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Email:
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Monday, June 28, 2004

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

www.justthefacts.net

Good, bad highlights mark man's law enforcement career

Two things stand out in Roger Beaty's mind about his 21 years with the Hoopeston Police Department. One involves bringing someone into the world, the other took a man out of society.

The first incident occurred early in Beaty's career, about a year or year and a half after he started. It was about 3 a.m. one Monday morning when Beaty, who was working by himself, was dispatched to a house on Front St. There he found a woman lying on the floor,

legs in the air, in hard labor. Beaty radioed then-dispatcher Earlene Longfellow that he needed an ambulance but help didn't arrive quickly enough. "I got to deliver a baby boy," Beaty said.

The second incident occurred in the mid 1990s when, while on routine patrol, Beaty found a man sleeping in the bushes at Jerry's IGA. The man turned out to have killed his mother, father and grandmother in Gary, Ind., then burned the house. Thanks to Beaty, the man

was returned to Gary, convicted and sentenced to 150 years in prison.

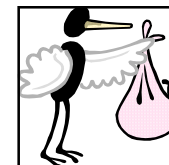
Beaty began his duties on the force on May 23, 1983 after having worked at General Motors in Danville. He was laid off and had gone to the unemployment office where he heard about an opening on the department. "I tell everybody the unemployment office sent me here," he said, laughing. "It's the truth."

During his career, Beaty has enjoyed helping people who really need it. He also liked the changing nature of the job. "It was like going to the circus," he said. "You never knew what your were going to see."

Like other officers, his least favorite calls



Five generations turned out Friday for Roger Beaty's retirement open house at Hoopeston City Hall. Pictured are, from left, Beaty's grandfather, John Neal, mother Ruth Beaty, Roger Beaty, daughter Holly (Beaty) Baker and granddaughter Kali Baker.



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