

MISSION  
STATEMENT

"It is the duty, honor and tradition of the Collier County Sheriff's Office to preserve and protect the lives, property and constitutional guarantees of all persons through an unrelenting commitment to professional excellence."

**75th Anniversary Celebration**  
**Tuesday, July 7, 1998, 10:00 A.M.**

Collier County Sheriff's Office  
3301 Tamiami Trail East  
Naples, Florida 34112  
(941) 774-4434

# Collier County Sheriff's Office

## 75th Anniversary Celebration



**July 7, 1923 - July 7, 1998**

## C.C.S.O. The First Few Years

- 1923 -

- \* May 8: Florida's governing bodies voted for the creation of Collier County.
- \* July 7: The Legislature's previous vote goes into effect and Collier County is born. Governor Cary Hardee appoints W. R. Maynard as the county's first Sheriff.
- \* A five: bed hospital opens in Everglades. It isn't until 1956 that the next hospital opens in Naples.
- \* Construction of the Tamiami Trail begins and is not completed until 1928.
- \* August: The county's first budget is approved. It operates on the "Fee System," whereby everything is paid from assessed fees, fines and confiscations.
- \* August: The Collier County News is chartered for publication. (This paper would later become the Naples Daily News.)
- \* September: The newly appointed Sheriff hired his first Deputies (George Coles, Carl Bostick, W. A. Horton and R.C. Kirkland.)

- 1924 -

- \* July: The first election for Sheriff took place. Three people ran for the office of Sheriff. 93 voters cast their ballots and incumbent Sheriff Maynard was reelected.
- \* August: Deputy Cox is attacked on Marco Island by bootleggers who beat him and cut him with a razor. His wife intervened and the mob backed off. Seven men were later arrested and charged by a grand jury. Within 6 months Deputy Cox and his entire family had disappeared. Their disappearance had remained a mystery until a surprising deathbed confession in 1973 by Frank Lowe (one of the men indicted). Frank told how he and his cohorts had taken the Cox family to their deaths in the Everglades, near Isles of Capri.

- 1926 -

- \* September: A fugitive had been spotted in the swamp near Immokalee, and the Sheriff was out of town. His Chief Deputy (his wife Blanche) packed up her guns and set out searching for them. The only thing found was a pair of discarded prison stripes.

- 1928 -

- \* April: Everglades hosts the grand opening celebration of the Tamiami Trail. Every ten miles along its route stations were erected to offer roadside assistance and protection.
- \* July: Sheriff Thorp announces the creation of the Southwest Mounted Police. These Deputies will live in the stations along the Tamiami Trail and patrol 5 miles each side on their motorcycles. The Deputies' wives will provide meals and ancillary services at the station.
- \* September: The new county court house is completed in Everglades.
- \* October: Louis J. Thorp runs unopposed for Sheriff and is elected. His unique and precise use of a bull whip brings him a lot of attention.
- \* The Southwest Mounted Police become quite famous. Articles in major newspapers throughout the United States carry stories and accounts of their activity. They even receive a regular article in the local paper "News of the Southwest Mounted Police."

- 1929 -

- \* An example of speedy justice: A bootlegger was caught with his illegal cargo at 1 A.M.. By 10 A.M.. he was tried and convicted, and by noon he could be seen in jail stripes shoveling rock for the Sheriff.

- 1954 -

- \* A new communications system is acquired and shared with 6 other counties (KCS22). In order to boost the radio signal in remote areas of the county, Deputies park under a telephone line or use pre-hung antenna wires lowered from fire towers and tall poles.
- \* Sheriff Thorp dies in office and his trusted Chief Deputy Roy O. Atkins takes command. Roy remains Sheriff for the remainder of Sheriff Thorp's term.

- 1956 -

- \* Sheriff Hendry invited Aubrey Rogers to come and work at the Everglades Jail in 1956. Aubrey lived above the jail. While his wife helped feed prisoners, he earned 74 cents per hour. There were only 3 civilians, 4 Deputies and the Sheriff.

## 75th Anniversary Celebration Program

Join  
**Sheriff Don Hunter**  
in Celebrating the  
Collier County Sheriff's Office 75th Anniversary  
July 7, 1998 10:00 A.M.

Welcome Address	Sheriff Don Hunter
Invocation	Pastor Vann Ellison - Auxiliary Pastor
Presentation of the Colors	Sheriff's Office Honor Guard
Pledge of Allegiance	Undersheriff Robert Burhans
Introduction of the Speakers	Undersheriff Robert Burhans
Guest Speakers	Aubrey Rogers - Sheriff, Retired Retired Sheriff's Deputies
Special Presentations	Sheriff Don Hunter * Tribute to the Southwest Mounted Police * Announcement of 25 Year Time Capsule
Closing Remarks	Sheriff Don Hunter
Benediction	Pastor Vann Ellison - Auxiliary Pastor



# Collier County Sheriff's Office 75th Anniversary Celebration

In the late evening hours of July 7th, 1923, newly appointed Sheriff W.R. Maynard and members of the county's first governing body met at the Everglades Rod & Gun Club to formulate their beginning strategies for the newly formed Collier County. July 7, 1998 commemorates 75 years of Sheriff's Office service to the citizens of Collier County. Even though your Sheriff's Office is quite young in its historical place within American law enforcement, we have grown and advanced at a tremendous rate to keep pace with our need for service and the changes in crimes and criminals. As recently as 1960 the Sheriff's Office consisted of only a handful of people. These dedicated people formed the foundation for many of the progressive programs and services offered to this day. Today there are 912 members authorized within this progressive and rapidly changing professional organization. We should all be proud of what this Agency has accomplished in the last seventy-five years, and as your Sheriff it is a pleasure to share with you in this momentous occasion.

As we advance into the 21st century your Sheriff's Office's use of emerging technologies will bring us to new levels of service and communication. We anticipate remaining a highly respected law enforcement force with our counterparts throughout the country and the world. During this next year I hope you will help us celebrate 75 years of service by becoming involved, learning about your agency's past, understanding the critical public safety issues of today and thinking about your community's future.

Sincerely,

Don Hunter  
Collier County Sheriff



Sheriff W.R. Maynard  
1923 - 1928



Sheriff Louis J. Thorp  
1928 - 1954



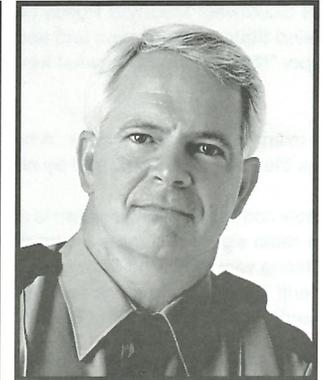
Sheriff Roy O. Atkins  
1954 - 1956



Sheriff E.A. "Doug" Hendry  
1956 - 1975



Sheriff Aubrey Rogers  
1975 - 1989



Sheriff Don Hunter  
1989 - Present