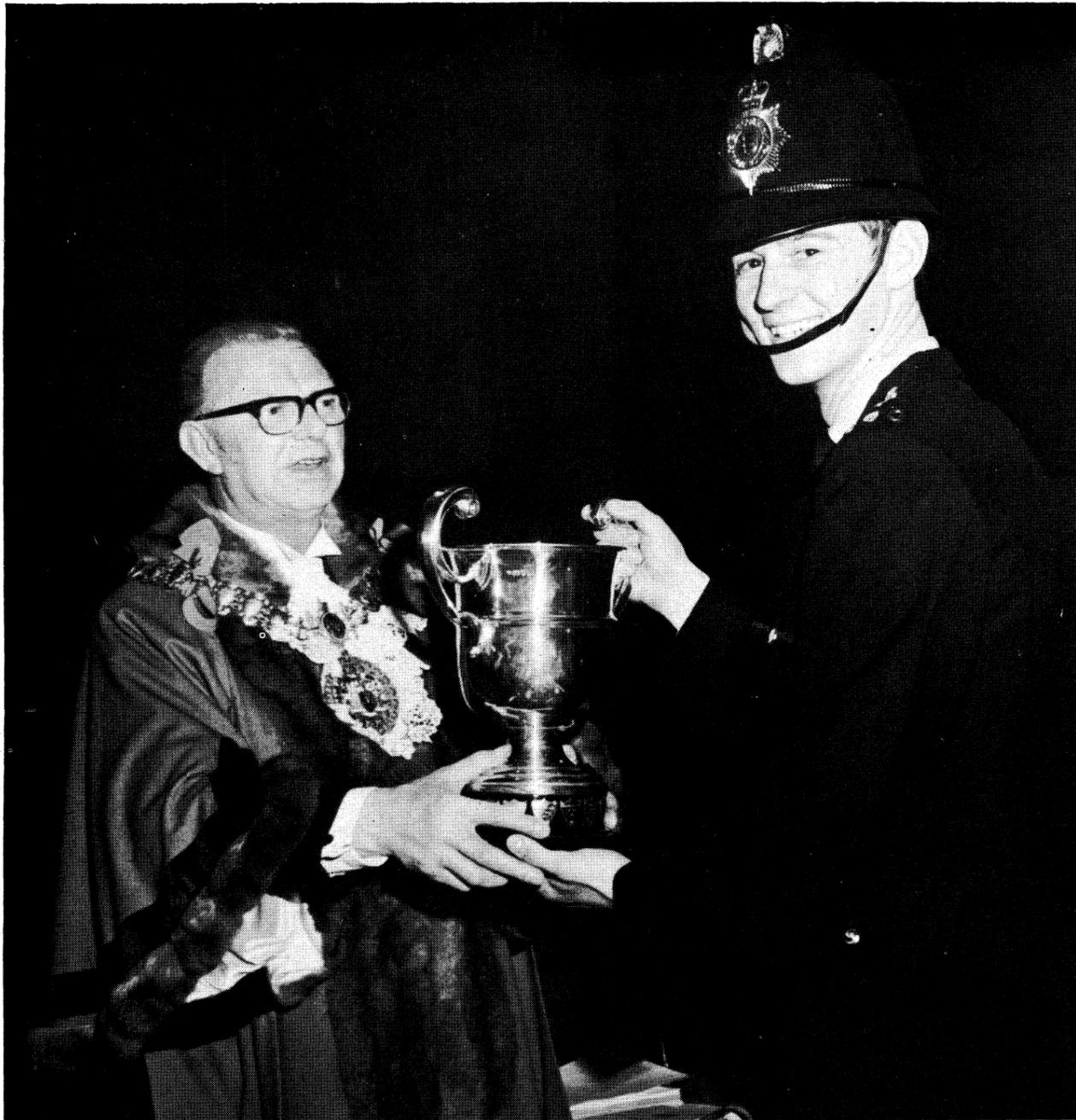


The Newspaper of The Essex and Southend-on-Sea Joint Constabulary.



MANY officers have stopped cars at night, which have been travelling at excessive speeds and quite a few have helped people out of water when they appeared to have been in difficulties, but last July P.c. Gary Skull found that he had to do both for the driver of a mini car, and in doing so won the Mitchell Cup. He is pictured — by courtesy of Southend Evening Echo—receiving the cup from the Mayor of Southend.

The cup is awarded for the most outstanding act of personal bravery with the County Borough of Southend each year.

Gary, whilst on duty on a road check, in a Panda car, saw a motor van being driven at high speed, and took off after it.

He followed it through the Southend area at speeds of up to 85 miles per hour and when it reached Thorpe Bay, the driver of the van drove over the concrete boat

launching ramp at speed and into the sea. The impetus of the vehicle caused it to float some 30 yards off shore. The driver climbed out of the window and started to swim away from the shore.

Gary called to the man to return but, receiving no reply he removed his outer clothing, and swam after him, catching up with him after swimming about 200 yards. The driver obviously did not relish his company because he dived under the water and kicked Gary in the stomach. After a struggle Gary brought the driver to the beach, where other officers gave assistance.

The citation for the award says: "The officer showed a total disregard for his own safety in swimming out to sea alone."

The driver of the van was later dealt with by the courts and by his girl-friend, who had been the cause of his escapade, by way of a row.

Task Force to be based on Chelmsford

THE TASK FORCE, projected on paper for some time, took its first steps towards full implementation last month.

At the moment the Special Patrol Group, to quote its proper title, is still without personnel but it will eventually be commanded by a Chief Inspector with an Inspector as deputy, three sergeants and about 30 men.

