



APRIL '70

No. 13

Pay rise on April cheques

The Finance Office have assured The Law that the April cheques will include the pay rise. And so whether you believe that the rise is a bare 8½ per cent, as do two correspondents to our letters column on page 6, or whether you consider it represents rather more than this, as did Dick Pamplin when he addressed the Federation open meeting, reported on page 4, some of it at least will be paid out.

At its meeting last month the Police Authority was told that the pay increase will cost £50,000 in the financial year which has just ended and £256,000 in a full financial year to which must be added another £9,000 if the terms of the interim award were applied to superintendents also.

Braces and laces

AFTER the activities at Southend during the Easter weekend, when the Police defeated a skinhead invasion by the simple ploy of confiscating their bootlaces and braces, the Chief Constable issued the following press release.

"Police measures in Southend yesterday were designed to forestall inconvenience or worse to the large crowd of visitors and residents who were the majority there to enjoy the relaxation of the Bank Holiday. My officers of the Southend-on-Sea Divisions with support from other parts of the County centred their efforts on firm preventive measures which in the atmosphere of the day, called for decisive on the spot judgments concerning a variety of people. In some isolated cases these efforts are known to have inconvenienced residents and members of the public unconnected with the troubles we were endeavouring to stop. Where this was so I should like to apologise and invite those concerned to consider the overall effect which kept to a minimum injury and damage to property.

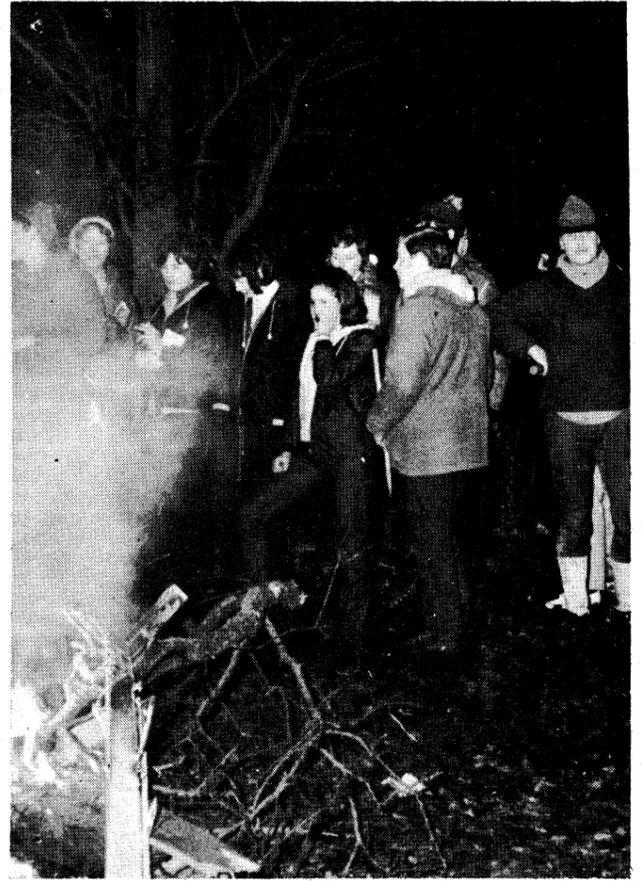
To those ill disposed towards the police action I should like them to consider for the future that we will not hesitate to take whatever steps are possible to prevent interference with the normal freedom of individuals to enjoy peaceful pursuits."

AT SOUTHEND council's meeting on April 2, Alderman Norman Clarke, Chairman of the Public Protection Committee, said the town owed a debt of gratitude to the Chief Constable and his men for the manner in which they had dealt with the invasion on Easter Monday, of up to 2,000 skinheads. He paid a tribute to the manner in which this threat has been countered, to the Chief Constable, and also to Chief Superintendent Bonfield and Superintendent Crickitt. He wanted the Chief Constable to know that the citizens of Southend were indeed grateful.

Councillor Michael King said that he agreed entirely with the statements made by the Chairman of the Public Protection Committee with which Opposition members of the Town Council wished to associate themselves.

Councillor Alex McLennan, speaking on behalf of the Labour Movement, said he felt that the Police arrangements on Easter Monday were superb. It only went to prove that the amalgamation was indeed bringing forth some fruits of success and it was surely time now to "bury the hatchet" and get down to the job of making this Force second to none in the country.

The Law, like the Joint Force, is 12 months old and as we launch out into our second year we hope you like our new appearance and that you will continue to read our efforts and even send us the odd contribution now and then. Most important though, show us to your wives.



The Cadet Corps went off to camp again in March and this time the girls went as well. There was no snow, not even rain, but the night was cold and there is nothing like a good fire. This time the scene was Danbury where the daylight hours were occupied in map reading exercises.

New P.A.B.'s will aid promotion bids

WITH the introduction of the new promotion advisory board arrangements in March an entirely new concept was introduced. Under the new system candidates will have an opportunity to submit in advance a form setting out those facets of their work which have gone well or badly in the previous 12 months.

A new system of interviewing and grading constables qualified for promotion became imperative as the waiting list increased. It became physically impossible for the Chief to get through everyone each year. So the P and I Department, headed by A.C.C. Mr. John Duke was given the task of stream lining the process.

He came up with a system of local boards before which the candidate will appear. If he can convince this board that he should be promoted they will recommend him to the Headquarters board. If not his guest may or may not end there but in either case he will be notified in writing.

There will only be two gradings from the Headquarters board: "suitable for promotion" or "not at present selected for promotion."

FEARS

The local boards will consist of two officers of superintendent rank and one of these will be the candidate's divisional commander or his deputy. To allay the inevitable fears there has been added to this one inspector or chief inspector who will come from a division other than that to which the candidate belongs. So at least your boss will be outnumbered. The local panels will interview every applicant.

At Headquarters a panel of two Assistant Chief Constables will review every application and after taking into account the comments of the local board will select their list for interview. Said Mr. Duke.

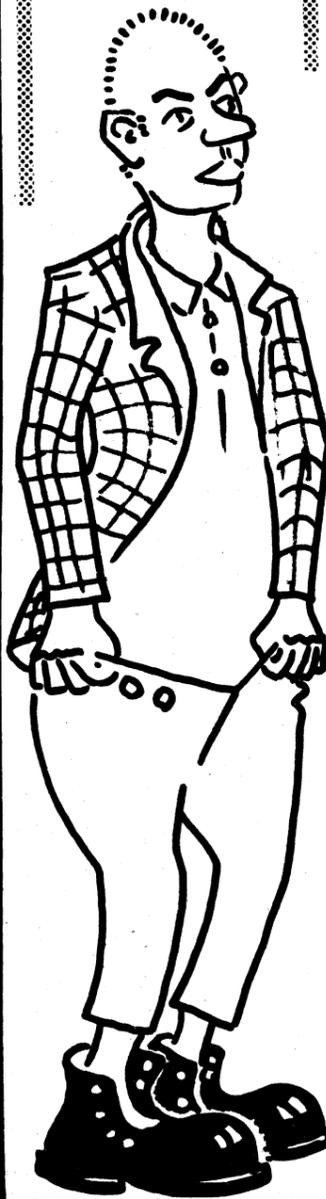
"There is no limitation on the numbers coming forward. All those who appear suitable will be interviewed at Headquarters."

The form of application is in two parts. Part one must be submitted or you will not be considered. This merely contains broad facts and figures about your career. Part two on the other hand is optional.

If, like all good card players, you wish to conceal your aces until the right moment, you need not put Pt. II in at all. Alternatively you may wish to take it with you to the interview and hand it over then. Or it can be sent in beforehand. Clearly the last method is the best. This gives the interviewers time to see what you have to say in advance of your appearance before them and it gives you a chance to collect your thoughts and map out what you intend to say on the subjects which the form covers —and that can only benefit one person.

Mr. Duke is adamant that what has been produced is a method of getting through the interviews to the best advantage of everyone. If a better system is suggested it will be taken into use instead of this one, but it will have to be better for everyone and not just a minority of those interested.

BOVVER WHITSUN?



Tragic accident at Epping



IT IS with regret that we record that Constable John Shrimplin, of the Harlow traffic sub-division, was tragically killed in a road accident on Monday, March 2, 1970. He had been on motor cycle patrol duty on the A11 near Epping when his machine and a mini car were in collision. The driver of the car was also killed.

John was featured in an earlier edition of The Law when we reported that he had made a miniature motor cycle for his sons to ride. This attracted the attention of national newspapers and several subsequently published photographs of John

and Alan, his eldest son, on their machines.

With the consent of Mrs. Shrimplin we are able to reproduce one of the photographs.

The motor cycle, a perfectly finished working machine, had been made up from old pedal cycle and moped parts with painstaking care. Mrs. Shrimplin has agreed to the suggestion of Chief Superintendent H. F. Smith, Commander of the Traffic Division, that it should be displayed in the model room at the Force driving school until such time as the family desire its return —which is particularly appropriate for on an advanced

motor cycle course in 1968 her husband achieved one of the highest markings to be obtained by any student.

Constable Shrimplin, who hailed from Ulting, was 32 years of age. He joined the Force in 1964 and had been stationed at DHQ Harlow before transferring to the traffic division.

He leaves a wife and four children aged 18 months to seven years. We offer our deepest sympathy of their sad loss. The funeral which was held at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow, was attended by about 150 police officers, who included the Chief and Deputy Chief. —Picture by Eric Weller.

