriff's branch office in St. Petersburg, as well.

Booth lost the 1932 re-election. He died in his hometown of Safety Harbor in 1959.

GLADSTONE R. BEATTIE 1929 - 1930

Gladstone Beattie had been in Pinellas County only four years when he ran for the position of Sheriff. He was the first Republican to be elected to that office. However, he was removed from office in February of 1930 by Democratic Governor Doyle E. Carlton for malfeasance and misfeasance. The governor charged that Beattie failed to make arrests, allowed illegal gambling activities to flourish and accepted "protection" money from those involved in illegal operations.

In the meantime, Roy Booth was successful in his bid to re-count the ballots in the 1928 election and was restored to office shortly after Beattie's dismissal. Beattie continued to be active in local politics, however, running again for Sheriff in 1932. Beattie lost that election to Ernest G. Cunningham.





ERNEST G. CUNNINGHAM 1933 - 1941

The Sheriff's Office had fewer than ten employees when Ernest Cunningham began his term in office.

Cunningham served as a St. Petersburg city commissioner before vying for the office of Sheriff. His family was successful in business. One brother, Vernon, founded the Ninth Street Bank and Trust Company. Before he was elected to the office, Cunningham served as interim Sheriff during the brief period of Gladstone Beattie's removal and Roy Booth's reinstatement. In these four months, he managed to lose a substantial portion of the Sheriff's funds on deposit in his brother's Ninth Street Bank and Trust, when that financial institution closed. (There was no depositor's insurance in those days.) Despite this judgmental error, Cunningham won the 1932 primary, then went on to defeat Gladstone Beattie in the general election. He was re-elected in 1936, and retired at the end of that second term.

Afterwards, he spent his time raising cattle, becoming the first president of the Pinellas County Cattlemen's Association.

TODD TUCKER 1941 - 1953

Todd Tucker came into the office of Sheriff with years of law enforcement experience under his belt, having served as Deputy Sheriff and as a plainclothes policeman with the St. Petersburg Police Department. One of the hallmarks of Tucker's career was the procurement of in-car radio communications for the Sheriff's patrol fleet. Tucker also had an opinion about the fee system that had financed the Sheriff's Office to date. "I have always been opposed to the fee system," Tucker once declared, "because I never thought it was right for an officer to have to depend on putting people in jail to collect his salary."

Another highlight of Tucker's career was his zealous fight against gambling. Not only did he work to eliminate adult gambling from the county, but he also confiscated gumball machines which offered prizes on the premise that the machines lured pennies from children.



SID SAUNDERS 1953 – 1958



Sid Saunders started his law enforcement career as a police officer for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. That position brought him to St. Petersburg, where he joined the Sheriff's Office. In 1934, Sheriff Ernest Cunningham deputized Saunders and assigned him to the St. Petersburg district. He served as district constable from 1944 to 1952, then won the election of 1952 to become Pinellas County Sheriff.

Saunders improved electronic communications within the Sheriff's Office and with other Pinellas County law enforcement agencies. He was praised in the media for maintaining Pinellas County's clean reputation, while, as one writer of the period noted, "hordes of underworld characters" flooded other parts of the state.

Unbeknownst to his public, Saunders had a serious heart condition, one that would claim his life while in office. Saunders died on February 19, 1958 from bronchial pneumonia complicated by his rheumatic heart disease.

DONALD S. GENUNG 1958 – 1975



After serving in the United States Air Force and attaining the rank of captain, Don Genung began his law enforcement career with the Clearwater Police Department in 1946. During that time he served as patrolman, juvenile officer, detective, sergeant, captain of detectives and assistant chief. In 1953, he joined the Sheriff's Office as Chief Criminal Investigator. He was appointed interim Sheriff upon Sid Saunders' death in 1958, then went on to win the 1958 election and subsequent re-elections from 1960 through 1972.

During this time in office, Genung was the driving force behind modernization of the Sheriff's Office. Genung instituted extensive training for Sheriff's Office personnel, standardized equipment and uniforms, instituted the K-9 unit and flight section. Communica-

tions and information retrieval took quantum leaps forward during the Genung administration with the implementation of the agency's first Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, which utilized mobile display terminals in deputies' vehicles for improved communications.

Due to his concern for children, Genung began the practice of segregation of juvenile offenders from the adult population of the jail, and instituted a Youth Study Center so juveniles could continue their education while in custody.

In the early 1960s, Genung was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to the President's Counsel on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime. Kennedy urged Genung to run for Congress. Genung declined, however, stating that his background and experience were best suited for being a good Sheriff.

Genung retired from the Sheriff's Office on April 1, 1975. He subsequently became director of development for the Florida Sheriff's Youth Fund, Inc., which sponsored the Florida Sheriff's Boys Ranch and Girls Villa.

WILLIAM T. "BILL" ROBERTS 1975 - 1981

Upon special request from Sheriff Don Genung, Governor Rubin Askew appointed Bill Roberts to fill the vacancy left by Genung's retirement. Roberts served the remainder of that term, later winning the 1976 election.

Roberts had been a police officer for the city of Largo, then went to work for Pinellas County Sheriff Sid Saunders in 1953. Roberts functioned as deputy-in-charge of the Sheriff's Clearwater Office, then chief deputy of the Upper Pinellas area. He later was promoted to chief deputy, a position he held for 17 years.

Roberts did not participate in the 1980 election. After leaving the Sheriff's Office, he pursued interests in the real estate profession.





GERARD A. "GERRY" COLEMAN 1981 - 1989

Gerry Coleman was the first Republican since Gladstone Beattie to win the Sheriff's race in Pinellas County.

Coleman grew up in New York City, where his father worked for 37 years with the New York City Police Department. His parents retired to Pinellas County, and Coleman started his law enforcement career with the old County Patrol. The following year, Coleman was appointed as a Pinellas County Sheriff's deputy under Sheriff Don Genung.

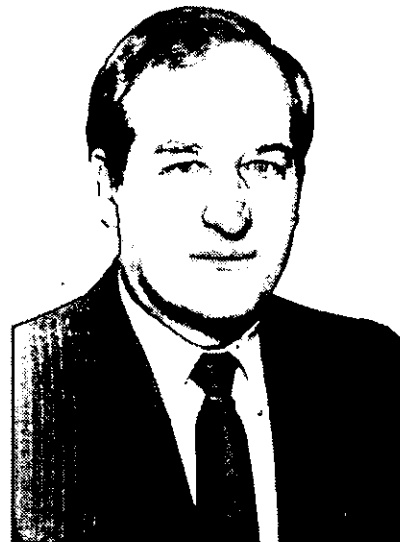
During Coleman's administration, the Sheriff's Office established its first victims' advocate program. Coleman also introduced a policy manual for deputy conduct, as well as an internal affairs unit to investigate allegations of misconduct from within the force. One major accomplishment for the Sheriff's Office, spearheaded by Coleman, was national accreditation. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office received its first accreditation in March of 1988 from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

In his 1988 re-election bid, Coleman lost the Republican primary to former Sheriff's Office captain and local attorney Everett S. Rice.

