

Sheriff, continued from page 5

rection. We're moving in a positive direction now, and I don't see that as an advantage.

Aside from the positive aspects of the progress blacks have made under Oldham's administration, Alston and Walker plainly enjoy the responsibilities that working for the Sheriff's department entails and would recommend it as a career for young black men and women. In contrasting the duties of his department with those of the Winston-Salem Police Department, Alston says, "The sheriff of this county, has a broader range of responsibilities. It's twofold: both constitutional, as well as the responsibility to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Forsyth County."

While city police handle matters within the corporate limits of the city, sheriff's deputies cover the rural areas beyond the city limits. Alston indicated that "when the need

arises, both law enforcement agencies work cooperatively to share information and provide assistance."

For young people considering law enforcement as a career, Alston says, "Law enforcement has been good to me and I've enjoyed it. If we are setting examples, if I've

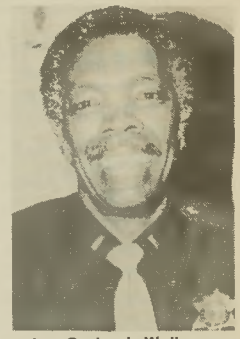
been a focal point... then my suggestion is to stay in school and do the best they can... Stay out of trouble, keep their records clean because there are some things that are mandated now for law enforcement officers."

Walker has also found her career rewarding and has been an exam-

ple for others who saw her around her job and sought her advice in whether or not to enter her profession as a career. She is pleased when she has been instrumental in influencing that choice and particularly likes her chosen career because "I like people... We, as a peo-



Major Eldridge D. Alston



Lt. Garland Wallace

Black Lieutenants Support Their Local Sheriff

by Patricia Smith-Deering

Among the staff at the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department who are generally pleased with the progress and the opportunities that have opened up during their careers in law enforcement are three black lieutenants: Jerry Herron, Oscar Vaughn, Jr., and Garland Wallace.

Herron, assigned to the patrol division, has been with the department for 10 years. He is in charge of nine offi-

cers and two supervisors. He feels that the department is still in the process of growing and "has gone through a lot of positive change. Of Sheriff Preston Oldham, Herron says, "He has insight on what needs to be done... If it were not for him opening the doors for job opportunities, we'd still be set back."

Vaughn is the liaison supervisor for all Forsyth County schools. A veteran of 24 years in the department, he has seen "a vast difference"

including changing technologies, equipment, increased opportunities. While there are still changes that he would like to see, Vaughn is generally satisfied with the overall changes in the department. He feels that elections every four years to re-elect or elect a new sheriff shouldn't be necessary. "If the sheriff is doing his job, you shouldn't have to elect a new sheriff... A new sheriff could, by rights, clean house."

Wallace is Assistant

Administrator at the Forsyth County jail. Like Herron and Vaughn, he has seen "a lot of progress" in his 19 years with the department, particularly in the area of education provided. He says, "Movement has been upward... I think that everything is equalized. As far as I'm concerned, we've got the right man. The things that are mandated for us to do have been done." He cites, particularly, the tremendous improvement in the jail's medical

facility. "(Oldham) is doing a marvelous job. He's fair, and I'm not just saying that because I'm a lieutenant," says Wallace.



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