



Region 5 Continued

An ATV and the River

By Sgt. Keith Aucoin

On the evening of Jan. 18, 2007, I was notified by Allen Parish Sheriff's Office of an ATV that was found submerged in the Calcasieu River. I spoke with Deputy Quirk who informed me that a hunter had found an ATV floating in the river. The hunter saw the submerged ATV floating with just the four wheels visible above the water line. The hunter then pulled it to the bank where he was able to get it up onto the bank. Deputy Quirk and I decided we would wait until the next day and see if we could locate the ATV.

The next day Sergeant David Liles and myself met with Deputy Quirk at a little out-of-the-way boat launch called the Shallow Hole. I of course brought my boat and with some directions Agent Liles and I set off down river to see if we could find this ATV. It wasn't long before we found it perched up on the bank as we were told. By the *Continued on page 104*



Stolen ATV recovered from Calcasieu River by Sgts. Keith Aucoin and David Liles.



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looks of the ATV it was almost brand new. We then found the serial number and ran it through dispatch and it came back as being a Honda 400 Rancher 2006 that was reported stolen. That was the easy part of this days events, now was the chore of getting it down the river back to the boat launch.

Recent rains in the area did not help, the river was over its banks and there was no way to get to the ATV by land. After checking the area around the ATV we figured our best bet was to put it back into the water and float it back to the landing or at least get it closer to the landing where we could get something in the woods to pull it out. So we tied the ATV off with rope to our boat and rolled it

back into the river not really knowing what to expect. Pulling against a very strong current we were able to inch our way upstream to a point where we could get at the ATV with another vehicle through the woods.

I don't know how many of you out there have pulled an ATV (400) underwater with the tires keeping it afloat, against a strong current with a 30 horsepower motor, but let me tell you, it was something to see. The drag from the current on that ATV made our forward progress very slow almost to the point of not moving. Now that we had it at a point where we could get it out we had to get the thing out of the water again. So we tied it off to a tree

and went back to the landing where we contacted Agents Thomas, Vidrine and Lt. Savoie to have them get an ATV and head our way to give us some assistance.

I then put on my chest waders and started testing areas through out the woods to find us a path that had shallow enough water to travel through. After several close calls of stepping into some deep holes we were able to find a route in. Once the other agents arrived with an ATV we were able to winch the stolen ATV from the water and tow it back to the landing. We turned the ATV over to the Sheriffs Office so they could take custody of it and store it at their yard. There are several theories on how that brand new ATV got into the

river and I am sure someone will figure it out. All in all it's one of those work days that I will remember and tell stories about for a long time to come.



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*God looked around His garden
and He found an empty place.
He then looked down upon this
earth, and saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you
and lifed you to rest.*

*God's garden must be beautiful,
He always takes the best.*

*He knew you were suffering,
He knew you were in pain.*

*He knew that you would never
get well on earth again.*

*He saw the road was getting rough
and the hills were hard to climb*

*So He closed your weary eyelids,
and whispered, "Peace be thine."*

*It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone.*

*For part of us went with you
the day God called you home.*



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