

## MY STORY AND HOW IT ALL BEGAN

It was about March of 2007. I had gone to a local movie theatre with some friends. They had driven which was a change in a pattern for me.

Of course I still carried my keys, as it has my house key on it too.

We left the Theatre that night and of course, not needing my Keys to drive home, I was oblivious to my Keys or their whereabouts.

It wasn't until the next day, that I realized I didn't have my Keys. I was panic-stricken. Of course I had a spare set of Car Keys and a house key, but Wow, I thought, replacing the other keys, and the expense.

I retraced my steps of the previous day and realized I had to have lost them in the Movie Theatre. I promptly returned to the theatre that evening and inquired as to if my Keys had been found and turned in. Of course too, I had never thought of taking a picture of my keys before I lost them, as a picture is better than a word description any day.

The movie employee went upstairs to check and returned, stating, "No, we didn't have any turned in." I was a little amazed, and frustrated, but I really felt hopeless as to what to do. I also tried the normal channels, like Craigslist, and the newspaper. It seemed like a long shot and a shot in the dark.

For the next three months, when I went to the movies at that theatre, I would politely ask if any keys had been turned in, and try to describe them. They would go upstairs, and then return, saying, "No, none like that were turned in!"

This went on for over three months, until finally I asked an employee, and when he went upstairs, he returned with a box of several sets of keys. He asked, "Is any of these your Keys?"

Sure enough, my keys were in that box. I was overjoyed, but soon realized how devastating it is to lose your keys and know you will probably never get them back.

Now imagine that when the person who found those keys, who had no motivation whatsoever to find the owner, would have seen a tag on those keys saying REWARD. It would have at least peaked his interest. Right under the tag is a phone number. Everyone has a cell phone these days. How easy just to call and find out. After calling the number, he is informed he is eligible for the \$25 REWARD for finding a Members Keys. It may be more money than he made that day. Surely he will have an interest in seeing the keys are returned.

This situation made me start thinking about what would happen if I lost my other set of keys, my work keys.

At the time, I was working for the Orange County Courthouse and was entrusted with a Key Ring of Keys that if lost, would result in the entire Courthouse having to be re-keyed. It was a common joke that if you lost your work keys, it would cost \$3,000, which would be billed to you.

One day after leaving work, I went to the parking garage to go home as usual. I left and drove home, and when I got home, I realized I didn't have my Courthouse Keys. I was totally panic stricken this time. I immediately drove back to the Courthouse and to the Parking Garage where I had been parked. Sure enough, lying on the asphalt, right next to the parking space where I had been parked, and right where I had got in my car to drive home, were my keys, lying on the ground. I was astonishingly relieved, but the idea then to develop a cure for this panic stricken feeling became a priority.

I thought back of the years when I was called on duty, to recover a found set of keys, as "FOUND PROPERTY". Of course, I would look at the keys, and see if there was any way to identify the owner, but let's face it, how much time can a Police Officer spend on a set of keys, that aren't even involved in a crime. Usually about one shift, if that long. The keys are turned in to Property Management, along with all the other property, including evidence on Major Cases. Do you even think that one minute is spent trying to locate an owner of a set of keys with no identification? Of course not. They lay in evidence for 30-60 days, and then are disposed of according to FL law. That means they are destroyed.

Over the next three years, I worked on many ideas, even procrastinated a little while where no progress was made. It was still on my mind.

After retiring Disabled this year, (June 2010) after 32 years in Law Enforcement, I began rekindling the ideas I had had, coupled them with new technology, and CarKeysLostAndFound.com was reborn. It is a Public Service to help those who have lost their keys, or found a set of Keys to locate the owner. I know, it's still a shot in the dark, but one more avenue can't hurt. Heck, it's FREE. But I knew too that it didn't solve the problem in increasing the likelihood an owner's keys would be returned if lost.

We all know, that it's not a good idea to put your own personal information on your keys. You just don't know who is going to find them and what their intentions might be, especially when an "opportunity" presents itself. Crime is mostly about opportunity.

I was having a discussion with my brother, about the Key Tags, and his answer was, he had a tag showing a Police Badge for the Police Dept where he worked, on his Key Ring, and he felt someone would return the keys to the Police Dept if they were found. It sounded logical, until I gave it some thought. On my brother's Set of Keys, are his Corvette Keys. His prize possession, which he drives to work everyday. Suppose someone who maybe had every intention of returning his Keys to the Police Dept, realized when they went there, that that shiny new Corvette sitting in the parking lot could be opened and started with the very keys he has in his hands. Could the temptation be just too great?

After many hours thinking and processing the what if's, American Key Recovery Service became a reality. I stumbled into a Graphic Artist that had a passion for the project also, and created the package of Key Tags, as well as a logo. He was God sent.

Now, for only \$24.95, which is the Registration for 3 Sets of Keys for 5 years, as well as 5 other pieces of personal property, you can increase your likelihood of having your keys returned if found to 90%. We just can't combat keys that are lost and never found. Of course, never is a long time, and I've seen keys returned after 10 years or more, so don't give up.

I don't know if the ideas for this project were God Sent, but I truly believe that He inspired me the last 4 months in finishing this project.

My first priority is to help others in being re-united with their keys. A public service, which I've done all my life. The added bonus, the AKRS Key Tags for your Key Ring, is a small cost, but it solves the problems I found. An instant way to put the person in possession of your keys, with someone who knows the owner, and can return them to him. All without releasing any personal information to them.

It creates a REWARD, that for most people is a motivation to at least make a little effort to "Do The Right Thing".

My next priority is the trust and respect of the community I've served all these years, and to maintain that level of trust in all my business dealings. I hereby pledge to be honest and trustworthy in all my dealings with other people's keys, maintaining integrity above and beyond.

All my records of Keys Found, will always be open to the inspection of the Sheriff's Office, or whatever Police Jurisdiction we are working in.

Thank you for your support of Car Keys Lost and Found and the American Key Recovery Service.

Key Tag Packages should be available 12/1/10, just in time for Christmas. What an exciting office gift, or stocking stuffer, or just a great gift for someone you care about.

God Bless

Larry Giles  
Keeper of the Keys – Orlando and the State of Florida  
Orange County Deputy Sheriff - Retired