Police funeral at Shenfield



Photo by Brentwood Gazette and Mid Essex Recorder

OFFICERS and friends at Brentwood said goodbye to an old and respected colleague when they attended the funeral of Wilfred James Reed held on Tuesday, 3rd March, 1970, at St. Mary's Church, Shenfield.

The drive to the church was lined by uniformed officers led by Acting Chief Superintendent E. E. Horne and Acting Superintendent C. W. T. Wildish. Other local organisations with whom Wilf was associated were represented by members of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of which Wilf was a Brother; the Brentwood District Scouts of which he was the Badge Secretary; the St. Mary's Church Men's Association of which he was

a Committee Member and the Royal Women's Voluntary Service.

Wilf, together with his wife, Joan, had done considerable work over the last few years for the old people of Brentwood, indeed, even seeing romance at the holiday camps which they have arranged for the "old folk" which resulted in some five marriages.

Wilf joined Essex County in 1935 and served at Romford after having been five years with the Territorial Army while he was with the Essex County Council. He is reputed to have been the very last of the officers of this county to have been issued with a firearm as a permanent issue, this was because of his isolation when he

was at Thames Haven and having troublesome foreign seamen to manage.

He also served at Grays, Epping and Laindon before being posted to Brentwood in 1955. He took over the management of the Police Court Office and, on his retirement from the force in 1967 he continued on with the good work doing the same job as a civilian. Indeed, it was while he was so working on the 25th February, 1970, that he was taken ill at the Brentwood Magistrates' Court but died shortly afterwards at Harold Wood Hospital.

He has left his wife, two sons, Michael and Martin, and a daughter, Jennifer. Michael, through Wilf's assistance, had

obtained a place with Hammersmith where he is working in the biochemistry department, Martin, serving with Essex at Clacton, has made sure that his father's name and number continue for he has been allowed to take over Wilf's old number of 577, Jennifer, now married and currently visiting this country, is living in Canada where her husband is working as a TV cameraman.

He was known and will be missed, widely throughout the county because of his varied interests which included bowls, snooker and first aid, indeed, it is said that, without Wilf's tuition, many an officer would never have obtained his first aid award.

Top Warden



The Betts Trophy is awarded annually to the traffic warden performing the most meritorious act during the year. In 1970 it goes to Mrs. Ivy Reed, of Harlow, who issued a ticket with a difference. The ticket, at "T 30W," was slapped on a car for a parking offence. But Ivy's ticket was never produced at the station and enquiries revealed that she had booked a stolen car. In fact, it had been obtained by means of a dud cheque.

But Ivy was still not beaten. She kept her eyes open and when she saw the car again informed the police who stopped it and dealt with the miscreant for rather more than parking offences.

—Photo by West Essex Gazette

An organ of communication

Within hours of the appearance of a shining new teleprinter at Maldon Police Station the following "instructions" had appeared on the notice board. Rule number two refers to the fact that the Chief Inspector lives on the Station.

The new Beatman Wurlitzer Organ

Instructions

1. This new electronic organ must not be touched by anyone. It is for the sole use and purpose of providing light musical entertainment to men on the beat and at out-stations. Only trained organists will be allowed to operate this machine.

2. Music will not be broadcast between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. except at the discretion of the Chief Inspector and definitely will no Pop or Bluebeat music be played.

3. Officers operating the machine will play varied selections of popular tunes and must not be repetitive in their choice of music.

4. If the machine should fail while in operation a guitar and tin whistle have been forwarded and are kept in my office.

5. The machine is not to be hired out for social functions and no extra payment can be supplied to officers operating it.

6. Requests will be allowed from the beat men and their wives on a rota basis of one request per day. I shall be allowed THREE requests.

7. On no account should this machine fail, should it do so, however, the operator if unable to gain access to the guitar and whistle will substitute with music played on a Jew's harp.

REMEMBER: PLAY WITH CARE.

Signed: CHIEF INSPECTOR

Epping on the (snow) ball



The past month was marked by variable, if not downright inclement weather, no less than anywhere else at Epping where some humourist rolled up a large snowball and left it at the top of a steep hill. Though the sight of this large lump bowling through Epping would have been

quite comical to anyone not directly in its path, people so placed would have been less amused and the police in their best spoil-sport tradition smashed it up. With the local kids looking on, Constables Davies and Sharp get to work with shovels.

—Picture by West Essex Gazette

WHAT'S ON

17.5.70

Salter and De Rougemont Competitions (Special Constabulary) at Headquarters all day.

27.5.70

Force athletics championships, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford, first event 1.45 pm.

21.6.70

Neville Trophy Competition against City of London and Metro Constabulary, at Headquarters, Chelmsford.

Seen below, Chief Superintendent Bill Docker who took charge of the massive search operation, talks things over with District Officer Ken Curtis of Walton Coastguard.

On the right policemen search down the cliffs where the broken scrub-covered terrain provided many places where a small boy could lie hidden. Seventy policemen and many civilian volunteers joined the search.

—Photos by K. G. Adams



Big search on the Naze

By DAVID METCALF

"I lost my four-year-old son at the Naze half an hour ago." This message, received by Sgt. Catton at Walton Police Station, sparked off one of the biggest police searches ever seen by local people.

James Rupert George Uthwatt-Bouverie, aged four years, had been with his father exercising the family dogs on the beach at The Naze, when he suddenly vanished. Very soon, police, coastguards, R.N.L.I. personnel and civilian volunteers under the supervision of Chief Supt. Docker, Chief Insp. Shepherd and Det. Chief Insp. Camp were mounting a search of beach, cliffs and beach huts. They were later joined in the search by an extremely well illuminated and illuminating U.S. forces helicopter from Bentwaters in Suffolk.

Early the following morning Clacton division officers were joined by reinforcements from Colchester, Basildon, Chelmsford and Harlow divisions. There were then about 70 regular officers engaged in the search. The figures of the A.C.C. Mr. Waller and Det. Supt. White manifested themselves on the scene during the day. Members of the Special Constabulary turned out and there were many civilian volunteers. The incident vehicle which had arrived on Friday night was set up on The Naze. This was largely super-

vised by Det. Sgt. Doug Hueur and Sgt. Roy Saban. Messages flowed from the vehicle to little bunches of individuals busily scouring cliffs, beaches, marshes, beach huts, water-fronts and house gardens. The citizens of Walton were subjected to a constant barrage of loud speaker messages.

The weather throughout the search remained dry but bitter, though the keen spirits of the searchers kept out the cold. Throughout Saturday civilian helpers at Walton police station kept a steady supply of hot tea going. The mobile police canteen later arrived with ham sandwiches and tea.

The helicopter made a daytime search of the coastal area from Stone Point, the most northerly point of The Naze, southwards. The whole massive operation came a jubilant and successful conclusion at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday. The dog section of seven handlers with their animals, under the supervision of Chief Insp. Clark, was lined out doing a systematic search of an area on the edge of the marshes when the left-hand flank of the line found young Rupert alive and well lying on a concrete installation inside the perimeter wires of Walton Sewage Works, this was about one and a half miles from the spot where he was last seen.

He was quickly whisked away to Clacton hospital by dog van. A short while after, a message was heard over the air from the dog van at the hospital that Rupert would be fine after a change of clothes and a warm massage. Not long after Rupert was back home again with his family.

All who took part in the search were greatly relieved at the outcome. May we as members of "The Law" pay tribute to all the civilian volunteers who were such an enormous help in this operation.



PORTRAIT

SUPERINTENDENT HELEN WELBURN

The most recent arrival in the Force is our first woman superintendent, Helen Welburn, who transferred to the Force on March 2. And this was not her only experience of being a "first-timer," in fact you could almost say she has made a habit of it.

Helen Welburn was born in the City of Lancaster. Her mother was a professional musician and her father a stained glass artist. After early schooling in Morecambe her education continued in Gibraltar until she was 15.

In 1938 Helen joined the A.T.S. as a territorial one of the first women to do so, and to be called up in 1939. Her early service was spent at that delightful spot, Bulford Camp, where she was a messing corporal in the driver training battalion, later moving into the orderly room as clerk sergeant.

By 1941 when the battalion moved to Carlisle she was O.R.Q.M.S., chief clerk, and was later company sergeant major at Skegness. Helen was later in charge of training drivers and clerks and later even cooks and orderlies before her demobilisation in 1949. Her distinguished service brought her the award of the G.O.C.'s certificate of meritorious service.

TOSS UP

Her military service over Miss Welburn lost no time in getting out of one uniform into another. The only trouble was, which force to join. In the end Cheshire got the verdict by the toss of a coin—literally. Her new career began on a high note when WPC Welburn was top student at the training school. Her service continued at Bromborough in uniform and later at Altringham as WDC. Miss Welburn attended CID courses at Wakefield and Hendon, the first female member of her force to do so.

By 1953 came promotion to sergeant—in under four years service—and service as detective sergeant in the special branch at Headquarters, Chester.

In December, 1964, she was promoted inspector at Sale and promotion to chief inspector followed in April, 1967. At this point Miss Welburn returned to Chester as second in command of the women police department, but was also operationally responsible for the 34 women in Chester division.

While she held the rank of inspector she was the first woman in the county



Miss Welburn pictured when, as a sergeant, she was voted in as chairman of the Cheshire Joint Branch Board, the first and only woman to hold this position in the annals of the Federation. An enlarged, framed copy of this picture was presented to Miss Welburn to mark her three years in office.

A woman of many parts

to act as police prosecutor in both magistrates and juvenile courts.