The object of the Task Force will be to provide a well-trained reserve ready to reinforce divisions in circumstances where manpower is needed, or to undertake tasks for which their training makes them particularly suited.

The process of selecting personnel for the new unit is likely to go on for some time and this, coupled with initial training will mean that Task Force may not be operational for several weeks yet. Those selected will have to move to Chelmsford.

Reinforcements Headquarters for Halstead extensions approved

HALSTEAD Traffic Section, detached from Stanway, was strengthened last month by the arrival of a car to complement the two motor cycles already based there.

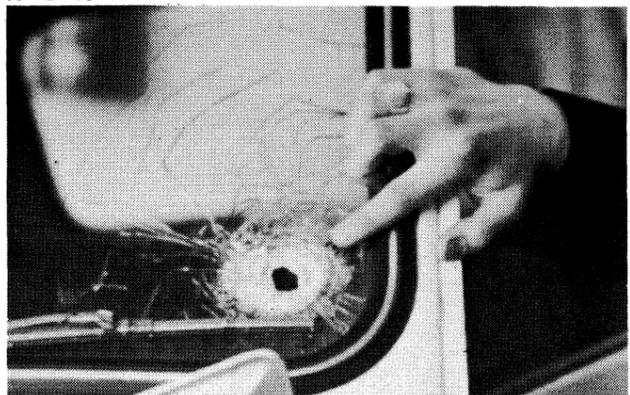
The section also benefits from the transfer of Constables John Clark, John Viney and Brian Simpson from other parts of Colchester Division.

OUTLINE planning permission was granted at Chelmsford Borough Council's planning committee meeting last month for the Headquarters extensions which will include offices and a control centre and have a total floor space of 73,200 sq. ft.

The block will include recreational facilities and an indoor firing range.

Windscreen holed in bank raid drama

GARY SKULL obviously believes in keeping himself in the limelight. During last month he appeared abruptly at the scene of an armed raid at Southend, just in time to have a firearm discharged at his Panda, causing damage to the vehicle and shock to himself.



Pictured by Studio 77, the Panda Mini screen with a bullet hole right in the middle of the excise licence.

Whirlwind start leads to great win



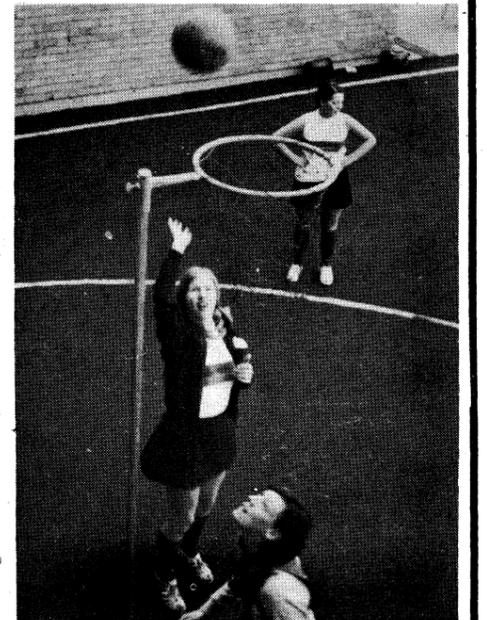
THE Force netball team annihilated the Met at Chelmsford last week.

Pat Cole opened the scoring in the first minute and though the Met achieved a quick equaliser the home team's quick passing then took control of the whole match.

The Met were without the co-ordination of their opponents. They had bad luck with several near misses and only reached double figures just before the final whistle. Final score 31-10.

Pictured left, back row from left, Ginny Granville, Jane Trollope, Pat Cole; centre, Mrs. Jean Armstrong, ref, Jenny Reddings, Penny Mace, Maureen Chaplin; and in front Capt. Diane Lewis.

Pictured right, one of Jenny Reddings' 21 goals on the way



EDIVIEW

Are PAB's too fair?

THE PUBLICATION of the results of the November promotion examination will bring some disappointment, though we must confess to viewing a pass rate of 13 per cent with mixed feelings. Thirty-three young hopefuls, some not so young we note, have joined the queue waiting for promotion.

The 1972 promotion marathon resulted in the Promotion Advisory Board recommending thirty men and women for promotion. What this means is that during the course of 1973 the promotion queue will shorten to just about its present length, examination passes and promotions having just about balanced out.

A few years ago there was no such waiting list. It is no secret that promotion examinations have become easier than they were in the first few years after the central examination board first imposed what was a rigorous testing of the candidates' knowledge. Perhaps it was too hard in those days but a few passed each time, just enough, in fact, to mean that for them promotion was assured.

Of course, Chief Constables naturally felt that this short waiting list cramped their style a little, reducing their choice to the mere formality of promoting the only candidate or leaving the vacancy open. The choice had in fact passed into the hands of the examiners. And the Police Federation, being by its very nature an organisation which takes the side of the have nots against the haves, campaigned for a reduced examination standard and succeeded in having the educational test cut out altogether.

But whereas, in those days, a man had no-one else but himself to blame if he were not promoted, "I'm too thick to pass the exam, so I'll have to stay as I am," is one fact-facing assessment of the situation we remember well, nowadays the candidate has done his part by passing the examination but it is THEM who have not done their bit. We are not certain that the present easier examinations are good for morale.

In these circumstances, therefore, it is essential that the promotion system should be fair for all to see. In the bad old days, before national examinations, there were rumours that it was necessary to have eyes of a certain hue, or essential to belong to a particular secret society in order to even aspire to rank. The high standard of the early national examinations swept this away for ever because for a few glorious years promotion was earned with the pen, under the protection of an examination number. What a pity it would be if the long waiting lists for promotion led to the old silly stories going the rounds again.