EVERETT S. RICE 1989 - PRESENT

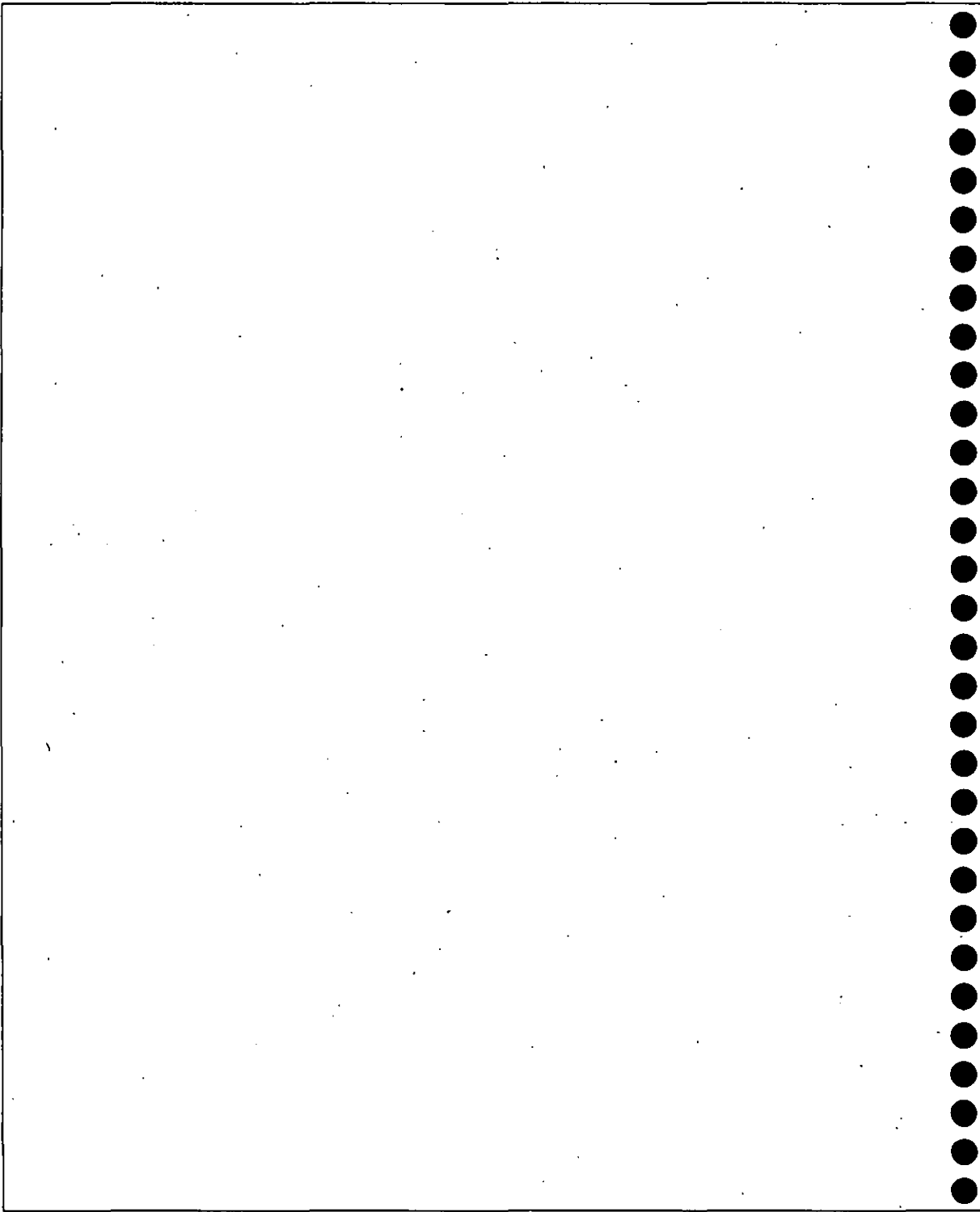
Rice's entire law enforcement career has been with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. He completed police academy training in 1967 and joined the office under Sheriff Don Genung. Rice quickly moved up the ranks attaining the rank of captain. In 1980, Rice became director of investigations for the agency.

While working in the Sheriff's Office, Rice had been advancing his academic career, with degrees from St. Petersburg Junior College and Stetson University College of Law. In 1985, Rice resigned his position with the Sheriff's Office to practice law. After three years with Rice & Kwall, P.A., Rice entered the 1988 Republican bid for Sheriff, won the primary by a hefty two-to-one margin, and went on to easily win the 1988 election against Democratic contender Leroy Kelly, Jr.



During his time in office, Rice initiated advancements in both agency automation and forensics. The number of municipalities contracting with the Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services increased. Additionally, Rice reinstated civil service for members of the office and expanded the agency pay scale, allowing members to build careers in their areas of preference and expertise.

In 1997, Rice was elected president of the Florida Sheriff's Association (FSA). Under Rice's leadership the FSA lobbied and won creation of the Department of Juvenile Justice, which assumes jurisdiction of juvenile criminal matters from the old Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (now the Department of Children and Families). Other legislative changes advocated by the FSA resulted in rules requiring felons to complete at least 85% of their sentences for crimes committed.



State Attorney



Alison M. Stoltz

The office of the State Attorney, with jurisdiction over the consolidated precincts of the state, is created by section 17 of the Constitution of the state of Florida, which states that the chief executive officer of each county shall be the State Attorney, and he shall perform all the duties prescribed by general law.

Chapter 21 of Florida Statutes and the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure further elaborate upon the duties of the State Attorney.

The State Attorney, with the aid of his assistants and staff, appears in the Circuit and County courts with the judicial circuits and prosecutes the cases on behalf of the state.

The office of the State Attorney, with the aid of his assistants and staff, appears in the Circuit and County courts with the judicial circuits and prosecutes the cases on behalf of the state.



STATE ATTORNEY TENURE

Herbert S. Phillips	1912 - 1913
George Pettus Raney, Jr.	1913 - 1914
Horace C. Gordon	1914 - 1915
Melvin Arthur Mc Mullen	1915 - 1921
Emmett Pasco Wilson	1921 - 1931
Chester B. McMullen Sr.	1931 - 1950
Archie Clement	1950 - 1952
Clair A. Davis	1953 - 1969
James T. Russell	1969 - 1992
Bernie McCabe	1993 - Present

*I*n each judicial circuit a state attorney shall be elected for a term of four years. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, he shall be the prosecuting officer of all trial courts in that circuit and shall perform other duties prescribed by general law; provided, however, when authorized by general law, the violations of all municipal ordinances may be prosecuted by municipal prosecutors. A state attorney shall be an elector of the state and reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the circuit. He shall be and have been a member of the bar of Florida for the preceding five years. He shall devote full time to his duties, and he shall not engage in the private practice of law. State attorneys shall appoint such assistant state attorneys as may be authorized by law.

OVERVIEW

The office of the State Attorney for the Sixth Judicial Circuit dates back to a time when Pinellas County existed as a part of Hillsborough County. In 1915, Pinellas and Hillsborough separated judicially, as Hillsborough County became the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. Pinellas was then coupled with Manatee County as the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

By 1921, the Sixth Judicial Circuit comprised Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota and Pasco Counties. Eventually, Manatee and Sarasota broke off to form the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. Pinellas and Pasco Counties constituted the Sixth Judicial Circuit, as it is today.

In the early days of the State Attorney's history, those who held the position did so as a part-time endeavor. Many of the early State Attorneys maintained private law firms while functioning in their office. In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Gideon vs Wainwright*, which declared that all indigent defendants had the right to state appointed counsel, resulted in 415 Sixth Judicial Circuit cases being returned for retrial. This added a tremendous burden on the office of State Attorney, which was forced to expand its staff. In 1970, it became a requirement that State Attorneys have no outside employment.

As the population of Pinellas County and the Sixth Judicial Circuit continued to increase, so did the State Attorney's workload. Marijuana possession and sales increased dramatically in the late 1960s; the State Attorney's office reacted with stringent prosecution of all those caught with the substance.

In 1972, the revision of Florida Constitution Article 5 provided for a streamlining of the judicial system statewide.

The confusing multitiered court system, in effect for almost 100 years, finally came to an end with the dissolution of municipal courts, justices of the peace, county solicitors and prosecuting attorneys. The State Attorney's office came into focus as the sole prosecuting agency for all crimes against all governing institutions. In 1972, the State Attorney's staff was expanded considerably to handle the additional intake of charges resulting from the reformation of the court system.

Today, the office of State Attorney employs 121 assistant state attorneys, 21 investigators and 310 support personnel. More than 120,000 new cases are brought to the State Attorney's office annually.

HERBERT S. PHILLIPS 1912 - 1913

Herbert Phillips represented the area known as West Hillsborough, when Pinellas was still a part of Hillsborough County. After Pinellas attained its independence in 1912, Phillips served as representative to this area within the Sixth Judicial Circuit through July 31, 1913.



GEORGE PETTUS RANEY, JR. 1913 - 1914

George Raney became State Attorney on September 18, 1913, and was the first new State Attorney to preside over the newly formed Pinellas County. He served for little more than one year, however, and resigned on September 1, 1914.



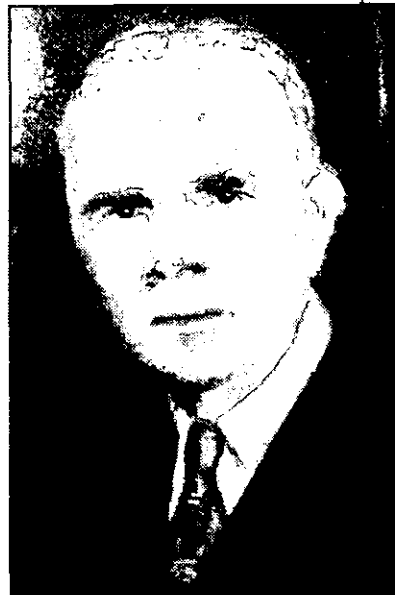
HORACE C. GORDON 1914 - 1915

Horace Gordon replaced George Raney as State Attorney. He, too, would serve only a short period of time, only until June 8, 1915.

