

## Road & Bridge Department

The Road and Bridge Department suffered a major loss with the passing of Labor Supervisor II William “Sebo” Gaskin. Sebo was the longest tenured employee in Pasco County. He started on March 19, 1970 and had a wealth of stories from his almost 38 years of service.



Tom Rydzik: *Back in July of 1974, I remember my second day on the job working with Sebo. We were paving Hamilton Road (now called Hudson Avenue) from Hicks Road to Cobra Way for the new high school (Hudson High School). I was the hottest I've ever been in my life and I wondered what I was getting myself into.*

*There was a time in the early 1980's when a grader parked at a job site was stolen. Sebo used his tracking skills and found it in the Green Swamp in about three feet of water.*

*I fondly remember some good times with Sebo. When I was commercial crabbing part time, I would trade crab claws with him for venison.*

*Sebo was devoted to Pasco County and when he was assigned a task he never said he couldn't do it. We will all miss him.*

William Gaskin, his middle name was Sceabron, was known to all as “Sebo.” Born June 11, 1945 in San Antonio and a lifelong Pasco resident, he loved to hunt and fish and had four hunting dogs he used to hunt deer. He was a commander at the VFW post in Dade City and was the 1989 World Series senior girls softball league coach. On February 27, 2008, Sebo passed away at the age of 62. He was survived by a daughter, son, and two grandchildren.

Wally Speidel: *Sebo was around here so long that I started calling him the “Godfather of Road and Bridge.” He had so many positive traits, but I think I'll remember his honesty the most. He was honest to the point that he'd incriminate himself. He was very dedicated and will be sorely missed.*

Sebo was hired as a dragline operator for \$1.70 per hour. In a profile in the March/April 2003 issue of the P\*E\*N, Sebo remembered, back then you worked five ten hour days and there was no such thing as overtime. The Commissioners did the hiring and then set the job priorities. He remembers driving the grader over to the west side to grade Baker, Plathe, and Rowan Roads. There was no trailer to transport graders or other equipment. There was no garage to do repairs to equipment so you did your own service work. There was no one in the office answering phone calls either. Sebo remembered Public Works Director Tom Rydzik working in the field. He was always depended upon for his knowledge of Pasco County. Whenever we needed to know about road maintenance, for example how long a road was graded; the answer was always “call Sebo.”

Bud Wilson: *As an employee of Public Works, I have worked for, with, and the last couple of years, supervised Sebo. Being his Supervisor never seemed appropriate to define our relationship. His knowledge of Pasco County and Road and Bridge surpassed mine by far. Sebo always knew the best shortcuts of our job without sacrificing quality. I referred to his knowledge more than he ever did mine. What I learned from Sebo goes a lot farther than the miles of road I will ever drive - that he helped construct. I lost a*

*friend and co-worker whose judgment, knowledge, wit, friendliness, integrity, smile and laugh will always be missed.*

Sebo was a certified mechanic. He learned construction and to run heavy equipment when he worked on Interstate 75, before his County career started. Sebo was in the Army for three years as a mechanic, taking him to Kentucky, Colorado and Viet Nam.

Bobby Martin: *In February I lost a life long friend, a father figure and my boss.*

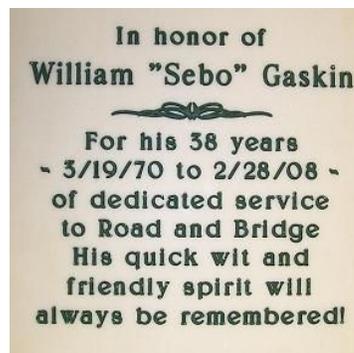
- *As my friend you were always there for me. You stood by me as my Best Man.*
- *As a father figure you introduced me to my passion of hunting as a young boy and then became my best hunting buddy.*
- *Then as my boss you encouraged me to grow in my position and you always believed in me.*

*You might be gone, but you will always be with me! You will be missed!*

A tree where Sebo always parked died this past winter and was removed, coincidentally, the morning that he passed. A magnolia tree has been planted in that spot at the C-Barn office in San Antonio with a plaque commemorating Sebo's years of service.



Tree planted at "C-Barn" Office



Plaque honoring Sebo

Bruce Myers: *"Sebo was like the wind, you could always keep the sails out to keep you on your journey but never try to harness it. His part in the movement of Pasco County will always be remembered. His cracker ways but sharp mind could yield the best from a young crop of operators. He always wanted you to improve on a performance you thought was great, but looking back he always made a better man out of whomever he shaped. Let's remember him as the free spirit he always was."*