To their credit the top brass in Essex and Southend have tried to adopt a system which is fair. It is hard to find any unfairness in the present promotion advisory board system. If a candidate feels that being interviewed in the first place by his own Divisional Commander is not fair because too much is known about him in that quarter, he has only himself to blame for doing things for his superiors to know about.

So it is not the fairness we are concerned about but the fact that the system may be too fair. If that sounds absurd we should hasten to explain that fairness is a commodity which has to be "costed" like any other. The present cost of being fair is high if measured in the time senior officers have to spend interviewing every candidate every year.

But our main concern is in the manner of making known the findings of the board. Not in any pernicky way do we find the wording of the letter the candidate receives to be hurtful or offensive to his pride but the fact that he gets it at all.

Self-esteem is an important human attribute. To have the self-esteem dented is very lowering to one's morale and therefore to one's efficiency. Yet this is precisely the effect of the "no" letters sent out after the promotion boards. And not just for the few but for the great majority of the candidates.

Unsuccessful candidates have told us that the worst period in their whole service is the two or three weeks after their rejection by the board. Some come near to resignation, the general attitude and efficiency of many others is lowered. Much the same effect can be produced by the ritual reading of one's annual report.

While a promotion aspirant can tell himself that he is as good as the next man and that promotion may not be far off his undamaged self-esteem will lead him to work for the distant advancement which perhaps only he can see. But destroy the illusion and you destroy the man, perhaps only temporarily but even then his effectiveness is reduced.

No such danger existed in the bad old days when no-one was told what the gov'nors thought about him. Perhaps they were not that bad, after all, maybe a fresh look at this aspect of the promotion system might be worthwhile.

This column should not be interpreted as expressing the policy of the Chief Constable nor that of the Police Federation, and the views may be those of the writer alone.

West Indies policemen at HQ

On attachment to the Force as part of a course being held at Hendon, Stn Sgt Grafton Bascombe and Sgt Joseph Williams arrived on 29 January.

Sgt Williams told The Law that they arrived in the country in September and found the temperature some 20 to 30 degrees below that in their home countries. It took him some two months to acclimatise, and by then it was colder still.

The thing that has impressed Grafton Bascombe most about the various Police Forces that he has visited during his stay is the equipment issued. He said, "To me the England society is one that appears to be reasonably docile. By that I mean well behaved. There is always a bit of trouble which one would always find but in general the country appears to be at ease. The equipment is all much better than is issued in my force — it leads to greater efficiency."

"The attitude in my country is one of political trouble causing more



Sergeant Williams, left, and Stn. Sergeant Bascombe in the library of the Cadet School, where they stayed last week.

headaches for the Police with the young ones being the anti-police brigade. There are some families

where one member does not speak to another because their political leanings differ."

Sgt Williams said, "The Virgin Isles are peaceful. There is a small minority of militant youth but in general with no trade unions to speak of and little political strife, life is quiet. Crime is not going up and in fact if we have two murders a year we consider that it is a bad year."

Joseph Williams, who joined the Police Service 12 years ago, would like to see his force of almost 100 men amalgamate with some of the other islands. In the 1950s he joined a tripartite force which because of political changes split and each island formed a separate force.

Both officers agree that the availability of transport is poor and there is a need for an increase in the amount of sea transport.

Their policing is very similar to this country, with town men patrolling beats and men in the villages performing duties in line with our detached beatmen.

Stn Sgt. Bascombe, a Police Officer for 14 years said, "I find England a very beautiful country — particularly in this area — and when the sun shines it adds more colour to the scene."

Lonely old people befriended by Ockendon

By R. Grinsted

For a number of years at South Ockendon in spite of everything the Officers and civilian staff have held a party for the children who are in care at certain homes in the area. This year we decided on a change of policy and held a social afternoon for a number of Senior Citizens in the area, at the same time giving each of them a parcel to eke out their meagre income. The cost of the venture was covered by donations from all personnel on the Station and I am pleased to record that there was not one dissension. Donations were also made by local firms and shops. The number of persons we agreed on in the first instance was 50.

This, however, increased to 68. All received an invitation to the social after-

noon this being delivered personally so that some estimation could be obtained to the actual number attending.

This was where one really saw the problems of these aged persons, very little money going to them and they not seeing anyone. The majority have their own flats and separate front doors and all are in blocks of flats of three floors so they cannot see anyone.

Some even seem to have lost all interest in living. I met a woman of 70 who had not been out for two years, a woman of the same age who had only been out five times in a year, another woman who was so lonely she had gone to bed at 3pm when I called, another couple, she is blind — both

are deaf, another woman who is on her own with an income of just £9 per week paying rent of £5.

Having established the number to cater for we commenced gathering items together. This, of course, consisted mainly of food, although we did include some items for personal hygiene.

The day of the social afternoon arrived and we moved into a local hall with all the goodies. In spite of the weather, thick fog, 49 Senior Citizens turned up and they were treated to an afternoon of entertainment supplied by Morris Dancers from Culverhouse Boys School, Constable Ron Wall on the electric organ and two groups of children called Morning Light and The Petronellas playing guitars.

Coppers

Both groups were tutored and run by Constable Tony Warren from South Ockendon. (These groups were very good — where's Hughie Green?). The whole show was compared by Sergeant Jim Graham. (He said he had never done the job before?). After the show they all had tea with all the trimmings, being waited on by Police Officers, their wives and our two civilian typists Julie and Dee with the able assistance of Traffic Warden Kit Carter.

I must at this point make a very special mention of our two civilian typists, Julie and Dee, who for once really got down to some work and without their help this venture would not have been the success it was. After tea we had a lucky draw for various items and then a further draw in which a Police Officer won himself a Senior Citizen to take out for the day some time in the Summer.