MELVIN ARTHUR Mc MULLEN 1915 - 1921

Pinellas and Hillsborough were judicially joined as the Sixth Judicial Circuit until 1915, when Hillsborough became part of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, and Pinellas coupled with Manatee County. Melvin McMullen, a member of one of Pinellas County's original pioneer families, became State Attorney for the new circuit on June 18, 1915. McMullen had served as Pinellas County prosecuting attorney prior to his commission, and thus brought a great deal of courtroom experience with him to his new office. During McMullen's tenure as State Attorney, he himself prosecuted only capital crimes, identified in that era as murder and rape.

McMullen served as State Attorney until 1921, when he left to accept a position as a circuit court judge. He served in this capacity until 1926, when he left the bench to resume private practice in Clearwater. He died in Clearwater on May 10, 1955 at the age of 69.





EMMETT PASCO WILSON 1921 – 1931

During Emmett Wilson's term in office, the Sixth Judicial Circuit was expanded to include Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota and Pasco Counties. Eventually Manatee and Sarasota Counties broke off to form the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. That left Pinellas and Pasco Counties as the Sixth Judicial Circuit, the same configuration that exists today.

Wilson served quietly in office for ten years. Afterwards, the role of State Attorney was taken over by another McMullen.



CHESTER B. McMULLEN, SR. 1931 – 1950

Like his brother Melvin before him, Chester McMullen gained courtroom experience as a Pinellas County prosecuting attorney prior to his landslide election victory for the office of State Attorney. At the age of 28, McMullen holds the distinction of being the youngest State Attorney ever to take office within the Sixth Judicial Circuit. McMullen created the office of Assistant State Attorney (of which there are now 121). McMullen also was granted a request for a secretary to assist the State Attorney, and for that secretary's salary to be paid by state funds.

In January 1950, a group of political activists encouraged McMullen to run for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. McMullen resigned as State Attorney after winning the election, and he became the first Pinellas County native to serve in the U.S. Congress.

ARCHIE CLEMENT 1950 - 1952

Archie Clement continued the tradition of defending the interests of the state. He and two Assistant State Attorneys maintained private law firms in addition to their duties in the State Attorney's office, as was the practice of the day. During Clement's tenure, the juvenile justice system began, with most cases being handled by a group of specialists in juvenile law. Clement resigned the State Attorney's office in 1952.





CLAIR A. DAVIS 1953 - 1969

A number of innovative practices were brought to the State Attorney's office by Clair Davis. He introduced a bill in the legislature calling for a method of collecting delinquent child support from fathers. The Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, implemented in 1954, collected \$6,952 in delinquent child support payments that first year. Over the next ten years, nearly \$2,000,000 would be collected.

During Davis' tenure, two landmark judicial developments would propel the office of State Attorney into an increasingly higher profile in our local justice system. In 1963, the landmark *Gideon vs. Wainwright* case granted the right to an attorney to all indigent criminal defendants, regardless of the offense. Davis was faced with hundreds of retrials for past offenses, and steeled himself for an increased workload as more prosecutions were now expected to go to trial. He disbanded his private law practice and concentrated on the State Attorney's position full-time.

In the 1968 election, Davis, who was 69 years old at the time, was challenged by Alan Williams, a 35 year-old displaced county prosecutor. Davis won the election, but died from a heart attack while in office in 1969.

JAMES T. RUSSELL 1969 - 1992

James Russell was an Assistant State Attorney under Clair Davis, and became acting State Attorney immediately following Davis' death. In March of 1969, Florida Governor Claude Kirk officially appointed Russell as Davis' replacement.

Russell had previously served as a judge for several municipalities and as attorney for the city of Gulfport. In addition, Russell served as a state legislator from 1958 to 1964.

The task of reorganizing the State Attorney's office after the 1972 constitutional revision fell to Russell. Many additional attorneys and investigators were hired to handle the ever-increasing caseloads, due to the elimination of the municipal courts.

The concept of a statewide prosecutor had not been introduced yet, and, at the behest of the governor, Russell occasionally traveled to Orlando and Miami to prosecute politically sensitive cases that involved some of those cities' elected officials.

In 1983, Russell and Florida Attorney General Jim Smith joined forces to combat organized crime in Pinellas County, as several New York crime families tried to take over the garbage industry. Six members of the Joseph Bonanno family were convicted and sent to prison.

Russell also established a Bad Check Diversion Program to expedite monetary recovery for worthless checks. The program would eventually generate thousands of dollars in restitution for Pinellas County businesses.

Russell ran unopposed for re-election from 1970 through 1988. As his 65th birthday, and the 1992 election neared, Russell announced plans to retire effective December 31, 1992. Russell recommended his chief assistant, Bernie McCabe, to succeed him in office.