Under Miss Welburn's guidance women police in Chester took over various aspects of police work for about a year at a time, "to prove they were as capable as the men," as he puts it. In this way the women would operate aliens, firearms, coroners, naturalisations, and other departments for a period.

JBB CHAIRMAN

A keen federationist, Miss Welburn was the first and only woman elected to the chair of the Cheshire JBB, a position she held for three years. In fact, she asserts that she is the only woman in the country to hold this job. In her younger days she played cricket, hockey, netball, and fenced, and now is an avid cricket spectator and fan, probably more knowledgeable on the state of the test match than most men.

Her official positions included vice-chairman of the divisional sports club, member of the county sports club committee, and secretary of the HQ social club.

A keen follower of the turf, Miss Welburn's ambition at the moment is to have a day out at the Newmarket races. "That's one course I've never been on," she said, "Not that I'm a gambler, I just like the atmosphere."

Old people's welfare has

always been one of her interests and she is a Soroptimist in which organisation she is of the top category. The word means literally, "little sisters," and they are a female equivalent to the round table. Miss Welburn is also a past president of the Chester Business and Professional Women's Club.

Meanwhile, in her spare time . . . Always keen on various aspects of history—news of the fate of our museum caused a momentary glare and we hastened to plead not guilty to its destruction—reading of works on this subject occupies many leisure moments. She is a keen motorist and enjoys the treasure hunt and friendly rally type of event. In Cheshire she was instrumental in the formation of the wives group, the Dyads, a Latin term meaning two units as one—Force and wives.

Supertintendent Welburn is particularly interested in the welfare and training of her youngest charges, the girl cadets and has already met them at the school. Of all their activities the one which holds, perhaps, her greatest interest in life saving.

One of the many courses she has attended during her service was one on man management, a subject in which we, as mere men, would consider her to be very capable.

A LAWFUL LAUGH . . . by Nala



"I WASHED IT LAST NIGHT AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH IT TODAY".

Bad manners at Southend

A SAD example of a form of bad manners has just been experienced by the organisers of the "H" Division annual dinner and dance held on March 19, 1970.

During the early stages of organising this event, the committee decided to give first choice of attendance to serving police officers of the division. It was felt that due to the increased size of the division as the result of amalgamation, it would be right to give policemen the first choice as numbers would have to be limited and it was thought that no difficulty would be experienced in getting support for the function.

Sure enough, when lists were circulated inviting applications from those who wished to attend, over 140 names were received, all serving police officers and their ladies. The organising committee consequently informed all those "outsiders" who had supported the function in previous years, that they would not be able to attend on this occasion. These included civilian employees, retired police officers and local business men with strong police connections.

The hall and band were then booked and all appeared fine until at the beginning of March, the organisers, worried about the amount of cash they had collected from their colleagues, caused a circular to be sent asking confirmation of their booking and that the cost of their tickets be remitted.

The result of this was staggering. Of the 140 places booked only 80 were confirmed. A few of those who cancelled their booking offered their apologies and in some cases their reasons for the cancellation but the vast majority merely sent back a blunt "no" in answer to the circular.

Faced with this mass withdrawal from the function, the organisers opened the list to the "outsiders" whom they had previously banned, but most of these declined the invitation at this late hour. And who can blame them?

As a result of this mass "let down" the organisers face a loss on the dinner, the problem being who will stand this?

Perhaps a lesson can be learnt from this sad story namely, when organising functions such as this, it is essential not to rely on promises alone, but to ensure that a deposit is paid by all who signify their intention to attend.

New launch

At the February meeting, the Administration of Police Committee was told that enquiries for a second launch to patrol the Rivers Blackwater and Crouch had been made and that after consulting various boat builders, a Cheverton 27ft. central wheelhouse GRP twin-engined motor launch, with forward wheelhouse and large working cockpit, is considered to be the most suitable for use as a Police launch. This craft has a Fibreglass hull and is powered by twin Perkins engines to give it a maximum speed of 16 knots. The Committee agreed to the purchase of this vessel at a cost not exceeding £8,000, and also authorised the expenditure of a further £660 for radio and other equipment.

Front room allowance up

When it met in February, the Buildings and Sites Committee was told that the Joint Branch Board had asked that the heating and lighting allowance paid to detached-beat officers who have no office and use their own accommodation for Police purposes, be increased from the present rate of 4s. per week in winter and 2s. per week in summer, to 10s. in winter and 5s. in summer.

The County Architect had estimated that £20 per annum would be a reasonable cost for heating and lighting one room for official purposes. The Committee agreed that, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, the allowance be increased to 5s. per week throughout the year.

Only four police officers are stationed on beats where no office is provided and in June this year this will be reduced to three.

Telephone Room

The Committee also gave authority for work to proceed at Colchester Police Station on partitioning part of the Control Room to provide a Switchboard Room and Teleprinter Room at an estimated cost of £280. At present the telephone switchboard is sited in a small cubicle without natural light or ventilation and the teleprinter is in the Station Office.

Stansted Radio Scheme

The Committee agreed that, subject to planning permission being granted, a 60ft. aerial tower should be erected at Stansted Police Station on a prepared concrete base at a total estimated cost of £310. This will enable Stansted to take personal radios into use,

An
elementary
crime
is quickly
detected

IT WAS a cold morning at Headquarters when "Terry the Tiler" decided to have his "elevenses": working on the first floor above the Bar, Terry felt that a bit of comfort was called for, so he sat on a bed in an unoccupied room normally used by officers on residential courses and started eating his cheese sandwiches.

Unbeknown to him, a mock break-in had been staged in the bar below and officers on an Elementary Crime Detection Course were making diligent enquiries.

A steady flow of budding detectives were in turn questioning the "aggrieved" publican—finding and missing clues—delving deeply into likely suspects for the job.

"Who do you think did it?" asked one of the sleuths, P.C. Ken Ashby of Grays. "Well I don't know," said the publican, "but that Jim Wicks in one of the flats above is good for anything."

"Jim Wicks" also sat in one of the unoccupied rooms; he, too, was in turn being grilled by the succession of inquisitive officers and getting himself arrested with monotonous regularity.

"What are you up to then?" asked P.C. Ashby. "I'm fixing tiles in the bathroom," said Terry. "A likely story," said the officer, noting the overalls and sandwich box and admiring the lengths to which the Headquarters C.I.D. had gone to get the character of the part!

"We've had a break-in downstairs in the bar and I believe you can help in our enquiries," said P.C. Ashby—slipping the caution in nice and early to gain that extra mark or two.

"I've been here three days," said Terry, "you don't think I'd be mug enough to do a job at Police Headquarters." The cheese sandwich was becoming more difficult to swallow due to a sudden shortage of saliva. So it continued, crisp verbal body blows from the officer and denials, now verging on panic, from Terry.

"Let's have a look at you then," said the law-man, observing an Elastoplast tin in the sandwich box and watch concealed in a tobacco tin—"Slipped up there," thought P.C. Ashby. "Should have noticed if plaster was used on the broken window—and any other property nicked."

Terry could see the local headlines in his mind's eye—"Cheeky theft at Police Headquarters"—"Chelmsford man fined for tapping the Red Barrel."

Then it was over, up came Jim Wicks, in the shape of Det. Sgt. Jim Kenneally—realising the comic situation at a glance and forming a few staccato words of explanation between stifled laughter, the three of them collapsed in an hysterical heap—to the utter bewilderment of the other course-men who had been told to treat the whole exercise seriously.

and the Committee agreed that the required radio and base station equipment be rented from the Home Office at an annual cost of £253.

The Committee were told that the extension of the personal radio system to Stansted was essential to meet operational requirements in connection with possible aircraft incidents at the airport. It is essential that officers at the scene of any such incidents should be in radio contact with Divisional Headquarters at Harlow and this will be done by means of personal radio contact with Stansted and a private telephone line from there to Harlow. The Committee approved the installation of this private line at an annual rent of £248.

SUCCESSFUL FEDERATION OPEN MEETING

THE Federation's Force Open meeting, held at Headquarters on 16th March, if measured in terms of attendance, must be looked upon as a success. A full assembly hall heard leading figures of the force and national Federation scene outline happenings of the past year, hopes for the future, and matters of burning interest at present.

The gathering replaced the usual annual J.B.B. meeting in order to give members a first hand hearing of Federation speakers. Opening the proceedings, Sgt. Fred Paxman, J.B.B. Chairman, welcomed the guest speakers and went on to outline several matters of importance dealt with in the past year which have had an effect on the welfare and efficiency of the force.

He outlined the present situation on house purchase, saying that if more policemen could buy it would obviously improve the wastage situation. Other matters which the Federation had dealt with in the past year, in consultation with the Chief Constable, were those of undermanning allowance; new style uniforms, where it had been agreed that the tailors would ensure a proper fit before the clothing was taken into wear; annual leave, where the leave year had been changed to begin on April 1st; standing orders; garage rents; the 40-hour week; force collections; and several others.

The Chairman said that the Federation were satisfied with the way complaints were dealt with and were impressed by Mr. Venner being called in by the Chief Constable to examine the wastage situation.

On the question of firearms, he said that it was hoped that the Chief Constable would be able to see his way clear to step up the amount of training. The Federation are also concerned about the quality and selection of weapons available for police use and have put up a motion to the annual conference.

Replying, the Chief

Constable paid tribute to the way most parties had accepted the inevitable over an amalgamation which, initially, no one wanted. But, he continued, "A very few inside and outside the force have tried to make mischief."