To finish each person received a hamper or should I say a bag of goodies. These were handed out by Chief Superintendent A. R. Mitchell and Chief Inspector Crux, both of whom came at the commencement of the afternoon and remained with us throughout. Constables Grinsted, Meade and Ashkettle, together with our Julie and Dee, organised the whole affair which, although we had crossed fingers, went off very successfully.

In December 1973 we hope to do something similar but on a larger scale.



NALGO

THE formation of an Informal Consultative Committee announced by the Chief Constable's memorandum is to be highly commended. In fact, any action to implement the proposals contained in the Employment Minister's consultative document relating to the government policy for good industrial relations can only lead to a better understanding between members of management at all levels and staff under its control.

Management's task is to conduct its business efficiently. Good industrial relations need to be developed within that framework and will in turn help management to carry out its task successfully. A major objective of management must therefore

be to develop fair and effective personnel and industrial relations policies which command the confidence of employees.

However, the Employment Minister's document does say that: "Where trade unions and associations are recognised, management should:

(a) take the initiative in seeking to establish, jointly with the trade unions or association concerned, effective procedures for negotiation, consultation, communication and the settlement of grievances and disputes;

(b) take all reasonable steps to ensure that members of management observe agreements and use agreed procedures;

(c) encourage employees to join a recognised union or association and to play an active part in its work.

At this stage it may be

colleagues of the Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical Services together with the Miscellaneous Class of Officers that their conditions of service are contained in the publication produced by the National Joint Council known commonly as the "Purple Book."

The functions of the council relate to all of the above mentioned staffs of local authorities and Police authorities and is presided over by an independent chairman appointed by the Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment (the present chairman is Lord Hill of Luton).

The National and Local Government Officers' Association is strongly represented on the Council and discusses such matters as the regular consideration of salaries, wages and

encouragement of the study of methods of administration with a view to improving the services rendered by officers of local and police authorities.

We of the Police Sub-Branch being of mature years and holding more moderate views are of the opinion that an employees organisation such as NALGO should be non-political and cease to be affiliated to the Trades Union Council.

However, before we can make ourselves heard we can only ask you to become members of our Association and (as quoted from the Minister of Employment's document) "play an active part in its work."

The necessary application forms together with other literature may be obtained from our membership secretary — Mrs. S. H. Powell — Headquarters Ext 318, or your

Tony gets his gun. . .



he might have got the bullet

NO, Canvey Island Chief of Police has not declared martial law, nor is there any truth in the rumour that the vehicle pictured in the charge of Pc Toy Bal-four, is the new secret weapon to deal with the island's unruly element.

Tony whilst observer in an Incident car, aptly named Incident on this occasion, together with the driver, Neil Seymour, stopped a car on the island, and whilst Neil was checking passports (as is always done on the island), Tony being the policeman of the two, decided to search the vehicle. His suspicions had been aroused when his keen eye had detected that one of the occupants of the car wore no trousers, and that

there was a man squatting in the boot.

On checking the boot he found a lump of old rusty metal which, on closer looking, he thought might be a firearm of some description.

He invited the car occupants to Canvey Island Police Station where he put the ironmongery under the cold tap and — lo and behold — a Browning 50mm machine gun. He learned from his guest that the weapon had been recovered from an aircraft wreck which had crashed off Point Clear during the war years.

Being proud of his new "plaything" Tony decided that a photo of the weapon mounted on top of the Canvey Island mini van would be a good souvenir and

thus the origin of the photo

What Tony did not know, and what the discerning eye of those firearm experts amongst us will see, is that this gun is, in fact, cocked.

Later, when the RAF Bomb Disposal Team, who had been called out to remove the ironmongery, arrived, Tony found out that not only was the gun cocked but was also loaded and in a dangerous condition.

So dangerous that the Bomb Disposal Team declined to remove it far by vehicle and eventually decided to blow it up. No, not the van, the gun.

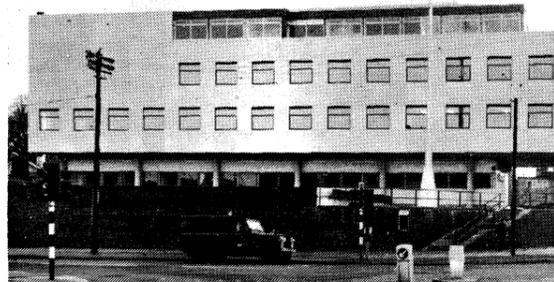
The moral — which is plain to see — don't tamper with potentially dangerous things — even if you think you know something about them.

Chelmsford Police Station Open Days

COME and see the new style of police station. This is the standard likely to be matched in the new Colchester and Grays stations.

Light refreshment available.

Displays by Force departments.



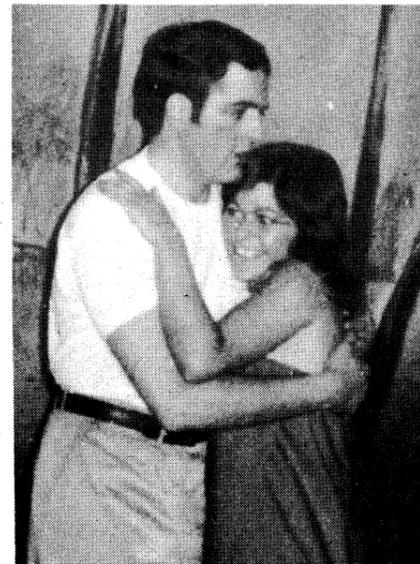
Friday, 2nd March, 12 noon-8.00 p.m.

Saturday, 3rd March, 10.00 a.m.-8.00 p.m.