BERNIE McCABE 1993 - PRESENT

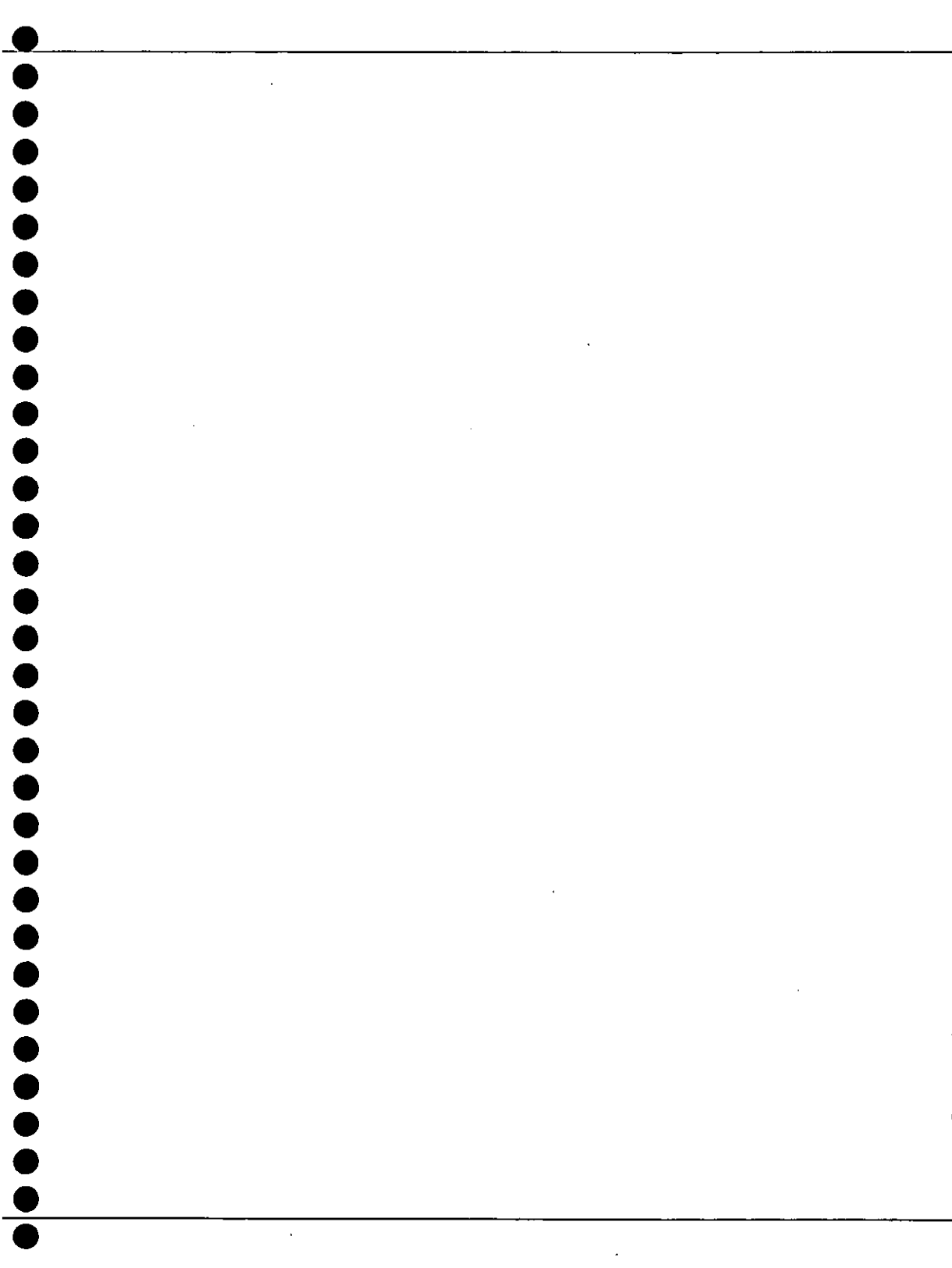


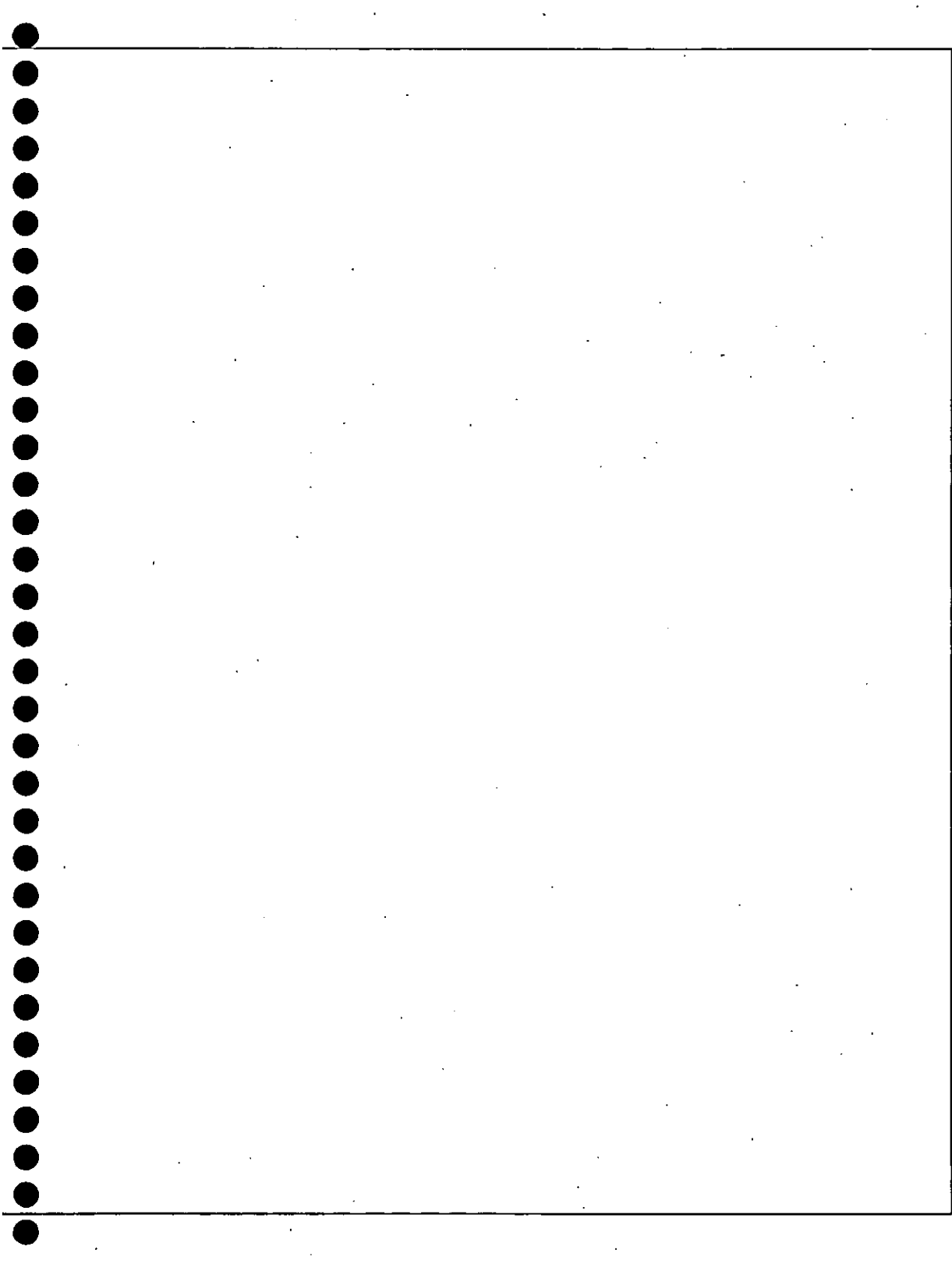
In 1992, for the first time in 24 years, there was a battle for the State Attorney's office. In the Republican primary, Bernie McCabe ran against Larry Jacobs, a former Assistant State Attorney. McCabe won the primary, and ran unopposed for the office of State Attorney. His elected term began on January 6, 1993. He actually began work on January 1, as Governor Lawton Chiles appointed him to fill the four days left open by Jim Russell's December 31st retirement.

Like his predecessor, McCabe soon earned a reputation as a diligent prosecutor with a concern for his community. His office implemented a Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Division in 1992. Working solely with domestic violence issues, the division consists of four specially-trained Assistant State Attorneys and one specific judge. Two victim counselors from the Center Against Spouse Abuse and The Haven (area domestic violence clinics), are assigned to work within the State Attorney's office. In addition, he has created a division that deals solely with cases that involve abuse of the elderly.

As Pinellas County continued to grow, the caseloads increased. By 1992, the Juvenile Division, one circuit division since its inception, became two full time divisions with two judges hearing court daily. During the 1996-97 school year, the Juvenile Division realized the correlation between truancy and juvenile delinquency, and implemented a pilot program working with parents to combat school truancy. The State Attorney's office had the option of criminally prosecuting parents if their children's absenteeism rose to the level of educational neglect.

McCabe ran unopposed during the 1996 election. He is an active member of state, local and national bar associations as well as the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the First Step Corporation (past president), the Pinellas County Substance Abuse Advisory Board (chairman) and the National District Attorneys Association, among others.





Supervisor of Elections




DALLAS COUNTY



Where
CAN
REGI

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS TENURE

Albert Stevens Meares	1912 - 1913
Arthur Campbell Turner	1914 - 1916
Charles A. Wilcox.....	1916 - 1924
Harry Hammock	1924
John W. Davis	1924 - 1937
William Campbell "Billy" Reid ...	1937 - 1949
Warren A. Wright	1949 - 1951
Richard M. Collins	1951 - 1953
Wilda J. Cook.....	1953 - 1973
Jeanne Khoyi Nelson.....	1973 - 1977
Charles J. Kaniss	1977 - 1989
Dorothy Walker Ruggles	1989 - Present



*T*here shall be elected by the electors of each county, for terms of four years, a sheriff, a tax collector, a property appraiser, a supervisor of elections...

OVERVIEW

Back in 1912, at the birth of Pinellas County as the state's newest county, there was no mention of a Supervisor of Elections in the state constitution. Rather, the County Treasurer executed the responsibility of registering county voters and overseeing elections.

In the county's early days, poll taxes, literacy tests and white primaries were the norm, just as they were in other areas of the region, effectively managing to keep all non-whites and nonmales away from the voting booths. As federal laws such as the Voting Rights Act and Civil Rights Act went into effect, along with constitutional amendments allowing women's suffrage and equal protection, the county's policies toward precinct policing changed with the social climate. While other counties in Florida resisted change, Pinellas County embraced the new voting parameters wholeheartedly. Pinellas County has always been progressive in ensuring fair and exact voting results for all citizens and all candidates.

ALBERT STEVENS MEARES 1912 - 1913

Albert Meares was a citrus farmer in Seminole, who set up the Pinellas County Office of Registration, which was considered at the time as more or less a part-time undertaking. Though he lent both moral and monetary support to help establish the office, he fulfilled concurrent his duties at the courthouse with his work on his citrus farm. The fledgling county government paid Meares little for his contribution. In December of 1913, Meares resigned his position as the county's voting registrar.

ARTHUR CAMPBELL TURNER 1914 - 1916

Arthur Turner had served as a Hillsborough county commissioner for two terms before becoming Pinellas County's first Treasurer. He retained his Treasurer title as he took on the extra duties of registration officer after Albert Meares' departure. Turner was known as an active leader in county affairs, as well as a shrewd businessman. After purchasing the West Hillsborough Times newspaper in the 1880s, and setting up a Cleveland Street storefront, he sold it to some St. Petersburg interests in 1892. That paper would later evolve into *The St. Petersburg Times*.

Turner presided over a number of state and local elections during his tenure as registration officer. He resigned from his office in 1916 to pursue other endeavors.



CHARLES A. WILCOX 1916 - 1924



Charles Wilcox was appointed to the position of registration officer on an interim basis in the summer of 1916 by Governor Park Trammel. That position became permanent two years later in 1918.

Wilcox entered his office concurrent with an explosive boom in population across Pinellas County, and consequently a sharp rise in registered voters. From 1910 through 1920, the population of Pinellas County more than tripled.

In addition to registering all these new residents, Wilcox was responsible in part for collecting the one dollar poll tax from every eligible voter.

The first election of a Superintendent of Registration in Pinellas County took place in 1921. Wilcox won that contest and went on to serve the office for three more years before resigning to run for the office of Tax Assessor.