He said that police problems were now the same as before and by and large the same people were dealing with them. "As to the future, I can see no startling changes," he went on. Of fears in Southend, he stated: "Manpower levels will be maintained certainly no lower—I would like to see them higher."

Voluntary funds

Mr. Nightingale went on to criticise the number of voluntary funds in existence both nationally and in the force, saying that in his view they made things far too complicated. But he recommended everyone to join the group insurance scheme to get value for money.

After dealing with crime (6½% up) and accidents (3% up), the Chief said that we had had no major troubles in the field of public order.

The Unit Beat Scheme, he said, had been a disappointment. "We will not gain the benefits from this system claimed for it until we get enough men," he said.

Noting that the need for a new police station at Chelmsford was first mentioned in 1932, the Chief Constable announced that a start had been made on the new building. Also planned were stations for Grays, Colchester, Clacton and

Harlow, and a new workshop for headquarters, but when they will be built is uncertain.

The audience had listened attentively and Mr. Nightingale sat down to enthusiastic applause.

Dick Pamplin began by speaking about the undermanning allowance and went on to give details of the negotiations which led to the recent pay award. He stressed that the award was an interim one and therefore of greater value than the face 8½%. "Fractionally superior to 13%," he contended. The negotiations in September will be conducted from the Federation side with a view to securing pay rates far higher than Willink. This is because today we have a far different police service to that which existed then.

Pension news

For the first time many of the audience were able to hear at first hand, up-to-date details of the pension proposals. What they heard must have set many minds at rest. Dick Pamplin was able to report that police pensions are not likely to be interfered with. In fact Federation policy is likely to be to recommend that members' contract in—by paying more in, much more will be taken out. A circular on this subject will be out soon.

Harry Heath, a member of the J.C.C. and secretary to the Metro Constables' Board, spoke on complaints against police and in a humorous talk gave details of the working party presently sitting to examine the question of an independent element in such enquiries.

Leaving humour aside, he expressed the opinion that "Some independent element is inevitable." He went on to say that Federation policy will be to press the proposal that before any decision is made on a complaint, the Constable, Chief Constable or the complainant will have the right to demand to appear before a tribunal.

The audience had listened quietly to the speakers but as question time arrived they were soon bouncing up with questions—and statements—on annual leave, C.I.D. overtime, the Maud Report, capital punishment, complaints, and other matters. At 10 p.m. the Chairman cut short what had obviously been a valuable meeting.



Dick Pamplin addressing the meeting. On the platform from the left: Insp W. Newham, Ch Supt H. Smith, Mr. K. F. Alston, D.C.C., The Chief Constable, Sgt F. Paxman, chairman J.B.B., P.C. H. Heath, member J.C.C., Sgt S. Smith, sec J.B.B.

Let 'em
buy—then
they won't
leave

"AN OBVIOUS area for improvement in the wastage situation," was the way Sgt. Paxman, J.B.B. Chairman, described the question of house purchase by members of the Force.

Reporting that there had been a significant increase in the numbers of men allowed to purchase in the last year and that the Police Authority had also agreed to sell standard houses as an alternative to having them modernised, he said that the Federation hoped that, subject to operational considerations, the situation might be improved still further.

Replying, the Chief Constable stressed that operational considerations were precisely what caused difficulties and that while there were many applications to buy houses in Colchester and Clacton there were very few in Tilbury. A balance has to be struck between areas of the county and there must always be a reserve available, both of houses available and policemen available to move into them if operational necessity required this.

DEAD DUCK

"CAPITAL punishment is, I think, a dead duck." That was what the Chief Constable told the meeting on March 16.

And Dick Pamplin, J.C.C. Secretary, seemed to follow the same line when answering a question on the subject. Federation policy is aimed at securing adequate protection for the policeman but as far as Mr. Pamplin could see neither this Government nor any alternative administration is likely to reverse the decision to abolish capital punishment.

As far as protection was concerned the Chief Constable stated: "I am strongly opposed to any policy which would lead to policemen carrying arms as a part of their routine." Other speakers agreed and so, it seemed, did the audience.

But enquiries into the question of firearms and training had begun, stated the Chief Constable, and he himself and a Federation representative were on the committee. "I don't know why I am there," he went on, "unless it is to restrain your representative."

NOTE: The Federation representative will be Chief Inspector John Sutton

Leave proposals killed

HARDLY had the Chairman announced question time before members were on their feet protesting at the working party report on annual leave.

"Who are these people who complain?" asked Dick Sanderson of Grays, "They weren't in any division I've ever been in."

Det. Sgt. Dave Burden brandished a copy of The Law quoting pieces from the work-

ing party report. When the Chairman, Fred Paxman, asked him, "May we have your question please," he subsided into silence and sat down.

In vain Stan Smith tried to explain why the working party exercise had been undertaken. "We can't have two different systems operating within the force," he said, to which the audience cried, "Why not?"

Finally Sgt. Bill Whalley quietly suggested that the meeting really ought to take advantage of the presence of J.C.C. members by asking them questions on national matters. So there the matter was left but one thing is certain—the force does not like the working party's proposals on annual leave.

ASSURANCE ON PENSION —AT LAST

AT LAST, Federationists who attended the March open meeting were treated to some firm news about pensions. And everyone present must have left with a sense of relief because Dick Pamplin was able to report that while policemen may have to pay more into one scheme or another, their police pensions are unlikely to be drastically interfered with.

Such good news was this that when question time came around the subject was almost completely ignored.

The age of retirement and percentage of pension earned will remain the same the J.C.C. Secretary reported. If policemen go fully into both schemes they are likely to pay out as much as 13% of their salaries in contributions. In view of this one of two attitudes can be adopted.

First we might partially contract out. But if we do there will still be substantial, though reduced, contributions to pay, and less pension will be drawn at the end.

Secondly, and this is the view the Federation support, policemen can opt in, pay the full contributions but get a full pension out at the age of 65. If this course is followed (and we shall all have to jump one way or the other) policemen would draw the police pension until they were 65 and a State pension plus a reduced police pension thereafter.

Clearly this appears, at present, to be the more attractive proposition.

In addition the right of commutation appears not to have been upset. Here Dick Pamplin amused the audience with some complicated fractions which clearly very few understood, but which showed that commutation rights would still exist under the State scheme.

In addition to all this, all pensions are likely to be "dynamised" which means that every two years they will be brought up to date in financial terms according to movements in the cost of living.

Pay award better than you think

IT WAS instructive to receive a first hand account of the negotiations which preceded the recent pay award. Dick Pamplin was there, a fact which possibly more than anything else ensured him the rapt attention of an audience both to interrupt by so much as a cough.

He told how at the end of January after some wrangling the principle of an interim award was conceded by the Official Side.

At the subsequent discussions the clear impression was given that what the Officials were thinking of was a 5% increase from April 1. The Federation party told them that this was so useless as to be pouring money down the drain but a full meeting was arranged for February 25.

On that date the first offer was 7% from April 1; then 8½% from April 1; and only after the Federation had rejected this and prepared to leave did the final offer come—8½% from January 1.

Explaining why this was accepted Sgt. Pamplin said that since there was a firm agreement that this was an interim award only and fresh talks would take place before September, the backdating concession "almost doubled the offer." Viewed in this light "8½% from January 1 was fractionally superior to 13% from April 1." The only other avenue would have been arbitration which the Federation did not favour.

Mr. Pamplin said that the Federation were now determined to achieve a realistic award in September. They were aiming for a reduction in the constables' scales to reach top rate in five years instead of nine, and for abolition of age pointing, a ludicrous system.

The pay structure they were aiming for in September would not be a return to Willink. Their negotiations would be aimed at something far higher because the Police Service of today is a very different one from that which existed in 1960, and rates different considerations altogether in arriving at its salary scales.



The assembly hall was full for interesting and informative speeches followed by the cut and thrust of question time.

Instant pay cheques



John Myatt in the file room. The tape he is taking out contains police and fire salaries—on one third of its length.

HAVE you ever wondered how the pay cheque or advice slip you get on the 15th of the month is actually produced? We did, so a trip to County Hall was arranged and off we went to meet the computer.

Science fiction on TV, which was all we had to go on as we rarely read books of that type, depicts computers in various ways, but they nearly all have pulsating lights, dials and whirling tapes. What we found at County Hall could not have been less like that.

Mr. John Myatt showed us around. Any thoughts that Police pay was an important part of their work were soon dispelled when he told us that his department deals with 50,000 people's pay. Even then payroll work accounts for only about one-fifth of his department's time.

Knowing that the Police had just had a pay rise, Mr. Myatt explained how changes in pay rates are actually put into effect.

First of all, the Force finance office forwards details of any change in pay rates. This goes to the Salary Section at County Hall and they in turn issue an order to the computer department.

Punched cards

All the details of the salary of the individual concerned is then put on a punch card. The operators work at remarkable speed. John Myatt explained that the department trains its own punch card operators.

All cards are treble checked to avoid mistakes because the computer can only work on what is fed into it and is therefore only as good as the punch card operator. When she has finished a bundle of cards they are passed to another girl who checks them and they are then passed on for a third check.

Next the bundles of cards are fed into the computer at really fascinating speed. The electronic brain just gobbles them up, storing all the information they contain on a tape. The whole process is incomprehensible by ordinary standards because the tape stores characters at a rate of 556 per inch. In fact, the whole of the police and fire forces together make only one-third of a roll of tape: the picture of the file room shows how many tapes there are altogether.

