

## BIO

Ralph's parents moved to Pompano Beach, Florida when he was three years old. Since his father was a General Contractor, Ralph worked with him until 1970 when he joined the Pompano Police Department. In 1972 Ralph and his then wife, Ginny, took a tourist type vacation to Florida and stopped in Weeki Wachee to look around. Lo and behold, they ended up buying a lot on Hernando Beach for the outlandish price of \$5,500.00 In 1980 they decided to leave South Florida and moved to Brooksville where he still resides with present wife, Shelley.

One of the possessions Ralph did not bring up from South Florida was his first "Bugeye Sprite" which he bought for \$700.00 in 1968 for college. This was his daily driver.

He opened a Bicycle and Hobby Shop in Spring Hill and then in 1983 joined the Hernando County Sheriffs Department where he became a Detective in the Major Crimes Unit. From there he went to the State Attorney's Office as an Investigator. He joined the Office of the Public Defender in Ocala 16 years ago. In 2000, he transferred to Brooksville where he is now assigned. In addition to serving as President of the Public Defenders Investigators Association in 2000 and 2001, Ralph was named the State of Florida Investigator of the Year for 1997.

Shelley met Ralph when he was with the Sheriffs Office in 1986. At the time, she was a resident of Ludlow, MA and had moved to Florida in late 1987, after working for Smith and Wesson for 16 years. By this time, most of her family had moved to Spring Hill as her uncle, Rudy Bruni, was a contractor and her father, Evo Bruni, had a masonry business. She has been working as an Insurance Coordinator in the front office the past 11 years for Doctor P.K. Paul, who is a gastrologist. Shelley is also the Secretary of the Hernando Performing Arts Guild and a member and past Secretary of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. After a protracted courtship, Ralph and Shelley married 9/20/04. He has one son from the previous marriage and Shelley has Ralph to raise.

They started to rebuild British cars after discovering a lonely 1965 MGB in a field in Anthony, Fl one day. So far, they have rebuilt the MGB, a black, 1960 MGA and presently working on a 1959 Austin Healey 100/6. After searching for a long time, Ralph recently bought another Bugeye, which is patiently waiting its turn to be restored. When will it ever stop???