HARRY HAMMOCK 1924



Citrus grower Harry Hammock was appointed to complete the unfinished term of Charles Wilcox. He chose to take his political career no further and thus holds the record for the shortest term in this office, less than four months.

JOHN W. DAVIS 1924 - 1937

Perhaps one of the most dynamic and exciting characters to hold the office of Superintendent of Registration was John Davis, a double amputee who lost his legs to diabetes at an early age. Despite his handicap, Davis fulfilled the duties of his office with vigor and energy. His family worked tirelessly on his election campaigns, with "I need you - you need me!" as his campaign slogan. His campaign platform failed to persuade voters in 1936, and he lost that hotly-contested race.



WILLIAM CAMPBELL "BILLY" REID 1937 - 1949

In 1937, the office of the Superintendent of Registration became known as the Supervisor of Elections. Also, a boost in salary, from \$2400 to \$3000 per year attracted a number of candidates to the position.

Bill Reid arrived in Pinellas County in search of a warmer climate in 1910, after having struggled with polio during much of his life.

Reid made the mechanization of the voting process his highest priority while in office, and introduced the first voting machines to Pinellas County. He was also active in revising outdated registration policies and in purging the voter polls of deceased or otherwise ineligible individuals. Reid was the last Democrat to have been elected to the position of Supervisor of Elections. He lost the bid for the 1948 election, and died one year later at the age of 66.



WARREN A. WRIGHT 1949 - 1951



Warren Wright was a traveling salesman before he took up residence in St. Petersburg in 1933. He immersed himself in civic affairs, and was elected as Supervisor of Elections on his very first run for political office.

Wright continued to maintain the purging of the voting registration lists begun by Bill Reid with the county commission's Single Registration Act. He was forced by illness to resign his office only two years into his first term, and died three days after his seventy-first birthday in 1951.

RICHARD M. COLLINS 1951 - 1953



Governor Fuller Warren appointed Largo Mayor Richard Collins to fill the unexpired term of office left vacant by Warren Wright. An active leader all of his life (he served as city commissioner before attaining the office of mayor), Collins dove into the Supervisor of Elections' position with vigor.

His most noted contribution to the office was his purchase of new ballot boxes to coincide with the new voting machines order by Warren Wright. Also, he was the first Supervisor of Elections to staff the precinct polls with volunteers, going against the long-standing position of having the political parties provide the poll workers.

Toward the end of his term, Collins resigned his position to seek the office of Tax Assessor. He lost the bid for Tax Assessor, but went on to a successful career in the private sector, and was eventually appointed as Largo postmaster in the 1960s. Collins would serve in that capacity until his retirement in 1987. Collins passed away on July 16, 1997.

WILDA J. COOK 1953 - 1973

Wilda Cook was the first woman to hold the position of Supervisor of Elections in Pinellas County. She currently holds the record for the longest time in office. Cook served in that position for twenty years.

After graduating from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she moved to Pinellas County with her aging mother. She promptly began working with the Veterans Administration, headquartered at the time in the Don CeSar hotel on St. Pete Beach. An automobile accident put her out of work for five years, during which time she kept busy by working on projects for the Women's Republican Club. Friends urged her to run for the Supervisor of Elections' position, which was wide open since the resignation of Richard Collins, and she won the election in 1952.

The number of registered voters in Pinellas County skyrocketed more than 300% during Cook's administration. Cook increased her staff from six full-time workers to twenty-three. Cook's paramount goals as Supervisor of Elections were to simplify the process of registration, inform new residents of the Florida registration laws and to eliminate waiting lines. Reformatations in the state constitution during her tenure expanded her authority to include registration and oversight of elections.

Cook suffered a stroke in 1969, and chose not to run for re-election in 1972. She remained active in the Republican Party until her death in 1978.



JEANNE KHOYI NELSON 1973 - 1977

Jeanne Nelson first entered politics in a bid for a position in the state legislature in 1970. She lost that contest, but emerged from a pack of eight contenders to win the Supervisor of Elections position in 1972.

Nelson is credited with expanding the county's registration efforts into all city hall buildings, libraries and several shopping centers. During her term in office, microcomputers were introduced to automate the voter registration process. In 1976, rather than running for another term as Supervisor of Elections, she chose to take on Clerk of the Circuit Court incumbent Harold "Pete" Mullendore. She lost that election, and subsequently left politics to open a small business and work in real estate.



CHARLES J. KANISS 1977 - 1989

Charles Kaniss moved to St. Petersburg as a small child with his family from Henryetta, Oklahoma. He attended St. Petersburg High School and St. Petersburg Junior College. He later went on to earn a philosophy degree from the University of Wisconsin.

After a brief stint seeing frontline action in the U.S. Army, and rising to the rank of captain, he helped his father and brother manage the Kaniss Jewelry Store in St. Petersburg. He served on the St. Petersburg City Council, and stepped forward to serve as Director of Sanitation during the 1968 garbage strike. In 1974 Kaniss became St. Petersburg's assistant director of Public Works.

In 1976, Kaniss was elected Supervisor of Elections. He was re-elected to this office without opposition in 1980 and 1984. As Supervisor of Elections, Kaniss was popular and effective. He enjoyed great success with the Outreach Voter Registration Program. Kaniss' most innovative improvement to the voting process was the implementation of the punch card voting system, which replaced the cumbersome voter lever machines. Supervisor Kaniss continued improvements by computerizing the many daily activities of the Supervisor of Elections' office.

After three terms in office, Charles Kaniss chose not to run during the 1988 election.