The department is only two years old. At present the computer works from 6 a.m. until midnight to get through its work. Because after all the work of producing the police and fire payroll tape has been done it is only up to date for one month. Every month someone gets a pay-rise, promotion, a new allowance or some other adjustment to his pay.

Soon outdated

So then an amendment tape has to be produced in the same way as the main one was and this is then married up with the old tape to produce a new master tape.

All changes of pay—like when there is a general pay rise—are done automatically, "that is how we can get it out so quickly," explained John Myatt. Last August the new rates were sent to the Computer Department on the 1st and

A general view of the department with the computer in the background.



The computer is a Honeywell 2200, and consists of a central processor, magnetic tape units, disk pack drives, high speed printer, digital graph plotter, card reader and card punch.

The main memory contains 32,768 character locations of magnetic core storage which are used to store programme instructions and data to be operated on.

The high speed printer is equipped with 132 print positions with 63 characters available at each position.

The card reader reads cards optically at 800 per minute. The card punch will deal with 100 up to 400 cards per minute depending upon the number of columns to be punched.



Miss Linda Chilvers, of Chelmsford, punching cards.

the payroll tape was ready by the 3rd—impressively fast working.

As for the back pay on a retrospective award, "The computer just gets on with it," he explained. We were suitably impressed. But what is this electronic miracle which hammers out all the police pay cheques in 20 minutes?

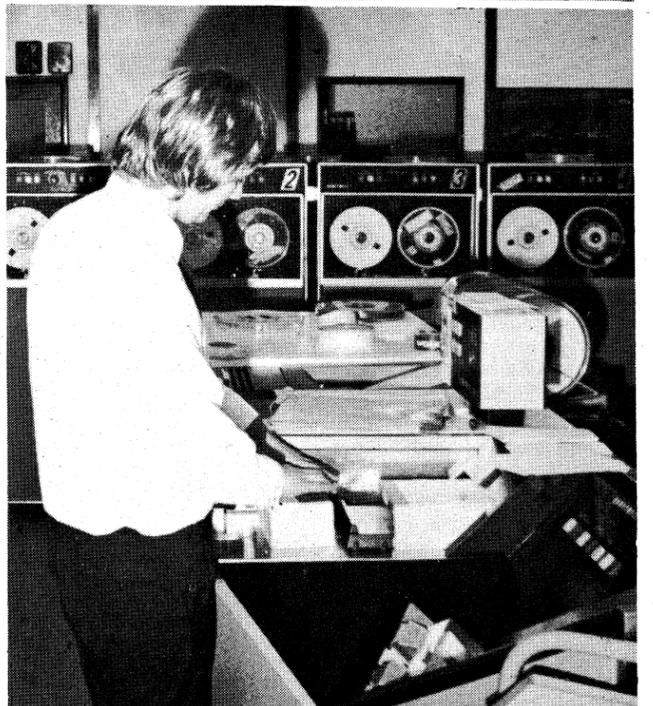
The memory part is about the size of a biscuit tin. All the other boxes, wires, dials and lights just service the brain.

While we were at the office an electronic device was chugging away producing salary cheques for the county's teachers. These were being printed on advice slips similar to our own, to a width of 30 characters at a rate of two or three per second.

John Myatt recognises that the pay advice slips are not really meant for police pay scales and allowances but explained, "The slip is a general one for all grades we pay — we would have to completely re-programme the computer to cater for a new form. Police allowances are the most complicated of the lot." We agreed.

Might there be any chance of a few free samples we asked, eyeing the cheque producing electronic miracle as we were about to leave. Not a chance replied John Myatt until we get an order to programme them in the computer.

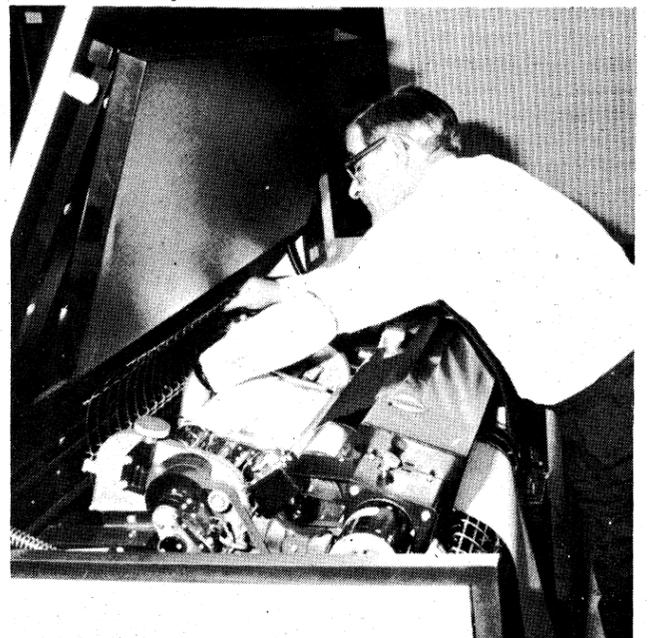
The computer chuffed away with an incorruptible air and we almost felt that it glanced our way to store up our descriptions for future reference: or have we seen too many of those science fiction films?



The card reader machine devours the punched cards and transfers the information contained on them to the tapes in the background. The operator is Dave Silcock of Chelmsford.



Even in the best ordered department the worst can sometimes happen. An I.B.M. mechanic tinkers with the "innards" of a punch card machine.



On this machine your pay cheques are actually printed—no, don't panic, it hasn't gone wrong but is being adjusted.

Photographs by Peter Reeve.

EDIVIEWS

No Bovver

Congratulations from this column to the Chief, and to whoever had the idea in the first place if it was not he, on the Easter strategem of taking away braces and boot laces from skinheads invading Southend bent on bovver. This was quite clearly not quite the sort of aggro these young gentlemen were looking for but for the most part they seem to have taken it in good part. How pleasant it is also for the Joint Force to receive the plaudits of Southend's local journalists, one of whom appeared on television in a very congratulatory mood, and from their Councillors some of whom have been very critical of our arrangements in the recent past. May we hope that Easter, 1970, may be the dawn of a new era of amity between the Police and both parties.

A new era also seems to have opened in police publicity, one excellent example being the Chief's press release after Easter. This sort of message can do our image nothing but good. It is to be hoped that the strong silent image is going. This is true also of the decision of the Police Authority not only to make representations to Home Office about the police pay but also to publicise what it is doing by admitting the press to its meetings. In the "Talking Points" column of Police Review on 27th March our Police Authority received praises for their open doors policy which were fully deserved.

This force can rejoice in the knowledge that its Police Authority is one of the more enlightened in the country.

Ladies, please

While we recognise that it is inevitable that police wives will take an interest in the houses that they will be obliged to live in and will want to have a say in any new design that may be produced, even the most convinced feminist will feel it is a pity that the ladies waited so long before producing their comments on the house plans which we published last September. But perhaps their correspondence has to go through "channels." Their letter to Police Review makes one point that, "we consider the designs not so good as of the houses built during the latter part of the 1960's." What a pity it is also that since the war there have been umpteen "standard design" police houses so that we still cannot move from one to another without finding that nothing fits.

Anniversary

This month sees the first anniversary of the appearance of The Law. Our recent decision to invite sub-divisional correspondents to send us items of news from parts of the county remote from headquarters has made a great improvement. We feel that we have done not too



Nonsense

Dear Sir,

I cannot agree with March 1970 Ediview over the pay rise.

In the first instance I do not think that we were lucky to get a pay rise as Ediview suggests. On the contrary, the writing had appeared on the wall as far as the Government was concerned, and a police pay rise was to them a necessary evil to prevent the thin blue line from vanishing altogether.

Secondly, what utter nonsense it is to suggest that because a pay rise is backdated and an eight-month rise is spread out over only five months that our rise is not 8½ per cent but nearer 11 per cent. Why not make us wait a month or two longer before we get the rise? and then we could call it say 14 per cent. In this way we could not possibly hope for anything extra in September 1970.

Please Mr. Ediview, stick to facts and not fantasy.

At the same time I would like to congratulate all those who are striving to improve pay and conditions.

D. V. BIRCHNELL
Harwich (Just in Essex!)

Please see page 4, column 6, for Dick Pamplin's views.—Ed.

Did sums at school

Dear Editor,

From the tone of the leading article in your March issue of The Law, it would seem that the author is quite satisfied with the 8½ per cent interim award. It is obviously written by a member of the Federation. I certainly hope that he is the only member of the Federation that is satisfied.

Quote: "Although this is not quite the 15 per cent the Federation wanted," unquote.

Eight and a half per cent, for the information of the author, is nowhere near 15 per cent. Even I did "sums" at school and I seem to remember that two 7½s are 15. Granted that this is an improvement in our wages, but let's be honest about it, anything would be an improvement. That is not the important point. The important point is that before this claim for 15 per cent was put to the Government in order to keep our standard of living up to a reasonable level. The whole idea of the claim for 15 per cent interim increase was to raise the level of our wages in order to bring them up towards the level that they should be, if the Government had honoured its agreement under the WILLINK SCALE.

If the author is not fully aware of the difference between our present wage level and what it should be according to WILLINK, then I suggest that he ask his wife what she thinks of the cost of living when compared with his wages slip.

J. GREEN
Your first paragraph, Mr. Green, makes two assumptions (on satisfaction and membership) without any evidence. You should have come to hear Dick Pamplin.—Ed.

badly these last 12 months in an amateur sort of way (N.B. an amateur is one whose services are given free because he cannot convince anyone of the need to pay him) and we shall strive to get better as we go on.

