

# Chief of Police

## Leon Keller Amlong, 1937-1939

Chief L.K. Amlong assumed the duties as Chief of Police in Bartow in June 1937. Chief Amlong, a Bradenton native was active in law enforcement for 15 years, working for the Bradenton, Plant City, and the Palmetto Police Departments. Amlong also worked as a detective for the railroad.

Chief Amlong was an Army veteran of WWI and served as a Sergeant in WWII.

Chief Amlong brought with him Ollie Joyner, a boxer from Bradenton who was working as a doorkeeper with the Florida House of Representatives.

An article in the Tampa Tribune dated Jan. 2, 1939, states that Amlong was discharged from his duties, with no reason given, and that Weldon Stephens, an active Bartow Police Officer would serve as Interim Chief.

Amlong would go on to work at the Bradenton Police Department, and in the late 1940's a Manatee County Judge.

### **Bartow Police Chief Dismissed; Council To Organize Tonight**

BARTOW, Jan. 2.—(Special.)—City Manager C. S. James announced today the release of L. K. Amlong, Bartow police chief for the last 18 months. He gave no reason for Amlong's dismissal.

Weldon Stephens, veteran Bartow policeman, has been named acting chief until the city commission meets tomorrow night to organize for the coming year. If the council confirms Stephens' appointment, he will continue in office.

L. G. Bruce, former mayor-commissioner, will join the council again tomorrow night, after his election in December to succeed R. L. Hughes, jr., who was not a candidate for reelection. A. J. Lewis, who was re-elected, will begin his seventh consecutive year on the board.

The commission will elect one of its number mayor for this year, and will appoint a city manager, city clerk, city attorney and city judge.

C. A. Boswell, jr., city judge, has been appointed attorney for the incoming county school board, and will take over that job tomorrow.

### **Amlong Police Chief At Bartow**

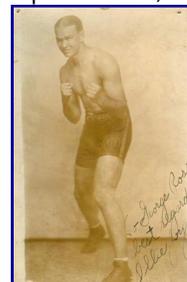
L. K. Amlong this morning assumed his new duties as chief of police at Bartow, succeeding a man who had held the position for the past 14 years.

Mr. Amlong, a native of Bradenton, has a record of 15 years of police work. He has served on the police force in Bradenton, Palmetto and Plant City, for a year was employed in the detective force of one of the railroads, and worked several months this year as a deputy under Sheriff Hutches. He was constable here four years. His family will join him in Bartow at an early date.

### **OLLIE JOYNER JOINS BARTOW POLICE WITH L. K. AMLONG, CHIEF**

Another Bradenton man has joined the police force at Bartow, it was learned today.

Ollie Joyner, doorkeeper of the Florida house of representatives the last two sessions of the legislature, and at one time a promising young light-heavyweight in the boxing ring, last week worked temporarily as a member of the Bartow force, and this week went on regular duty there. L. K. Amlong, long in police work in this county, is chief at Bartow.



*Aug. 1937, Ollie Joyner (pictured left), a professional boxer, also from Bradenton, joined Chief Amlong in Bartow as a police officer.*

*Below, Amlong, front row far left, was part of the Manatee High School 1915 State Championship Football Team.*



**1915 STATE CHAMPIONS**—Here are the Manatee Maroons, who won the 1915 Florida high school football championship with a 10-0 victory over Gainesville. Several of the players still live here. Front row, from left: L. K. Amlong, Fred Christophere, Dewey Dye, Sr., Arthur Tyler, Clarence Armstrong, Mark Wyatt and Warren Johnson. Second, from left: Clarence Harvey, Harmon Taylor, Kehr Knight and Pearson. Third, from left: Raymond Road, Coach Julian C. Howard and Capt. Olin Gates.