DOROTHY WALKER RUGGLES 1989 - PRESENT

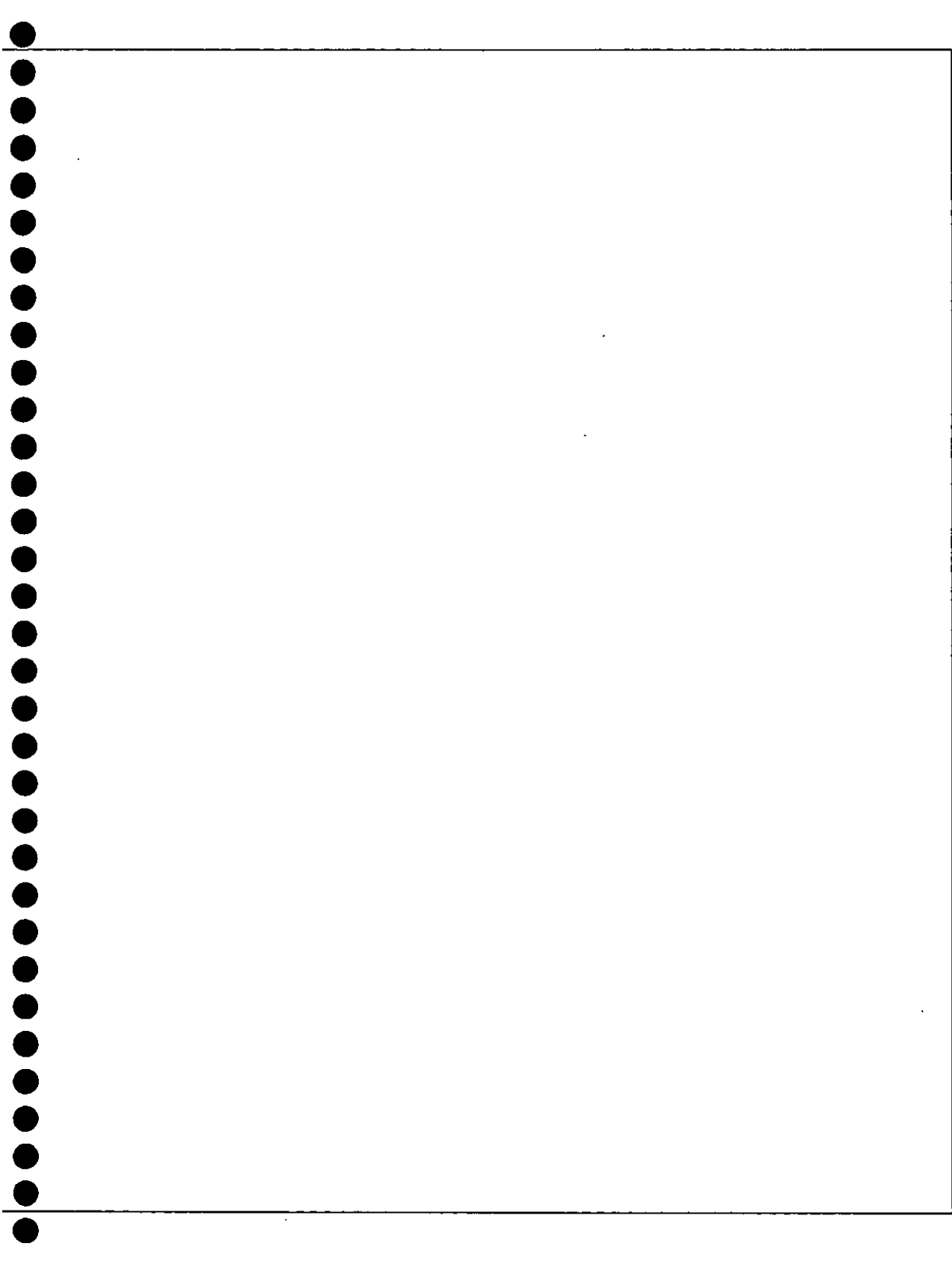


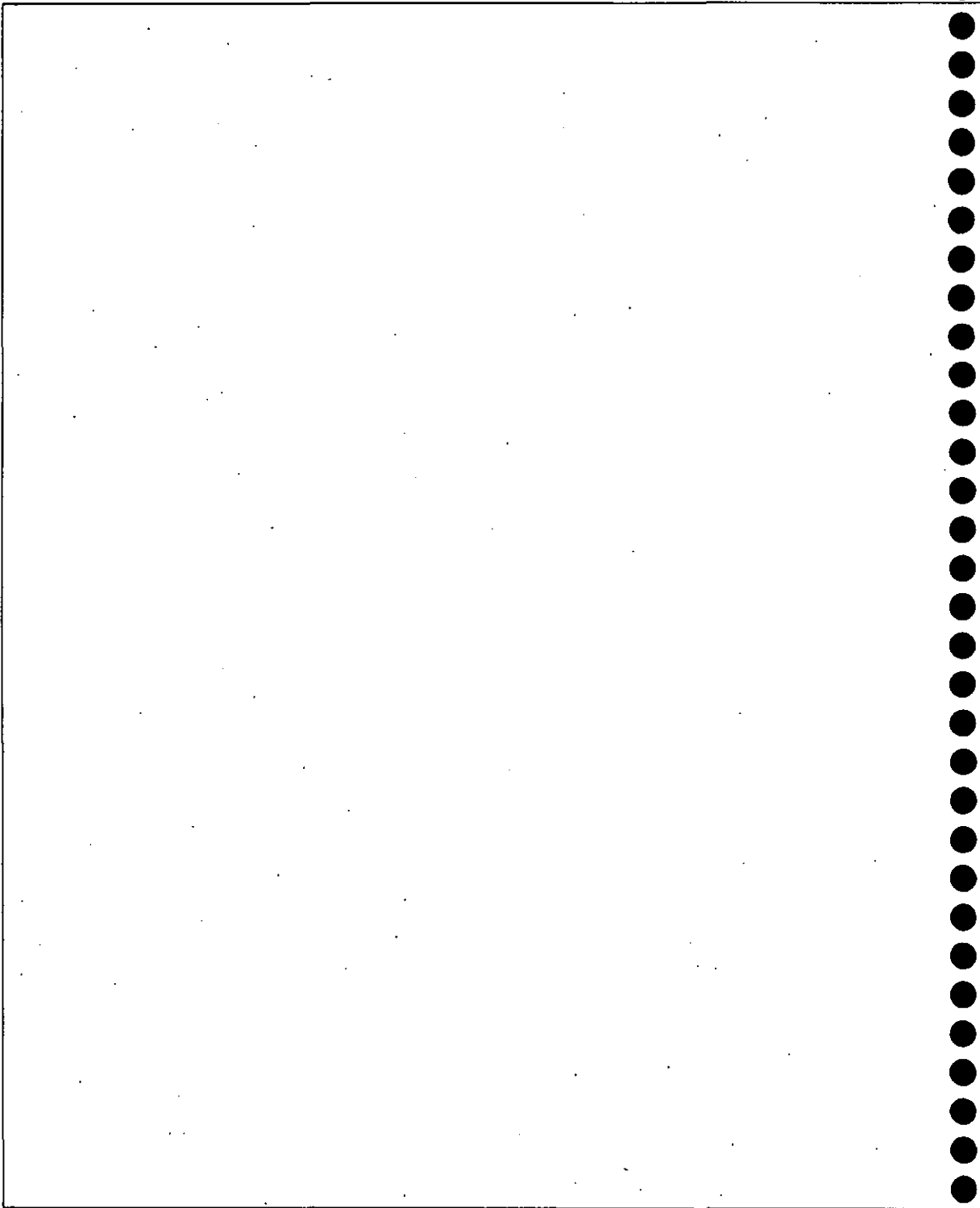
Charles Kaniss' retirement in 1988 cleared the way for another open election, but only one candidate, Kaniss' Deputy Administrator Dot Ruggles, ran for the office.

Ruggles moved to Pinellas County in 1969. She graduated from Eckerd College in 1983. Ruggles worked for several years in the real estate field, before entering politics through her work with the Pinellas County Young Republicans. She met Charles Kaniss during the 1976 Gerald Ford/Robert Dole presidential campaign and was hired by Kaniss to head up the Outreach Voter Registration Program. After a brief leave of absence in 1981 to work for Florida Congressman C. W. "Bill" Young in Washington D.C., Ruggles returned to the Supervisor of Elections' office where she became deputy administrator in 1982. Currently, Ruggles oversees three separate voter registration offices throughout Pinellas County. She has taken the voter registration system to new heights by implementing the Oracle relational database, and incorporating state-of-the-art on-line digitized signatures and voter registration applications. She brought the elections office into compliance with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

In 1997, Ruggles observed and assisted in national elections in Albania, Bosnia and the Republic of Serbia. In 1998, Ruggles was selected to meet with village administrators in Beijing, China, regarding elections and governmental procedures.

Currently serving as president, Dorothy Ruggles has been very active in the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections.





Tax Collector



TAX COLLECTOR TENURE

Eli B. "Uncle Eli" McMullen	1912 - 1929
DeWitt Cornelius Wilkerson ..	1929 - 1937
Jay B. Starkey	1937 - 1949
J. Walter Lanier	1949
Joseph W. Fleece	1949 - 1951
Lester W. Lambert	1951 - 1961
Olav Sanford Jasper	1961 - 1993
W. Fred Petty	1993 - Present

*T*here shall be elected by the electors of each county, for terms of four years, a sheriff, a tax collector...

OVERVIEW

A common misconception among the public is that the Tax Collector is an employee of county government; rather, by vote of the people the Tax Collector is an independent elected officer who serves in Pinellas County to coordinate the interest of Pinellas County taxpayers in relation to state agency and local government taxes, fees, licenses and registrations. These interests are threefold: fairness, efficiency and accountability.

A second misconception is that the office of the Tax Collector decides how much to collect in taxes or non ad valorem special assessments. In fact, taxation of property within the county is a two-step process. First, for taxes, the Property Appraiser puts a value on property parcels within Pinellas County, then the taxing authorities determine the millage. For special assessments this work is done by county, city and special district boards and authorities. The revenues collected by the Tax Collector, under state laws and regulations, go to the local governments, while the Tax Collector's office charges processing fees to maintain its office. Any excess fees are distributed back to the county.

For local government revenue, the primary state duty of the Tax Collector is to collect, account for and distribute current and delinquent real property ad valorem taxes, tangible personal taxes and non ad valorem special assessments within the confines of Pinellas County, for county government, municipalities, the school board, fire districts and all other special local and regional taxing districts. The Florida statutes authorize county tax collectors to collect delinquent taxes by the sale of tax certificates and later processing of tax deed applications for the sale of the real property.

In addition, for other state agencies, the Tax Collector issues state motor vehicle tags, processes motor vehicle titles and collects sales tax on the transfer of motor vehicle titles as a statutory agent of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. The Tax Collector's office is also in charge of registering and processing title applications for vessels, selling hunting and fishing licenses, and collecting tourist development taxes.

ELI BARTOW "UNCLE ELI" McMULLEN 1912 - 1929

Son of Largo pioneer Daniel McMullen, Eli McMullen came to Pinellas County with his family when he was only three years old. He worked with the Farmers' Alliance Exchange store in Largo from 1889 to 1903. He then ventured into real estate, and operated in Largo most of his life.

In 1923, McMullen's wife died. To honor her memory, the Pinellas County Courthouse was closed for a day; the Tax Collector's office was closed for two days.



DEWITT CORNELIUS WILKERSON 1929 - 1937

Prior to being elected as Pinellas County Tax Collector, DeWitt Wilkerson had been Tax Collector for the city of St. Petersburg for seven years. Wilkerson's background included working for The Central Savings Bank of Detroit, operating a sawmill and general store, and maintaining an association with a St. Petersburg investment firm. Wilkerson worked for the city of St. Petersburg's Department of Municipal Railways from 1918 to 1925. He was elected to the St. Petersburg City Commission in 1927, and served several years in the dual capacity of city tax collector and member of the finance department.