Brasses

DEAR SIR,

I am hoping to make a collection of brass rubbings of monumental brasses contained in churches within the Essex and Southend-on-Sea area.

To do this I need to find out which churches have brasses, and I hope that officers will let me have any information regarding brasses, which they may have on their beats and their availability for rubbing.

Sincerely,
A. W. ARMSTRONG
Rayleigh

Firearms policy

Dear Editor,

I refer to the letter "Firearms Policy" in last month's issue. I cannot believe that Mr Harris was serious in his suggestion that the answer to the urgent problem of criminal use of firearms is to initiate legislation "to prevent the possession of unauthorised firearms."

Such legislation has existed since 1933. If the law further restricted possession of firearms it would merely impose further restrictions on those citizens who abide by the law. The professional criminal has already decided not to be bound by legislation and in fact makes his living by breaking it. How are we going to persuade him to change his ways? A recent survey carried out by London gun dealers revealed that it is easier to obtain firearms illegally than legally.

It is an alarming fact that each year more criminals carry firearms when committing crime and more of them are prepared to use firearms against police officers.

During the past week I have read reports of four bank raids where sawn-off shotguns were carried and in two cases used by the robbers. There were probably many more for they are now occurring so frequently that they no longer rate newspaper. At this very moment hundreds of police officers are engaged in trying to bring such persons to justice.

Police officers have a duty to protect the public from criminals. Do they have less of an obligation to protect the public from a criminal because he is armed? If a criminal is armed when he commits robbery with violence should the police allow him to get away with it? Could it be that criminals carry firearms because they know that by having weapons they reduce the chance of being arrested?

I do not know any police officer who desires that the police service should carry firearms on normal duty but I share the opinion of the shadow Home Secretary—Mr. Quinton Hogg—that the abolition of the death penalty has made this retrograde step inevitable in the (not too distant) future.

Defenceless

As the police service is not normally armed no protection is given to the police officer who in the course of his duty deals with a criminal, who, unknown to the officer, is in possession of a firearm. This situation has not changed since Pc Gutteridge was murdered in Essex in 1927 but the frequency of such incidents has increased alarmingly.

It has been accepted that police officers called upon to deal with armed criminals should be armed for that particular occasion. The police have such firearms not to take life but to prevent life being taken, for the only occasion when a police officer would be justified in shooting the criminal is when he is about to shoot the officer or some other person. The object is to stop the criminal using his firearm but the safety of the public must be an overriding consideration.

To be able to achieve their object effectively it is essential that police officers called upon to deal with armed criminals should be armed with the most suitable type of firearm and should be trained to a very high standard of efficiency for this particular purpose.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SUTTON

It should not happen

Dear Sir,

The Police Force has long had a reputation as a family affair. If one of our number meets misfortune, we try to help him. There are funds to look after the fatherless and the widows, and these derive much (and in some cases) all, of their income from voluntary donations by policemen themselves.

There must surely be some comfort for the policeman on patrol on a dark lonely night, that if anything should happen to him, not only has he made what provision he can for his wife and family, but also there will be other help towards financial security provided by outside sources—sources which he himself supports. If he happens to be "down on his luck" when he retires, he will not be forgotten by his mates. Whether he feels inside him that cosy glow of pride that he belongs to a force with real esprit de corps depends upon the individual concerned. A recent visitor to the Force expressed surprise at the loyalty which spreads, not only upwards to the officers commanding, but sideways to persons of equal status, and downwards too! Many a person leaving the Force for the nebulous benefit of more money has realised perhaps for the first time, that the force is not "just another job."

We have had some wonderful examples, even in the last few months of self-denial by members of the Force, which the persons concerned would hesitate to speak about. The officer who for weeks on end ferried the wife of a dying pensioner backwards and forwards to London most evenings of the week to visit him. Others who clubbed together to pay the fare of a policeman's widow so that she could visit a daughter, the policeman's wife who regularly visited another policeman's widow in a geriatric ward of a hospital—a woman she had never met before but to whom she was drawn by the common bond of the police force... we could go on, but you know lots of similar cases yourself, and we don't need to do so.

Overlooked

So why the rather odd title to this letter? Simply that there is real danger that somebody in need (even if it is only need of companionship) is being overlooked. The manpower shortage, different methods of policing, people moving home, just getting older and not meeting their contemporaries as often as they did—these things could lead to pensioners and their widows being overlooked. There is the case of the widow of a PC J... who died in a P.O.W. camp in the First World War and who brought up three children on what, to our standards, was a very poor income, and did not come to our notice until it was too late to be of help. Pc J. was known to his mates. A lot of them died during the Great War, some have died since. They did not intend that his widow should be forgotten—but perhaps she moved house, or they got posted... a hundred and one things could have happened, but the result was the same. Mrs. J. was overlooked. How many other Mrs. J.s are there? It would be comforting if we could say "none," but unfortunately we don't really know! It should not happen, and we owe it to them (as others will probably feel that they owe it to us) that we should do all within our power to prevent its happening.

In every Divisional Office there is a list of pensioners, which we hope is a comprehensive one. But as policemen often draw a pension for thirty of forty years, and their widows



JOINT FORCE TYPES No.11. THE LAUNCH CREW.
"IF WE GET THIS ROPE ROUND THE SCREW ONCE MORE THEY'LL PROBABLY SELL THIS TUB AND GET A SUBMARINE."



"Excuse me miss, but I must report you for not having a red reflector on your Velocipede!"

Naughty Robert

Our picture of the amorous police sergeant is apparently one of a number of comic postcards produced by Fred Spalding, Photographer, of Chelmsford, just before the turn of the century.

It has been loaned to "The Law" by Mrs. Francis of 85 Well Lane, Galleywood, who is in her 85th year—she remembers coming by it when she was a schoolgirl of about 12-14 years.

Mrs. Francis believes the officer, who appears more devoted than most to his duties, was Sergeant Hurrell, stationed at Danbury.

It seems that Sergeant Hurrell had three daughters, whose names are believed to be Kate, Emily and Laura—Laura was in Service to a local genteel family and it was from his youngest daughter that the good Sergeant was stealing the kiss for Mr. Spalding's photograph.

Records at Headquarters show that a Sergeant Joseph W. Hurrell served from 22nd October, 1874, to 5th December, 1900; however, there is no record of his place of service.

No further information can be gleaned from Spalding's Photographic as the business closed several years ago.

If any of our readers have further information that will rectify or otherwise Mrs. Francis's recollections, we shall be pleased to publish what they have to say in our May edition.

The postcard was printed with the caption: "Naughty Robert," which is typically Victorian in its gently chiding tone towards the policeman.

often live longer still, we may have missed another Mrs. J. Will you keep an eye open for her? You may meet her on the beat, she may be the old lady who you help across the road, she may be the woman who merely nods to you from her front gate as you pass down the road on your beat. And if you come across her (or him) and you feel that help is needed from one of the Force welfare funds, your Divisional Officer will put you in touch with the right people. It could be you, or your widow, or your disabled daughter, who is having difficulty in making ends meet, who has to borrow money to bury a close relative, who cannot afford a holiday, or who sits by an empty grate because coal is too expensive.

Yours faithfully,
(Name and address omitted)

City relay winds up first league season

The final race of the opening season of the South East Police League was held in early March in the form of a relay round the streets of the City of London.

The home Force made a fine job of organising the event which contained 101 runners making up 24 teams, and had a result declared within a half-hour of the finish.

Eleven Force runners took part and acquitted themselves well, though there were some surprises, the 'B' team beating the 'A' team. Their sixth place in the last league race gave us the same position in the season overall. Considering that a great part of the team have been first year cadets this is a good result though it is to be hoped that with help from Force runners next year this result can be bettered.

Of the 24 teams, many not police, taking part in the City relay the 'B' team finished 18th and the 'A' team 20th. Several of our young runners lack speed and come strongly towards the end of a race: a contest as short as 3½ miles, therefore, tends to go against them.

Alas, senior runners are few and far between in the overall individual result which is headed by Cadet Mick Barlow in 25th place with 142 points.

Other Force scorers were as follows, none ran in all six races: 28th G. Green, 137; 32nd R. Madden, 128; 33rd C. Whiting, 127; 44th C. Green, 84; 46th M. Fairweather, 82; G. Egerton, 82; 49th G. Blois, 75; 54th M. Grout, 55; 58th D. Letch, 48; 60th M. Puttick, 45; 62nd J. Weatherley, 44; 65th S. Sugden, 43.

In all 28 runners scored points for the Force: 125 runners helping the nine teams to their totals.

So ends the first cross-country league season, a most successful opening but one in which the Force would have suffered an humiliation had it not been for the Cadets, because out of our total of 948 points, the men scored 251 but the boys got 697.

This fact was brought home at the P.A.A. championships in Staffordshire on 23rd March when the smallest cross-country contingent for many years represented this Force. Only Mervyn Fairweather and Colin Green were there but only these two have consistently supported the team throughout the season.

Mervyn made great efforts to get in the first 100 but in 103rd position was just wide of the mark. Colin finished 136th over a hard course but in excellent weather conditions. The general standard was this year very high.



The start of the City of London Police round the houses relay in which three teams from the force competed.

FORCE WALKER IN G.B. 24 HR TEAM

At the beginning of March came the news of John Hedgethorne's selection to represent Great Britain in a 24 hours international race in May and, as if to celebrate, the whole team went to Chigwell for the county championship and put in best ever times.