South Seas lap over HQ



Emile de Becque, Harry Smith, and Nellie, Sue Bragg, sing "Some enchanted evening."



Cable, Derek Lee, with Liat, Sarah Ovens, in a love scene.

MUSIC burst upon our ears once again with the Headquarters Musical Society's production of South Pacific which ran all last week at the Assembly Hall, H.Q.

All tickets had been sold before the show opened and if eagerness to see it were any guide the show should have been a glittering success.

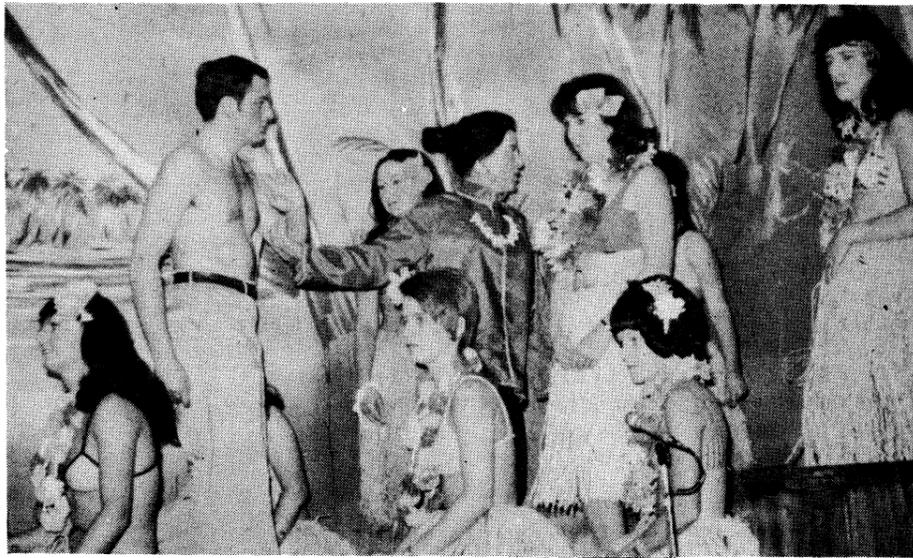
Set on a Pacific Island in 1944, it is a double love story between a French planter, Emile de Becque and Ensign Nellie Forbush, a U.S. Navy nurse, and between Lt Cable and Liat a native girl of the island.

The plot has all the inevitable native

girls, U.S. Marines, and scheming native trader, not to mention Japanese war planes though these never actually appear on stage.

Harry Smith, who also produced the show, played de Becque with strong voice, as did Derek Lee, Lt Cable. A first class portrayal of "Bloody Mary" was given by Jopie Lawson, and Sue Bragg's showed good timing as Ensign Forbush.

The scenery designed and executed by Tony Hillam was of the usual good quality and the mini orchestra, conducted by Cy Smith gave a pleasant performance.



Native girls on the island of Bali Ha'i.

Canvey houses

FIVE police houses at Canvey have been handed over to the County Education Authority to be sold to teachers. There is a shortage of teachers in that area because of accommodation problems. Two of the houses have already been sold.

Clacton breaks

THE men from Clacton no longer have pangs of hunger at meal times. Their dispute over the system in which refreshment breaks were taken has been amicably settled and the dividing 15 minutes between breaks has been dispensed with.

Ex-County Constable killed on motorcycle duty

GEORGE SWEETING, known to most of his friends as Ted, who transferred to the Met Police in March 1965, was tragically killed in a road accident whilst on motor cycle patrol in Walthamstow, on 2 January.

He joined the Essex County Constabulary in August 1959 and was posted to Tilbury. He then served at Colchester, Harwich and Collier Row, until his transfer to the Met Police. In 1967 he joined the Met Traffic Division at Bow and was later posted to Plaistow, where he served until his death.

An ex-naval man he retained his interest in sailing and was well known in I.P.A. circles.

A funeral service was held at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Collier Row, on 11 January, followed by interment at Upminster Cemetery. Mr. Hodgson, Deputy Assistant Commissioner and Mr. Hunt, Deputy Assistant Commissioner B attended.

Constable Sweeting leaves a wife, Jean, and two sons.

National Association of Retired Police Officers



by Bert Brinkley

Friendly Society

There was a very poor turnout at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 16 December, 1972. It was reported that Membership now stood at 1214 and of this number 15 attended. Apologies for absence were received from 4 members. The 15 attending represented 8 Serving Officers and 7 pensioners.

Chief Supt. W. C. Partis filled the chair temporarily but the Meeting elected Mr. W. Petherick, A.C.C. as Chairman for the ensuing year.

The Balance Sheet produced showed the Society was in a very healthy position. Subscriptions exceeded the amount of benefit paid out. No new members were enrolled during the year. This is to be deplored but was not unex-

pected. Unless new members are forthcoming the Scheme will eventually fold up. It is felt the Society should be publicised more often, on the other hand it can be argued that greater benefits would be an added attraction. This course has been put forward for the past 3 years but each time we are faced with the same explanation — we must await the Actuarian's report, which incidentally will not be received until later on in the New Year.

The Death benefits at present are: On the death of a wife, £40; on the death of a husband, £50. If the wife predeceases the husband two payments are made, £40 and £50. If a male member dies first only ONE sum of £50 is payable to the Estate. All this for £1.20 per annum.

It is apparent that to keep within reasonable terms the benefits as outlined above must be considerably increased but no action can be taken in this connection until the Actuarian's report has been digested. It is hoped to call the next Annual General Meeting much sooner in 1973, possibly in May.

It was stressed that unlike two other Schemes which cease to have effect when a Member leaves the Force, the Friendly Society carries on for all time. It certainly does not seem too bad an investment for less than 2½ pence per week, however, more of this later on when the true finances of the Society are known.

