

Co-Operation Between Lawmen Shows Its Value in Results

THERE HAVE BEEN instances in this area in the past when geographical or jurisdictional jealousies among law enforcement agencies have hindered crime hunting efforts. When these occur they have been criticized, and justly so.

On the other hand, when full co-operation is obtained we are inclined to accept it as a matter of course. Admittedly it is an action which should be expected, but we believe the organizations involved should be given recognition for a job well done.

For that reason this is an opportune time to praise the combined efforts of the Escambia and Santa Rosa sheriff departments, the Florida Highway Patrol and the Escambia Search and Rescue Unit in tracking down a man who allegedly sent his auto into Pensacola Bay in a death hoax.

Although the investigating officers quickly became convinced there had been no death tragedy, the pretense of a search for a body in the bay waters was maintained for two good reasons. One was the slim possibility that evidence was deceiving and a driver had drowned. The principal reason was to hide the fact that a nation-wide hunt was under way. Knowledge that his hoax attempt had failed would have alerted the fugitive and made his capture more difficult.

For this purpose the Highway Patrol and Search and Rescue members patiently maintained a well-publicized hunt which they were reasonably certain was wasted effort while the other agencies quietly traced their quarry to Kentucky.

The four organizations here and the Kentucky officers who assisted deserve congratulations for a well-performed operation.