



Ten Minutes With ...

...Lt. Lee Harman, Officer-in-Charge of the Josephine County Sheriff's Office Illinois Valley Substation in Cave Junction

How long have you worked for the sheriff's office?
I started with the sheriff's office in 1980 on a part-time/reserve type of status and went full time in '86. Between 1983 and '86, I took a position with Josephine County Animal Control because I lived out here in Cave Junction then, and this was my area or beat.

I became a spotter for Josephine County SWAT from 1987 to 1995, before it was disbanded in '95 due to budget cuts. My job was to provide cover fire for the entry team and to watch out for the sniper I was partnered with.

When I finally joined the sheriff's office I found I had to do things quite a bit differently than what I was used to with SWAT. I had to learn to talk a little different. Sometimes my backup may be a half hour away, so I found myself verbalizing with people a lot more; you know, talking them down, or talking them into handcuffs. Basically, I have to sell myself and the handcuffs. I have to take control of the situation instead of relying on backup or a second person to be there.

What made you decide to go into law enforcement?
My dad was a police officer for 17 years in Kansas, and I always wanted to be a cop. I tried twice in California. One agency said I was too short, and the other agency; well, I had kinda' long hair at the time and rode a chopper. I guess I wasn't the guy they were looking for.

Are you originally from here?
Actually, I started here in 1978. I moved from San Jose, Calif. and got a job working for the city of Cave Junction Police Dept. I was born and raised in Kansas, and after my father passed away my family moved to California, where I went to high school.

After graduating, I went into the U.S. Navy as an aviation storekeeper. I enlisted under what they call a "kiddie cruise," when I was 17, and got out the day I turned 21 -- three years, six months and 12 days -- but who's counting. If I hadn't been married, had two kids and one on the way, I probably would have made it a career.

In 1990, I made sergeant-in-charge of the sheriff's office civil division. I knew I was going to be behind a desk rather than work on the road, so my wife and I decided to sell our place on Caves Hwy. and move to Grants Pass.

Is your family here?
My wife, to whom I have been married to 42 years in May. I also have three kids who graduated from Illinois Valley High School: a daughter, Deena, and two sons, Rob and Lisa.

What do you do for the sheriff's office?
I oversee all of operations and support services. The sergeants who run the patrol division, narcotics division, and a lead clerk all answer to me. I also oversee people in the civil division, BLM deputies, marine deputies, and the Cave Junction contract deputy. The only one above me is the sheriff. I am in charge of absolutely everything other than the jail.

What would you say is the most interesting thing you've seen while on duty?
Every time I get to the point where I think I've seen it all, then there's something new. That's the beautiful part about this job; everything is different.

Do you have any hobbies?
Motorcycles. Harleys and horses. I grew up around horses in Kansas. Six months after I came here, I started working weekends at stables at Lake Selmac. Half-owner of the stables was the chief of police for Cave Junction.

My son and I did a tandem sky dive from 12,500 feet for his birthday. Then, for my daughter's 40th birthday, I went to Creswell and jumped at 15,000 feet. That was a hoot. It's probably the biggest rush ever in my life.

What would you say is the most rewarding part of your job?
Being able to help people. That's the bottom line. You don't become a cop for the money. The pay isn't all that great for what we have to deal with. The reward is getting out there and dealing with the people one-on-one.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?
Actually, chocolate. My wife will buy Neapolitan; and out of chocolate, vanilla and strawberry, the first section I always eat is chocolate.

~ Photo and Interview by Shane Welsh

The bond of our common humanity is stronger than the divisiveness of our fears and prejudices. God gives us the capacity for choice. We can choose to alleviate suffering. We can choose to work together for peace. We can make these changes -- and we must.

- President Jimmy Carter -

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Sports Challenge

By WALTER BRANCH

1. What was the first year a trophy was given to the winner of the World Series?
2. What figure skater earned \$45 million in her lifetime?
3. Who was the first modern athlete picked to play in pro football and baseball All-Star games?
4. What three articles of clothing did Ian Baker-Finch take off before hitting his golf ball from the edge of a pond in 1993?
5. Which boxer registered knockouts in a record 129 bouts?
6. What is the only part of a football field to have protective padding?
7. What British sport features a bowler, batsman and wicketkeeper?
8. What type of athlete is called a powder puff, tanker, catcher and knuckle duster?
9. What's the American equivalent of Italians' whistling at a soccer game?
10. What cyclist became the first non-European in 83 years to win the Tour de France?

Sports Challenge Answers
1. 1967; 2. Sonja Henie; 3. Bo Jackson; 4. Shoes, socks, pants; 5. Archie Moore; 6. The goalposts; 7. Cricket; 8. A boxer; 9. Boogie; 10. Greg LeMond
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- Albert Einstein -

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