Tampa Bay Times, October 6, 1961

20 Arrested, Charged With Sex Offenses

PANAMA CITY (UPI) — Bay County Sheriff Charlie Abbott disclosed yesterday authorities have broken up a homosexual ring including churchmen and teachers.

Abbott said 20 arrests were made in the investigation, and more were expected. Included in the arrests were a Roman Catholic priest, a Seminole Baptist church minister of music, a Sunday school superintendent of The Church of the Latter Day Saints and two school teachers.

Chief of Detectives D. L. Barron described the operation as "greater and far more dangerous than most people realize." He said suspects arrested in the clean - up were accused of molesting at least 50 children, one of them eight years old.

Included in the arrests were: Rev. Leonard L. Prusinski, 51, of the St. John's Roman Catholic Church, Panama City: Claude Lee Clark, 63, Sunday school superintendent of The Church of the Latter Day Saints, Panama City: Emory Donald Evans. minister of music at the Seminole Baptist Church, Tallahassee; Bob Cherry, 30, teacher at the Panama City grammar school, and Dale Jennings Magee, 26, teacher at the Tyndall Air Force base school, near Panama City.

All of those arrested were Panama City residents except Evans.