Wilkerson was a devoted Republican, and is credited with being a leading figure in organizing the Republican Party in Pinellas County. He remained an active party member throughout his life.



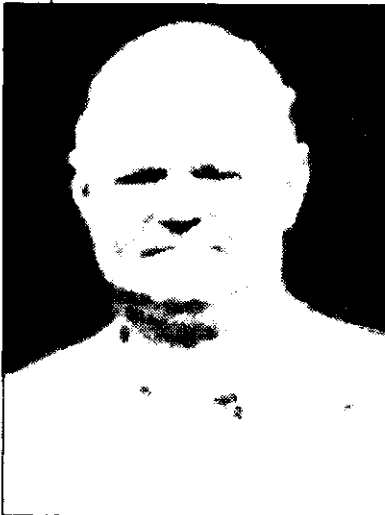
JAY B. STARKEY 1937 - 1949



Jay Starkey is remembered as an honest man with ability, and maintained the assertion that not a penny of taxpayers' funds went toward his business expenses (he even financed his own convention and travel expenses).

Ever the enterprising businessman/rancher, at age 11, Jay Starkey owned his own cow and sold warm milk for ten cents a quart. After he graduated from St. Petersburg High School in 1914, he kept four cows in a pasture near present day Tyrone Square Mall. Starkey served in the U.S. Army during World War I, and worked for a while for the U.S. Postal Service.

Starkey got involved in local politics when he was asked to make a speech for County Tax Collector candidate Bert McMullen in 1932. In 1936, Starkey decided to run for the office himself and won. Starkey's heart was always at home in the Florida outdoors, however, and he decided to return to ranching full-time in 1948. Throughout his career, Starkey amassed significant land holdings. In 1975, he donated 250 acres of his 16,000 acre Anclote River Ranch to the Southwest Florida Water Management District. He also sold 1,759 acres to the District at below market value to be used as a well field site and for preservation purposes. The land is now designated as the Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park.



J. WALTER LANIER 1949

J. Walter Lanier had served as Deputy Tax Collector for 12 years under Jay B. Starkey. He was elected to the office in the 1948 election. Tragically, on the afternoon of November 12, 1949, Lanier suffered a fatal heart attack while working in his yard at home.

JOSEPH W. FLEECE 1949 - 1951

Following the untimely death of J. Walter Lanier, Governor Fuller Warren appointed Joseph Fleece to the office of Pinellas County Tax Collector on November 23, 1949.

Fleece grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, moving to Pinellas County in 1924, taking a position as sales manager with Roberts Bize Motor Company. Seven years later, Fleece and his partner Ed Rieck of Pittsburgh founded Rieck and Fleece, Inc., a lumber and building supplies firm.

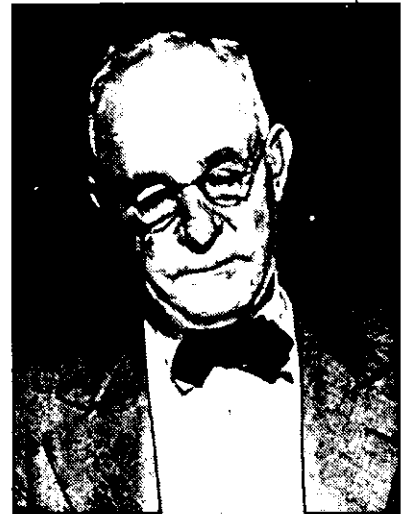
In 1950, Fleece asked the voters to allow him to continue to serve out Lanier's unexpired term of office. He was defeated, losing the Democratic primary election to Lester W. Lambert by nearly 7,000 votes.



LESTER W. LAMBERT 1951 - 1961

Lester Lambert was the popular choice to fill the remainder of J. Walter Lanier's unexpired term. Lambert had worked in the Tax Collector's office for eight years under D. C. Wilkerson, and for another twelve years under Jay B. Starkey. He also worked with J. Walter Lanier until Lanier's untimely death.

Given his experience, Lambert's defeat of Joseph Fleece in the 1950s election was no surprise. Lambert served as Pinellas County Tax Collector for the next ten years.



OLAV SANFORD JASPER 1961 – 1993



Born in Chicago of Norwegian parents, O. Sanford Jasper worked in banking in Chicago as he took classes at the American Institute of Banking. Afterwards, he pursued his formal education at Northwestern University, where he studied accounting, and at John Marshall Law School where he studied real estate law.

Jasper moved to St. Petersburg in 1943. At age 54, he decided to get married. The wedding date was September 26, 1960. However, the happy couple postponed their honeymoon, as Jasper was right in the middle of his first election bid for public office. Kitty Jasper subsequently became Jasper's campaign manager and ran his election campaigns for the next 32 years.

Perhaps because of his wife's illness, Jasper originally did not intend to seek re-election in 1992. Deputy Tax Collector W. Fred Petty and four other candidates all tossed their hats into the ring. In a dramatic change of heart, Jasper marched into the Supervisor of Elections' office just five minutes before the filing deadline to put his name on the ballot. Of the six candidates running in the first Republican primary, Jasper and Petty finished with Jasper leading. In the run-off primary, however, Jasper lost to Petty by 9,000 votes.

Ironically, Jasper's wife died on January 1, 1993, just as his career as Pinellas County Tax Collector came to an end.

Jasper always felt it was an honor to serve the public, and always served with dignity and honesty.

W. FRED PETTY 1993 - PRESENT

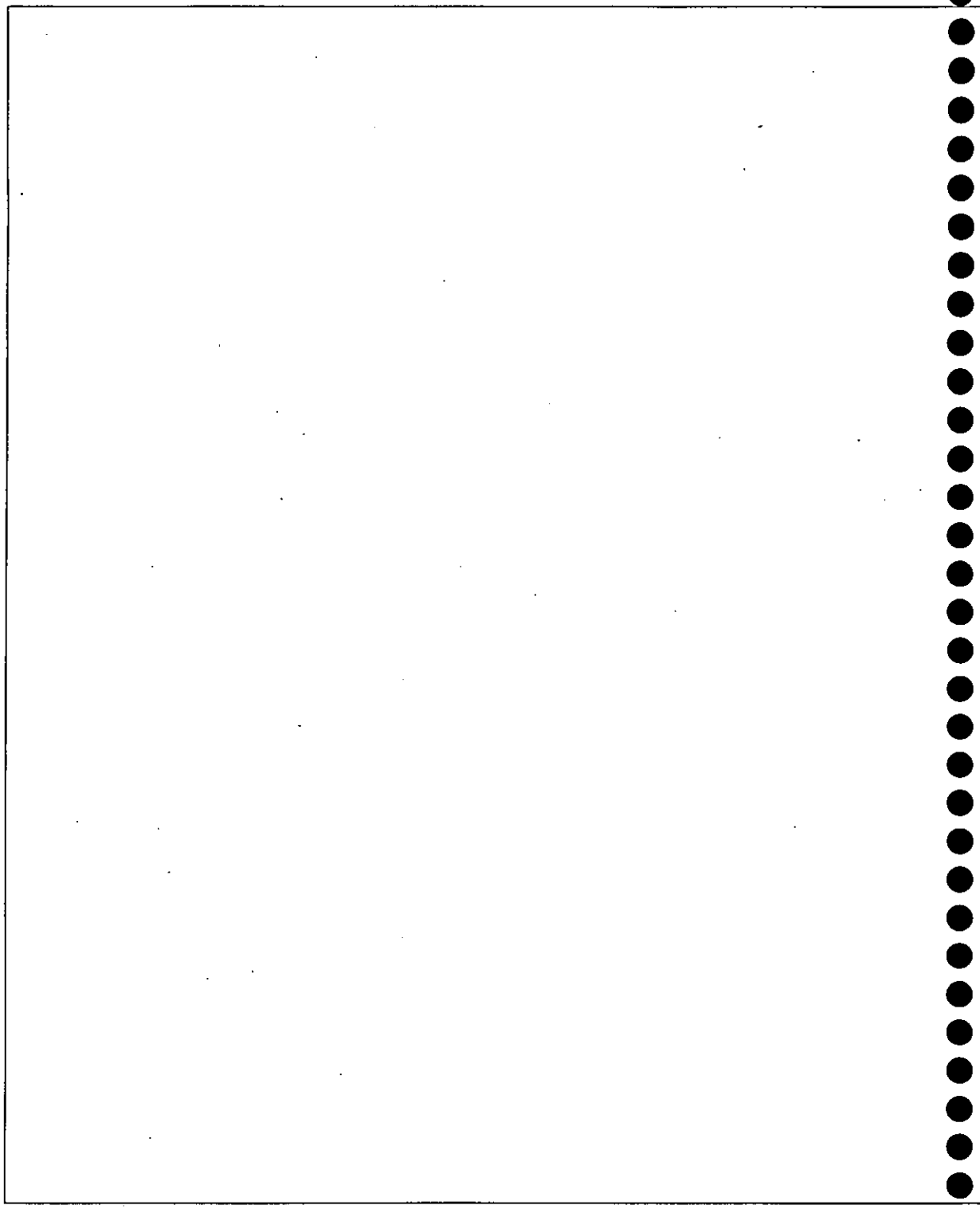
A native of Pensacola, Florida, W. Fred Petty served in the U.S. Navy after his high school graduation. While in the service he completed several college level courses and passed college level General Education Development tests conducted by the U.S. Armed Forces Institute. Upon retiring from the Navy, Petty relocated his family to Largo, and subsequently joined the Tax Collector's office.