Postage expenses

Talking of finances, the allocation of the Chelmsford Branch towards the N.E.C. Central fund for 1973 is £36.80 which represents 30 per cent of the total subscriptions for 1972. This is quite a sum but thanks to the

unstinted support from Members this has been paid and we can look forward to a healthy balance sheet for 1972. It is hoped to invest further in the Building Society thus augmenting our funds for future commitments. The other major item of the Branch is postage which is now running at over £30 per annum. Here again our grateful thanks to all those who donate that 'little bit extra' which helps to offset the greater part of that expense.

We were unable to give our widows a little gift this year but nevertheless they were uppermost in our thoughts especially at the festive season and they can rest assured they are not forgotten.

I heard from ex P.C. Arthur Pratt a few days ago. Arthur is living at Brentwood but working in the Traffic Division of the City of London Police — still hoping to keep the accident rate down? Good luck to you Arthur!

We were sorry to learn of the death during Christmas of ex Inspector Bob Munson. Bob served quite a period on the Administration side, notably at Epping 1929-1939. He served at Clacton from 1942 and retired to Holland-on-Sea in 1954 where he died. Although Bob was not a member of the Chelmsford Branch we do offer our condolences to the widow and family.

Another colleague has a spell in Chelmsford & Essex Hospital — ex Sgt. Harry Pavitt. Harry was admitted on Boxing Day for an emergency operation and enquiries reveal the operation was successful, he is doing well, and hopes to be home about the middle of January. We all wish him a speedy return to normal health and Good Bowling!

On to a more cheerful note, many have expressed thankfulness and indeed surprise at the recent pension increase details

ARE YOU ONE OF THE 320?

What 320?

The ones who don't contribute

What to?

The combined welfare fund

How do I join?

Contact Sgt Ed Easlea,

Welfare Office, Southend

of which were given in an explanatory pamphlet which was sent out with the January pension. More appreciative were those members who enjoyed the increase for the first time — I refer to those who have reached the ripe old age of 55 years and who now are brought into line with the rest of the 'old uns'. There is no need for me to plug again the excellent work put in by the Public Service Pensioners' Council to which NARPO is affiliated, but I must add a reminder to those who have not yet succumbed to the temptation to join the Association, these and future benefits come as the result of hard work and unstinted labour on the part of your National Representatives and it behoves all of us to support them to the full. To those who are still pondering I say join your local Branch without further delay and show some interest in the affairs of the Association which is doing so much for your own welfare.

First Aid girls beat the men

ON SUNDAY, January 7, the men's First Aid teams participated in the Pim Trophy Area Eliminator at Brighton against very strong opposition.

The County 'A' team finished sixth, which is their highest position since this area was formed some five years ago. Indeed, there were only 10 marks separating the third and sixth teams which is an encouraging sign from the Force point of view. Perhaps next year this team will be among the front runners.

Our second team also performed creditably, finishing 12th.

Winners of the competition were Sussex Constabulary with City of London and Thames Valley taking the minor placings.

'A' team — Terry Mortimer, Dave Perry, Bob Emberson, Ian Hunter. Reserve George Coulthrust.

'B' team — Geoff Butler, Roger Crane, Norman Redmond, Paul Adams. Reserve Kevin Doyland.

Later in the month four police teams competed at Southend for the Lilly Herbert Trophy, where out of nine teams originally entered four were from various departments of the Force.

In a stiff test set by Sgt Bob Mann, the Competi-



The winning team line up to receive their trophy: from the left, Barbara Washbrook, Rosemary Palmer, Joan Murphy and Cheryl Ryan.



The Force 'A' team receive a terse comment from P.S. Terry Mortimer, left, as they line up with their runners-up trophy at Southend. From the right: Ian Hunter, Bob Emberson and Dave Perry.

tion Secretary for the Southend Division of St. John Ambulance, the teams had to deal with a situation involving three patients suffering from injuries varying from a fractured spine to scalds and hysteria.

The police men's 'A' team were hot favourites to repeat their success of 1972, but after a gruelling afternoon's competition the final results produced a few surprises.

The police women's team, trained by Terry Mortimer and consisting of Barbara Washbrook, Rosemary Palmer, Joan Murphy and Cheryl Ryan took first place and the main trophy with a mark

of 279 out of 400.

The Force 'A' team finished in second place, followed by Traffic Division and the Force 'B' team.

Unfortunately three teams had to pull out before the start of the competition because of illness in their ranks and some of the stronger opposition was lost.

The presentation of the trophies was made by Sir Richard Bonnallick who praised the teams for their high standard of first aid.

Results: Police Women 279/400, Police 'A' team 269/400, Traffic Division 266/400, Police 'B' team 217/400, St. John Ambulance 194/400, North Thames Gas Board 187/400.



P.S. Terry Mortimer in action at Southend.



Mrs Dorothy Kirk

She added four years to her age to get into the police

MANY people think that the Women Police Service started just over fifty years ago but Mrs. Dorothy Kirk will tell anyone that this is not so. Mrs. Kirk, who is known to a lot of people in Colchester, where she has lived since 1925, as Miss Watson, joined the Women Police Service in 1915.

"The Women Police Service," she told The Law, "started before the First World War, as a result of suffragettes, who were, in the main, from the upper classes, being sent to prison. When they saw what was happening in Holloway, with male warders in charge, some of them came out with the idea of setting up a Women's Police Service."

At the beginning of the great War Mrs. Kirk was still at school. Her elder sisters were all performing service of some kind and she felt somewhat out of it.

The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police called on people to set up a body to deal with prostitutes and a service was organised.

Miss Dorothy Watson, as she then was, wrote to London volunteering her services and was told that she was too young, the

joining age being a minimum of 21.

