

Trapshooting...continued from page 1A

at Owl Creek.

Sheriff Clinton, a rifle marksman by trade, knocked down more than 30 Clay Birds.

Assistant DA Langley, well, let's just say he hit 7 out of the last 10.

"I think we'll just erase those first 40 shots," Langley said.

Sen. Butterworth, he was just glad to be outdoors and taking part in a good cause.

"Hey, it was fun out here helping Sheriff (Chris) Clinton today, great fellowship," Sen. Butterworth said. "There was just a bunch of folks out here helping to shoot for a dream. It's all for a good cause and it's a lot of fun."

It was for a good cause indeed. Eighty-five shooters raised more than \$4,200, not including silent auction items, to help one of the best causes in the state.

Those shooters included 4-H Club teams, Chatuge Gun Club members and deputies from neighboring counties.

The real shooter was Dick Fille, who knocked down 49 out of 50 Clay Birds. Last year, he hit 50 out of 50.

"He slipped a little bit this year," Sheriff Clinton said. "But I'll tell you, I'd like to hit 49 out of 50 Clay Birds."

All in all, it was for a good cause.

The true mission behind the Georgia Sheriff's Association Youth Homes is to give the state's most at-risk children the love, security and structure that every child needs to become a mature, successful adult, Sheriff Clinton said.

"It's certainly a cause that I believe in. It's a home-type environment with traditional American values," he said.

"They get taken care of educationally, medically. For as long as they'll stay in school, the sheriffs will support them," Sheriff Clinton said.

The Sheriff got in-



The last group of the day to shoot on Friday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

involved a couple of years ago when he was at one of the Youth Homes during Christmas time. A little boy, shy and not sure about how to act around a crowd of Georgia sheriffs, couldn't get the words out of his mouth when Santa asked him what he wanted for Christmas.

Eventually, the child mustered up the courage to approach Santa and blurt out his request: "Santa, please bring me somebody to love me."

The words broke Sheriff Clinton's heart and ever since, he's vowed to make a difference for the Youth Homes.

"The children are our future and all kids are special," he said.

"The kids in the Youth Homes, they haven't done anything wrong, these are at-risk children. The Sheriff's Association does a great job mentoring these kids and giving them a chance to be successful adults," he said.

"It's a wonderful feeling to give a child a chance to succeed in life," he said. "The kids who go through the youth homes, they turn out great."

Nurtured through the Youth Homes, many of the young people who emerge from the experience become some of our leading citizens, Sheriff Clinton said.

"Doctors, lawyers, you name it," he said. "Like I said, it's a great cause."