

Southwesterner In Focus

DEDICATED EFFORT MAKES EP SHERIFF'S RESERVE BEST

By Bob Miles
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The fact that El Paso County Sheriff's Reserve is the best such organization of its kind in the nation is due to the dedicated effort of such men as Frank D. Foss. In addition to serving as first vice president of the Sheriff's Reserve, Foss was recently appointed Texas state commander of the National Jeep Search and Rescue Association.

The Jeep Search and Rescue Association is a national organization, although most of its units are in the Western states. It is made up of smaller organizations like the Sheriffs Reserve, acting to assist county law enforcement, officers during such emergencies, as lost persons, airplane crashes and other disasters. All members of the organization are unpaid volunteers and furnish their own transportation and equipment.

Members of El Paso County Sheriff's Reserve also are members of the Jeep Search and Rescue Association. In fact, it is the only group of its kind in the slate at present, although Foss said that he and others are working to recruit more groups throughout the state.

Foss said he intends to make several trips in the area to recruit additional units for the Jeep Search and Rescue Association in the near future and that plans are being made for the annual convention of the organization which will be held in El Paso in 1966.

Foss is proud of El Paso County Sheriff's Reserve and rightly so.

"The group is composed of 92 men, 40 radio-equipped four-wheel drive vehicles,

eight airplanes, also radio-equipped, and three motorcycles. It is the best equipped and largest organization of its type in the nation and is in communication with the Sheriff's Department at all times," he explained.



FRANK D. FOSS

Each of the vehicles used by members of the Sheriff's Reserve is also outfitted with first aid and other equipment for meeting a wide variety of emergencies. Each carries food, water and fuel, so that it can operate self-sufficiently while in the field.

The Sheriffs Reserve holds monthly meetings and, Foss said, "We try to have some type of training film or exercise at least once a month," Training is continuous to insure maximum efficiency in any disaster.

"We've been lucky so far this year," Foss said, "and have been called out but a few times." The Reserve assists the Sheriff's

Department in emergencies in which the sheriff needs trained auxiliary personnel.

Members of the reserve are screened and selected carefully before being accepted into the organization. Each of them is also a deputy sheriff.

Foss owns a 1963 Jeep Wagoneer and a Beechcraft Bonanza airplane which he uses in search and rescue operations and which he also uses while pursuing his favorite hobby of treasure hunting. He admits he has not found anything worth mentioning but he keeps hoping. This is the optimistic determination which keeps treasure hunters hunting. His hobbies include the reserve, flying, racing and boating.

Born in 1932, in Mitchell, S.D., Foss first came to El Paso in 1952, while he was in the Army and was stationed at Ft. Bliss. While in the service, Foss served as a pilot and radarman and at one time held a warrant officer commission.

Foss owns and operates the Airport Chevron Station at Montana Avenue, and Airport Road. He lives with his wife Francis, an El Pasoan, and their three children at 3029 Dublin St. The children are Kathy, 7, Terry, 6, and Frank J., nine months.

To the many unpaid volunteers like Frank D. Foss, who spend so much of their time and money helping others, the smile on the face of a lost child who has been found or the gratitude of an injured person whose fear and pain have been eased, is payment enough.

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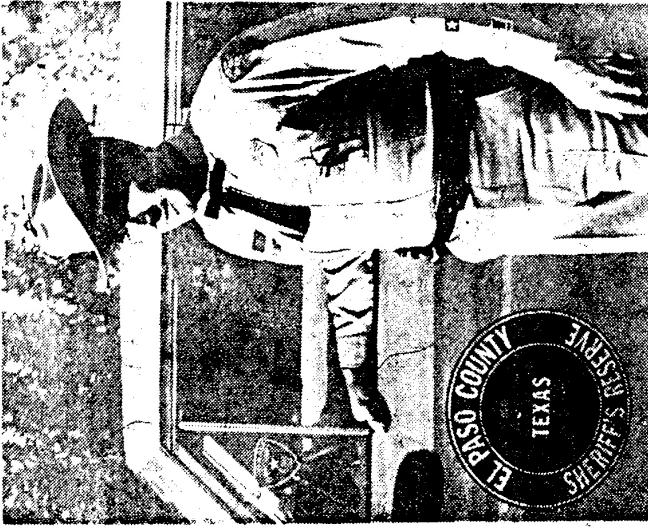
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