After taking an examination which required a year's study, she again applied to join the Women Police Service. But this time



MRS KIRK IN 1917

she added four years to her age to make sure — she was accepted.

To a country girl from Framlingham, Suffolk, goings on in London came as a shock, "I hadn't any idea such things existed," she said.

After training, her first posting was to Hayes in Middlesex. There she saw the first Zeppelin brought down at Cuffley. However, there was so much bombing going on that she was not very happy at this station.

A large munitions factory was being organised in the Gretna area and as the Women Police Service came under the control of the Minister of Munitions he asked for volunteers to go to Gretna to help with the control of thousands of Scottish and North Country women who were working in the factory. Still below the minimum age Miss Watson went North and was sworn in as a constable

of the Cumberland and Dumfriesshire Forces because there were no men left in the area — they had all been drafted into the Armed Forces. She is therefore one of the very first women to be actually sworn in as in other areas Chief Constables were against this.

Policewomen had to police the whole area and do the men's work as well. Twelve hour shifts were a regular occurrence but the women thought nothing of the long and arduous hours they worked.

Dorothy Watson served at Gretna for three years and at the end of the First World War, holding the rank of Sergeant she volunteered for service in Northern Ireland during the early troubles. Once again she saw police work at its most dangerous with shootings left, right and centre and after a short spell she decided that the atmosphere was not healthy and applied for a position at Hove, Sussex.

The Chief Constable of Hove, in 1919, had been told by his Watch Committee to form a woman police section and felt very strongly about it. On arrival of Mrs. Kirk, he told her: "I don't want you. Women are no bloody good." He refused to have the women sworn in as constables but expected them to do the same work as his male officers. On her appointment at Hove Mrs. Kirk reverted back to the rank of Constable and served for 4½ years with this



WORLD WAR I OFFICE WORK

Joint Branch Board elect a new Chairman for 1973



h. Insp. Phil Weall

ON JANUARY 8 at the first meeting of this year's Joint Branch Board three new members took their seats.

These were Inspector Peter Buckles, representing Grays inspectors, and Sergeant Alf Smart and Pc Denis Mason representing Colchester members.

The meeting elected Chief Inspector Phil Weall to the chair for 1973 with Sergeant Bill Whalley as vice-chairman.

Len Saxby, returning after a period "out to grass", takes over as chairman of the constables' board.



Sgt. W. Whalley



Insp. P. Buckles



Sgt. A. Smith



P.c. D. Mason

force at a wage of £2.10.0d. per week.

While she was at Hove the women were expected to do everything and were given nothing. They paraded at 6 am every day when we were on duty on the sea front as a team of rescue service for swimmers. She told us: "I remember one occasion when I was nearly drowned. I went into the water to help a woman in difficulties and whilst I was bringing her in to the beach she grabbed me round the neck. We were eventually picked up about two miles out to sea with the woman's legs still round my neck. I went swimming the next week and I must have passed out. Someone gave me artificial respiration and I was away from duty for almost a year afterwards."

Their night duties were mainly dealing with prostitutes. They would see people in the big hotels having dinner and later see the same people picking up prostitutes and going on to the beach. They had to detain the prostitutes and then call upon a male constable to arrest them and give all the evidence because they were not sworn in.

Advertisement

She then saw an advertisement for a position at Colchester Borough Constabulary at £3 per week and having applied, got the job despite competition from numerous other applicants.

At the time, the Chief Constable of Essex, Capt. R. J. Peel, as he was then, would have nothing to do with Policewomen and consequently when a policewoman was required the County Constabulary Colchester Borough women were called out to deal with the job.

She received promotion shortly after arriving at Colchester Borough for the good work she had carried out.

In 1936 Mrs. Kirk wanted to get married but was told that if she did she would have to leave the Police Service. Her husband was also in the Colchester Borough Force, and the couple decided to go through with their marriage and one day they went to London and were married by special licence. She kept quiet about her marriage and, she says, "No-one confessed to know anything about it although most of



PICTURED at coffee at an Essex Police-women's Reunion Dinner at Chelmsford last month. Left to right:— Pat Smith, Pam Joughin, Myrtle Ham, Stevie MacIntyre, Pat Hotston, Vera Bayliss, Shirley Case and Jo Collins.

our working colleagues had some inkling."

Times were hard, buying a house and the general cost of living, no rent allowance, although she applied for it every year, no plain clothes allowance, although more duty was performed in civvies than in uniform, and it was not until the end of the Second World War that a measly rent allowance was paid.

During her service at Colchester Borough she asked for an incremental scale of pay but didn't get it until after 12 years service when she was put onto the first increment. Mrs. Kirk told us that it was a real fight to get anything.

When the County formed their Women Police Section in 1944 she had the chance to organise it but because no one officially knew of her marriage she could not apply. The organisation of the Essex Women Police was carried out by Miss Jordan, later Mrs. Hodges, now retired.

Amalgamated

In 1947 when Colchester Constabulary amalgamated with the Essex Constabulary she was given more women but not sufficient to give her a higher rank. She was, however, still required to work all over the County.

In 1952, after 37 years Police Service she retired from the Essex Constabulary and took up Welfare work in industry.

Mrs. Kirk said: "People were against us all the way. They said that we were not good and could not arrest a drunken man. I have arrested a good many drunken men in my service with no bother at all.

"Before the war there were two Policewomen at Colchester, including myself. The Chief Constable, Colonel Stockwell, was a very enlightened man for those times. He told us to go and do the job but if we did it wrong that we were for it."