In our best ever team performance the fourth man clocked 91m. 26s., a time hardly exceeded by our leading competitor in times past. The Force record was in the process and now stands at 83m. 53s. This fiery display was not quite good enough to get among the medals but fourth is the highest the Force has placed at this distance.

Worthy of special mention is Ron Hammond's 91m. 26s., a great effort in only his first season: things look good for the future.

BADGES

The following week Ron led the juniors home in the Battersea Park six miles in which he and three others, Jon Hastings, John Weatherley and Derek Reeve, won their "six in the hour" badges. With several seniors in the same race the distinctive blue and white stripes were very much in evidence.

On 14th March the distance increased to 14¼ miles at Croydon but only two of the Force team took part, John Hedgethorne snatching 14th place with a fast finish and Keith Mann following up further back but in a good time.

Three walkers made the journey to Staffordshire for the P.A.A. championships and Mike Blackwell had the misfortune to incur the judges displeasure with about nine miles done. John Hedgethorne, placing ninth, gained selection for the P.A.A. team to take on the R.A.F. and Civil Service in the annual match in April and Keith Mann took 14th position.

RESULTS

Essex 10 championship: 28.2.70

13th J. Hedgethorne, 83m. 53s. (Force rec.); 20th M. Blackwell, 89m. 56s. (pers. best); 21st K. Mann, 90m. 06s. (p.b.); 22nd R. Hammond, 91m. 26s. (p.b.); 32nd G. Lee, 100m. 43s.; 37 started; team placed fourth.

Battersea Park 6 miles: 7.3.70

51st M. Blackwell, 54m. 50s.; 53rd R. Hammond, 55m. 04s. (p.b.); 54th K. Mann, 55m. 20s.; 69th J. Hastings, 57m. 32s. (p.b.); 71st J. Weatherley, 57m. 58s. (p.b.); 78th D. Reeve, 59m. 23s. (p.b.); 88th B. Jaggs, 61m. 41s. (p.b.); 91 started.

Keston 14¼ miles: 14.3.70

14th J. Hedgethorne, 2h. 8m. 54s.; 27th K. Mann, 2h. 19m. 40s.; 55 started.

P.A.A. championships: 25.3.70

9th J. Hedgethorne, 87m. 53s.; 14th K. Mann, 92m. 06s.; at six miles M. Blackwell 53m. 19s. (pers. best); 28 started.

End-of-season form saves Police

After disastrous early and mid season form plunged them to the bottom of the Olympian League table the Force team have been showing much better form of late.

Unbeaten in the last six league matches they have recorded victories over Bowers United, Crittall's, British Matthews and Sawbridgeworth, and draws with Collier Row and Basildon Town.

Rhymes and Clarke, both of Clacton, have been in good form, John Rhymes getting among the goals, and Cannon has also scored well, particularly with his head. Veterans Wicks and Henry, in defence and attack respectively, have both played well.

The only blight on an otherwise improving scene is the narrow defeat by 'G' Division, Metro, in the P.A.A. Cup. All square at full time, the lads only gave way after extra time, but put up a great show in the process.



Up goes John Cannon to head over the advancing 'keeper. In support are Micky French (also jumping) and Peter Hudson in the background.

Two in a minute lifts team

selected



THE force walking section has come a long way since the early sixties when a few members, mainly from the then Romford division, would get together once a year to walk from Barking to Southend, partly as an endurance test but mainly for a lark. In 1962 a team consisting of J. Hedgethorne, H. Goodway and J. Wright, took third place in the novices team race. Incidentally only one of that team is still in the force.

Starting in earnest in 1965 various teams have since won the novices team race twice and twice taken second place in the open team race. Since the inception of the Essex walking league, and Essex is the strongest county of all, having just retained the championship, Police have been placed fifth and third in the 10 club table and have occupied second place in the individual list both years.

And yet it is ironic that at the time the section gains an international vest they are numerically at a low point, Peter Cox having left the job and others feeling, wrongly, that they have reached the age of retirement. But there is hope for the future seasons in the juniors now starting to make their mark.

Taking on Sawbridgeworth on All Fools' Day, particularly in repeated snow showers, might have been dodgy but the lads stopped fooling after turning round at half-time one goal down.

At once they began to put on pressure, indeed they had had the best of the first half, and Alf Henry on the right wing began to outrun the defence. Putting over one high cross right on to John Cannon's forehead he, and John, had the bad luck to see the 'keeper scoop it out from behind the line with the referee apparently unsuspecting.

But soon after the team went from one down to one up all in a minute. The first goal was Alf Henry again as he went for the line only to be bundled off the ball. Ritchie Griffiths made no mistake from the penalty spot putting the ball into the roof of the netting. Hardly had the game restarted than Henry was again allowed room to move on the right wing. He put over a tentative sort of centre which completely eluded the attackers but was neatly headed home by one of the defence. Bad luck on Sawbridgeworth to lose the match like that because that was how it ended, 2-1 to police. Two more useful points to take the team away from that bottom region where they spent so long earlier this season.

SHOOTING

The section has continued its league competitions and in addition on 2nd April took part in the P.A.A. short range indoor championships, as representatives of the South-East region.

Results

P.A.A. Lge, Div 3, Rd 8

v. Man and Salford: won 586-568. Scores: J. Stenson 100, R. Sanderson 99, G. Breeding 98, M. Brangham 97, A. Gowers 97, J. Cottee 95, J. Green 94, P. Starling 92.

S.B.Pistol League

Div 6, Rd 5: v. W. Mids: won 355-318. Scores: I. Saines 134, I. Hunter 106, W. Boon 115.

Final Team Placings 1969/70

Points	Team
1797	1st Hertfordshire
1778½	2nd Sussex
1518½	3rd City of London
1089½	4th Thames Valley
1036	5th Kent
948	6th Essex & Southend
358	7th Beds. & Luton
272	8th Surrey
55	9th Hampshire

Toning up for Summer



WITH the approach of the summer months, how many people will still be able to wear the light summer clothes they wore last year?

During the long winter months with very little physical activity it is surprising how easily those extra inches are added and how much extra weight is gained by eating more food to keep us warm. Now is the time to think about toning up the muscles and shedding those extra inches in time for the summer months.

National papers and magazines are full of diets and methods of dieting but this alone is not sufficient. It will assist in losing weight but to tone up muscles physical exercises are needed. For a few minutes each day, in the privacy of your home, certain exercises can be used and, if practiced regularly, will make you feel better and look fitter. Exercising with

weights is one method, and in many areas of the county gymnasiums and weight training clubs are available for use. Even the use of light weights, coupled with correct breathing and method exercise, is very beneficial. At Bill Watson's gymnasium in Chelmsford, several police officers regularly keep fit with weights.

Weight training may also be used to give increased agility fitness for sport of all types, e.g. tennis, swimming, athletics, golf, football, etc.

If anyone is interested in a course of exercises for general fitness or for increased agility fitness for a special sport, why not give Bill a ring at his home—Chelmsford 72570.

Pictured in Bill Watson's class are Barry Devlin, Chris Snow and Barry Walker.

SUE SPEAKS FOR THE OTHER HALF

Mainly for Wives

THE present wave of protest from the wives of police officers raises several questions as to the motives behind such activities and whether they are being carried out in the best possible way.

Obviously we all have the welfare of our husbands children and ourselves at heart, both from the point of view of personal safety and with regard to social considerations, and by making the following observations I don't mean that I am not in sympathy with most of the feelings of these groups.

However, it is important to think seriously about the aims of such organisations and ensure that they are realistic. It is no good rushing in like a bull in a china shop and then wondering why your voice is not heard, indeed why some outsiders may treat this kind of organisation with a certain amount of contempt.

The first thing to consider is that the organisation must be efficient and its motives must be logical, practical and, above all, constructive.

The alternative is that this sort of protest will be written off as mere woolly headed feminine nonsense, and the whole idea will fizzle out.

I do think that it is important to take an interest in our husbands job, as it certainly has some unique problems! But the interest must be constructive, not destructive.

It is far too easy to nag and moan about such things as money, hours and shifts, housing, and the inconveniences of not being able to rely on our husbands being available to go out or even have a meal when we arrange it.

This achieves nothing and only serves to undermine moral.

In fact, I believe that a recent survey showed that dissatisfaction with the job, on the part of the wives of police officers, is one of the main causes of wastage.

Surely, if our influence can have a bad effect, used properly that influence could have a good effect in improving the situation.

Fluffy goes all thin

Pc Peter Clark and his family who live at Maldon, had a big buck rabbit called Fluffy. It was a nice old thing though inclined to escape from its hutch now and then as rabbits will.

When the family went on holiday recently, big fat Fluffy was left in the charge of a neighbour for feeding and watering. The neighbour was very apologetic when Peter Clark came back. "I don't know why," he said, "but your rabbit's very thin."

So Peter looked in the hutch and, oh surprise! His buck rabbit had produced a litter.

But they are all very pleased and, having given the rabbit a unisex name in the first place, they don't even have to think up something new to call it.

Federation News

By Stan Smith

AN ACCOUNT of the proceedings of the Force Open Meeting held at Police Headquarters on Monday, 16th March, will be found on other pages in this issue, and I will merely content myself with thanking the Chief Constable for his forthright and informative speech and Dick Pamplin and Harry Heath for their very instructive talks. If reports received are to be believed, the meeting was a success and was well worth the trouble in organising it. We are pleased that so many members attended and I am sure that the majority found it worthwhile. There is no doubt that many fears and misunderstandings can be allayed by the greater dissemination of information, but there is a limit to what one can do by means of this column and the regular Branch Board Minutes — this is where an Open Meeting comes into its own.