During his 1992 campaign, Petty promised to update his office with modern technology, while making the services of his office more accessible to the citizenry. These pledges have been fulfilled, as he has extended office hours, established drop boxes for auto tag renewals (near the automobile inspection stations) and has relocated certain tag/title offices for better access to the public.

In November 1994, W. Fred Petty brought the 200 employees of the Tax Collector's office into the Pinellas County Unified Personnel System. The system promises more security for the employees, and allows them to address their complaints with a formal grievance procedure.

In his spare time, W. Fred Petty serves as a member of the Largo Rotary Club (past president) and functions as treasurer and investment officer of the Pinellas County Employees Federal Credit Union. In July of 1998, he was elected president of Florida Tax Collectors, Inc., a nonprofit group of 67 Florida county tax collectors active in sharing information and ideas on how to serve the people with more fairness, efficiency, and accountability.





Index & Bibliography



Finley's County Jail

INDEX

<i>B</i>	Beattie, Gladstone R.	55
	Blocker, Albert T.	33
	Booth, Roy	54
	Brown, Emory L.	22
	Brown, John N.	16, 32
<i>C</i>	Clement, Archie	71
	Coleman, Gerard A. 'Gerry'	60
	Collins, Richard M.	84
	Cook, Wilda J.	85
	Crawford, William	20
	Cunningham, Ernest G.	56
<i>D</i>	Davis, Clair A.	72
	Davis, John W.	83
	De Blaker, Karleen F.	24
	Dillinger, Robert	45
<i>F</i>	Fleece, Joseph W.	97
<i>G</i>	Genung, Donald S.	58
	Gilkerson, Avery W.	21
	Gilkerson, Esther L.	21
	Gordon, Horace C.	69
	Green, Ray E.	19
<i>H</i>	Haines, Mac S.	34
	Hammock, Harry	82
<i>J</i>	Jagger, Robert	44
	Jasper, Olav Sanford (O.S.)	98
<i>K</i>	Kaniss, Charles J.	87
	Keys, Clyde J.	22
<i>L</i>	Lanier, J. Walter	96
	Lambert, Lester W.	97
	Lindsey, William S.	53

<i>M</i>	McCabe, Bernie	74
	McMullen, Chester B., Sr.	70
	McMullen, Eli Bartow "Uncle Eli"	95
	McMullen, Melvin Arthur	69
	McQuagge, A.G.	18
	McQuagge, Laura J.	19
	Meares, Albert Stevens	81
	Mullendore, Harold "Pete"	23
<i>N</i>	Nelson, Jeanne Khoyi	86
	Northup, Thomas J.	32
<i>O</i>	O'Quinn, Karl B.	17
	O'Quinn, Myrtle B.	18
<i>P</i>	Pearce, Morrison	20
	Petty, W. Fred	99
	Phillips, Herbert S.	68
<i>R</i>	Raney, George Pettus, Jr.	68
	Reid, William Campbell "Billy"	83
	Rice, Everett S.	61
	Roberts, William T. "Bill"	59
	Ruggles, Dorothy Walker	88
	Russell, James T.	73
<i>S</i>	Saunders, Sid	58
	Schultz, Ronald J.	35
	Sloat, Lorenzo E.	53
	Smith, Jim	36
	Starkey, Jay B.	96
	Sterling, Herschel H.	34
<i>T</i>	Tucker, Todd	57
	Turner, Arthur Campbell (A.C.)	81
<i>W</i>	Whitehurst, Marvel	52
	Wieckling, C.W.	16
	Wilcox, Charles A.	33, 82
	Wilkerson, DeWitt Cornelius	95
	Wilson, Emmett Pasco	70
	Wright, Warren A.	84

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Arsenault, Raymond. St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream: 1888-1950. Norfolk/Virginia Beach. The Donning Company. 1988.
- Cash, W.T. The Story of Florida. New York. The American Historical Society. 1938.
- Fuller, Walter P. St. Petersburg and Its People. St. Petersburg, FL. Great Outdoors Publishing Company. 1972.
- Gannon, Michael. Florida: A Short History. Gainesville. University Press of Florida. 1993.
- Kurland, Philip B. and Gerhard Casper. Landmark Briefs and Arguments of the Supreme Court of the United States: Constitutional Law. Volume 57. Arlington, VA. University Press of America, Inc. 1975.
- Pinellas County Historical Background. Pinellas County Planning Council. The Pinellas County Planning Department. 1986.
- Rogers, William and Brown, Canter. Florida's Clerks of the Circuit Court: Their History and Experiences. Tallahassee: Sentry Press. 1996.
- Straub, W.L. History of Pinellas County, Florida. St. Augustine, FL. The Record Company, Printers. 1929.
- Wallace, John. Carpetbag Rule in Florida: The Inside Workings of the Reconstruction of Civil Government in Florida After the Close of the Civil War. Kennesaw, GA. Continental Book Company. 1959.

Periodicals

- Clearwater Sun.* Clearwater, FL. Copies at Clearwater Main Library.
- St. Petersburg Evening Independent.* St. Petersburg, FL 1920 - 1950. Copies at Heritage Village Archives, Largo, FL. Microfilm 1909 - 1986. St. Petersburg Main Library.
- St. Petersburg Times.* St. Petersburg, FL. 1919 - 1923. Copies at Heritage Village Archives, Largo, FL. Microfilm 1901-1996. St. Petersburg Main Library
- Journal of Southern History.*
- University of Miami Law Review.* 1976.

Documents

Annual Report. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. 1960.

Facts the Taxpayer Should Know, Pinellas County Property Appraiser's office. Clearwater, FL. 1947.

Florida Constitution

Manual For County Commissioners of Florida. Tallahassee: State Auditing Department. 1958

Records of Liquor, Stills, Property Seized, Pinellas County Florida. PCSO. 1929.

Unpublished Manuscripts

Ivey, Donald J. *The Life and Times of Chester Bartow McMullen, Sr.: A Chronological Biography.* 1997

Personal Interviews

Coleman, Sheriff Gerald "Gerry"

De Blaker, Karleen

Dillinger, Robert

Genung, Sheriff Don

Jagger, Robert

Joseph, Bob

McCabe, Bernie

Mullendore, Pete

Nelson, Diane

Ogden, Malcolm

Pasha, Marianne

Petty, W. Fred

Rice, Sheriff Everett

Roberts, Sheriff Bill

Russell, James T.

Schaeffer, Judge Susan

Schutte, Major Bob

Smith, Jim

Stiner, Lt. Scott

Tita, Sgt. Greg

Vincent, Herman

Wright, Sgt. Chuck

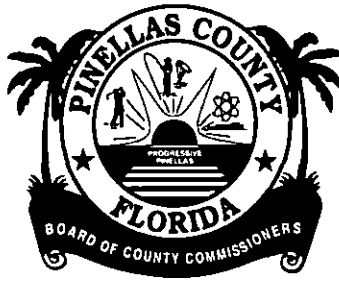
Special thanks to these contributing sponsors:

JAN SOUTH BANK
THE RELATIONSHIP PEOPLE

DANKA



FLORIDA
PROGRESS
CORPORATION



"Serving You Every Day"

**Visit the Pinellas County Website
<http://www.co.pinellas.fl.us/bcc>**

*Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
To obtain accessible formats of this document, please contact the
Department of Public Affairs at (727) 464-4600/TDD (727) 464-4431.*



Produced in Cooperation with the
Pinellas County Department of Public Affairs

Printed on recycled paper

5/99



HISTORY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES OF PINELLAS COUNTY

PINELLAS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

