

Says Trio Furnished Alcoholic Beverages To Prisoners

Jewell Fires Two Deputies, Turnkey

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Berrien county Sheriff Forrest (Nick) Jewell announced the firing of three officers because they provided alcoholic beverages to jail trustees.

Fired by Jewell Wednesday were Deputies Jimmie Coburn and Abbott Taylor and Arthur Hohnke, a turnkey. Jewell said evidence discovered last week led to the

firings. Alcoholic beverages were found when a department car went in for a car wash by trustees.

There is no evidence that any of the three fired officers profited from the sale of booze to prisoners, Jewell said investigation revealed it was done strictly as a "favor."

The same investigation showed involvement of four Berrien county building maintenance employees who were suspended for 30 days. Frank Lenz, assistant county building

superintendent, said the maintenance men were suspended on the same charges for which the deputies were fired.

Lenz declined to name the four, saying: "They'll be back. However, they won't be at the jail any longer."

Coburn has been a deputy sheriff since 1966. Taylor joined the department in 1969. Hohnke, a former guard at Indiana state prison, Michigan City, was hired recently under the federal emergency employment act.

Chief Deputy Don Jewell said otherwise the three had good

performance records.

Shortly after joining the department, Coburn distinguished himself by tracking down a man wanted for a double murder in Wisconsin. Two years ago, Taylor shot and wounded a man trying to evade arrest for selling heroin. The man was sentenced to a long prison term.

Coburn and Taylor both were wounded last March in a shootout at Lake Michigan Beach in which two other men were killed.