AUTHORITY ON OUR SIDE

The recent publicity given to the proceedings of the Police Authority Meeting held on 23rd March, in which members expressed their opinion that only a substantial increase in pay with the retention of favourable pension rights will attract and retain men and women in the Force so that the public may be given the service and protection they demand, has brought out into the open the fact that the Police Authority are not always against us in our efforts to obtain better conditions of service.

When the Authority turned down our request that an application be made to the Police Council for the payment of Undermanning Allowance to members of this Force, it was thought that this was just penny-pinching and bloody-mindedness on their part.

I am happy to relate that the reason they turned down our request was that they did not consider that this was the right way to solve the problem of shortage of manpower. They believed that only a substantial increase in pay would achieve the object the allowance was designed to do and that the payment of a few shillings a week on a temporary basis was not the answer. We hope that in the future we shall be given the opportunity to know what they are doing on our behalf, and in the meantime we thank them for their timely support at this critical time when negotiations for the main pay award are gathering momentum.

Police wives have been in the news recently in an attempt to get capital punishment restored for the murder of police officers. It is a great pity that their energies and very strong feelings were brought to nought mainly, I think, because of the difficulty in finding what many thought were the right leaders for the campaign.

It is very understandable that wives of police officers should wish to air their views on such important matters, but if they are to be successful they must organise themselves in a much more effective manner, and more important, use their influence upon their husbands to take a more active interest in Federation matters so that



their feelings may be expressed through the proper channels.

Belated complaints

I notice that some of the wives of police officers of this Force have commented in the Police Review upon the design of the new police houses which are to be built in this police area. Although I do not wish to be drawn into discussion about this matter I would offer some advice. If they wish to have their views discussed and have some of their questions answered, then they should ask their husbands to put the questions to their elected representatives. Only in this way will their opinions be discussed—we cannot do it through the national press. Looking at the list of signatories to the letter I am sure that at least one of the husbands is articulate enough to put their questions for them.

I find it very strange that only now have they aired their fears, for the plans were first published in the September issue of this paper. I trust that their fears are genuine and not just an attempt to get themselves in print. Apart from this late intervention, I have received nothing but praise from all quarters on the designs—they are not all that we would desire, but we are fettered by price and design limitations. I can only say that my wife would move into one tomorrow if she had the chance. It is possible that when the first of the new houses are completed we shall be able to arrange for them to be viewed by members and their wives, and you can be sure that any suggestions thought to be worthwhile will be given the closest scrutiny to see if they can be implemented.



The large number of opponents to the proposed annual leave system should know that they have got their views through to us and the scheme will be filed. It now remains to tidy up and bring up to date the present Standing Order on annual leave, and it is hoped to put this forward for approval before the next leave year.

At the Open Meeting a question was asked about the origin of complaints about the system at present in operation, inferring that as it was obviously a minority group which was complaining, their wishes should be ignored. The member asking the question has recently moved into one of the minority groups (on promotion) and surely cannot be indicating that his views should not be considered.



It is with deep regret that we record the untimely death of Constable 1342 John Frederick SHRIMPLIN, aged 32 years, of Harlow Traffic Sub-Division, on 2nd March, 1970, whilst riding his Traffic motorcycle on duty. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his widow, Pamela, and their four young children. I am very pleased to record, however, that John was a member of the Force Group Insurance Scheme and his dependants will benefit from the maximum amount.

Subsistence

There have been a number of complaints recently about refreshment and subsistence claims which have been queried and in some cases, refused. This subject has been discussed on more than one occasion with the Chief Constable in joint consultation and I am sure that in future no reasonable claim will be refused. As the Regulations now stand, there is no automatic payment of the maximum limit and it is not intended to be a "disturbance" payment. With the delegated authority of the Chief Constable, Divisional Commanders may either reduce the amount claimed or pay an amount over the maximum limit if it can be shown that the amount claimed was spent. I am sure that if common sense is used there will be little cause for complaint.

Coddington's Laws of Evidence

This popular Police Review publication celebrates its 40th anniversary this year and its 12th edition. The author, the late F. J. O. Coddington, was for some years legal editor of Police Review and from 1934 to 1950 Stipendary Magistrate of Bradford.

Chief Superintendent J. Daniel Devlin LL.B., of this Force has completed the new edition which costs 7/6d. post free. It is concise and readable and for those in their early years of service or about to embark on promotion studies, is a most useful little book.

Your Convalescent Home at Hove

FROM the small number of applications received from the members of the Force recovering from illness, it seems likely that the facilities available at the Seaside Home are possibly not being publicised enough. The following short notes have therefore been compiled:—

Objects: Provides facilities for serving police officers (men and women), police cadets over 18, and police pensioners in need of convalescence or recuperative rest. (Also when the Home is not full, persons of the categories mentioned above, may be received as visitors during annual leave).

Admission to the Home is normally on Tuesday and Friday (but other days can be arranged if circumstances demand), in time for lunch.

Out of pocket expenses: £3 is paid by the Force Benevolent Fund to every patient from the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Joint Force before he (or she) goes to the home for a period of convalescence (regardless of the length of stay). This is intended to cover minor personal expenses.

Travelling expenses to and from the Home will be reimbursed by the Force Benevolent Fund, when the patient returns home. (Second class rail fare, bus fares, etc. taxi fares not normally reimbursed unless other public transport unavailable).

The Law Shop

FOR SALE: 1 dinner suit, 40in. chest, 33in. leg, 34in. waist; worn twice, £10 (cost £32 new). 1 tweed overcoat, 40in. chest, £2; 1 tweed sports jacket, 40in. chest, £1 10s.; 1 navy raincoat, nearly new, 40in. chest, £3; 1 winter dressing gown, 40in. chest, £1; 1 charcoal grey suit, 40in. chest, leg 33in., waist 34in., £1; 3 pairs trousers, 30s. each, 33in. leg, 34in. waist; 1 dress shirt, 17in., 10s. Apply to Mrs. Gale, 143 Frambridge Road, Maldon, Essex.

FOR SALE: Eternity ring, size 'M', gold surround with spinel, £7 o.n.o. Apply, P.C. Walker, Traffic H.Q., or Mrs. Walker, 16 Gainsborough Crescent, Chelmsford.

FOR SALE: Antique sideboard and overmantel, both with mirrors, £5. Apply, Inspector Saunders, Prosecutions Dept., Southend.

FOR SALE: 11ft motor boat, 5 seater with 6½HP Perkins engine, outboard (new), windscreen, 1/h steering and controls, complete with 'snipe' trailer, excellent condition and ready to use, £160 ono. —Mrs. D. E. Crowhurst (civilian clerk), Admin Dept, Harlow.

FOR SALE: Venetian blind, 8ft x 5ft, 12 months old, perfect condition, pale grey and gold, cost 19gn, accept £10.—Mrs. C. Brown, CID, HQ, tel ext 242, or phone Chelmsford 52800, evenings.

FOR SALE: Wine glass class dinghy, sail number Z99, 15ft., all fibre glass, cruiser/racer, alloy spars, all stainless steel fittings and rigging, terylene sails, many extras, including new Snipe trailer, roller bag, paddle, life lines, boom up cover, all gear brand new in 1968, £255. D. I. Wyatt, Colchester 74444 or Birch 486 (home).

BUFFET DANCE

Friday, 17th April: At Civic Centre, Southend; 8 pm to Midnight: dress optional: tickets 1 guinea from Mr. A. L. Clay, 9 Beverley Gardens, Southend. No tickets after 11th April.

Southend-on-Sea Special Constabulary Association

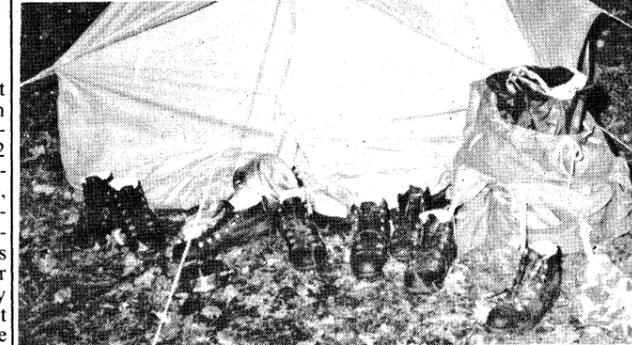
Accommodation: 53 beds, lifts, games facilities, quiet rooms, etc. There are six double rooms available for husbands or wives of convalescent officers at the annual leave charge (£18.00 per week).

Applications for admission: A blue form is obtainable from the Divisional Administration Office. This is completed in duplicate by the applicant's doctor, who should be asked to indicate clearly how long the stay at the Home should be (usually 2 weeks—but this is sometimes extended on the recommendation of the Home's Hon Physicians). Both forms are sent to the Force Welfare Officer, who confirms that a bed is available, etc.

Local Hospital Facilities for blood-counts, out-patient treatment, etc., are available.

Medical Staff: There are two resident Nursing Sisters apart from the Lady Superintendent and three Honorary Physicians.

Footnote



Another scene from the Cadet Corps camp at Danbury. It is a well-known fact that if, when you are camping, you put your boots outside the tent at night the fairies come and polish them up for you.