Everything booked

Sgt. Kirk kept a book which recorded every person she interviewed showing the reason and personal details. This was most helpful on many occasions and one she remembers particularly involved an abandoned baby. It was brought to her office in a lavatory. She saw that it had an unusual sort of nappy which she seemed to recall having seen only once before. The baby was taken to the work house that is now St. Mary's Hospital, at Colchester and the sergeant started to search through her books. There she found details of a woman who had called to see her about a month before for advice about an affair she was having with an American who was due to return to his home country. She remembered that this woman's baby had the unusual diaper and the enquiries to trace the woman were started. She had left her lodgings that day with the American but was picked up before arriving at London.

Mrs. Kirk's husband, who had joined the Armed Forces at the outbreak of war, gaining a commission and holding the rank of Major, lost his life at the 'D' Day invasion. The tragedy was that at no time during their marriage could they be

known as man and wife, only when he was killed could she be known as Mrs. Kirk and not Miss Watson.

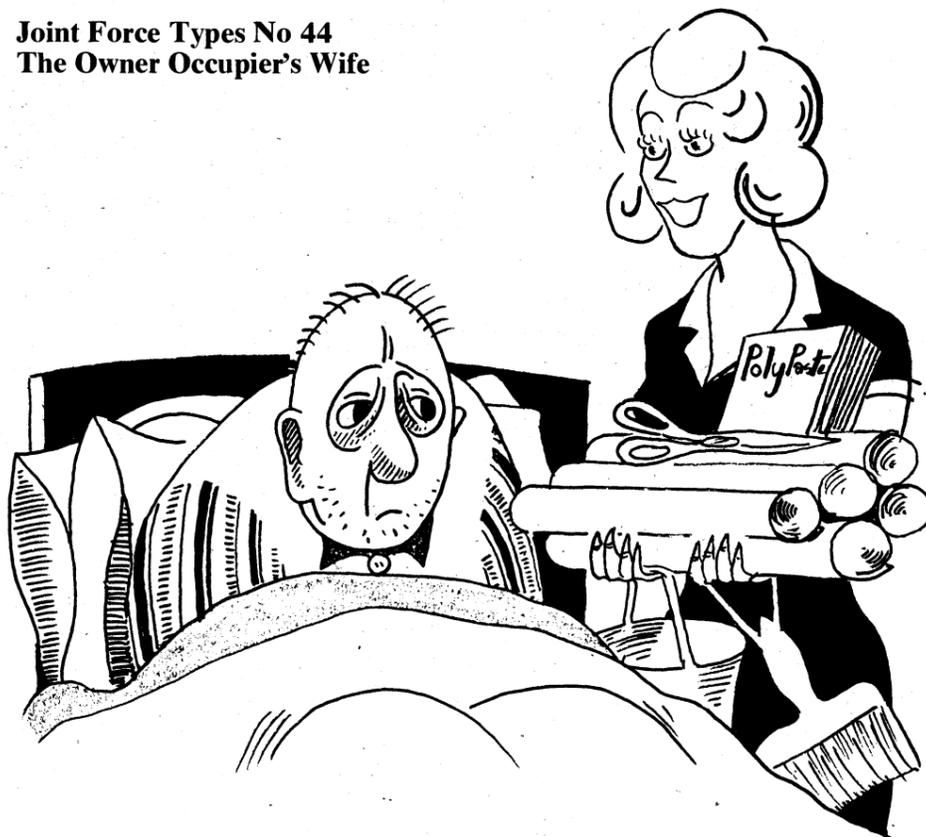
"I am glad that I was one of the pioneers of the Women Police," said Mrs. Kirk. "It was hard work but well worth it."



ABOVE Sgt Kirk and colleagues meet the H.M.I. at a Colchester inspection parade in the early 30's. BELOW — Essex Constabulary Policewomen past and present drink a toast. Left to right: — Joan Hurley, Olive Butler, Sheila Malone, Mary Church, Mary Easton, Dorothy Kirk, Dorothy Hodges, Joan Risen and Peggy Sandford.



Joint Force Types No 44 The Owner Occupier's Wife



"The doctor says you're well enough to get up today"

SPORT

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Girls grab the first Region Championship of 1973

CONTINUING their newly found supremacy the cross country squads marched, or bounded perhaps, into 1973 with challenging performances at Maidstone on January 3rd.

With the year only three days old the girls were first in action when they set off through thick fog to cover 2½ miles.

And when the first figure reappeared out of the murk it was Cadet Sue Hart of Beds/Luton winning in 14m 50s. The Essex-Southend squad made no mistake in the team race, however, filling the next four places to score 14 pts to Kent's 34.

In second position Ros Beardwell was followed home by Bernadette Cussen, Francis Ringer and Sue Moss, just back from training school, and one of the two members of the team which won last year's race.

EXHIBITION RUN

The men's contest was the opportunity for Surrey's Roger Bean to give another exhibition of strong front running. His three team mates, including Wayland in second place, all placed in the top 14 to give Surrey the championship.

The other team placings were by no means certain. Although Essex-Southend had won the previous two league races these were at '6 to score' whereas the championship was for teams of 4.

But Andy Down showed his usual strong running for 4th place and Barry Daymond at 16th was on his best form yet.

Close behind at 19th Clive Skingley was putting in an out-of-the-blue performance to improve from 50th the previous month. Mervyn Fairweather two places behind completed

National Shooting Secretary

SGT. MICK BRANGHAM, the Force Shooting Section Secretary, has been elected to fill the vacancy as General Secretary of the P.A.A. Shooting Section. As a result of him taking up this position and the amount of work it will involve he has reluctantly given up the Secretaryship of the Force Section to D.c. Robbie Wolton of Colchester. Sgt. Brangham is to be thanked for all the hard work he has put in on behalf of the Shooting Section and congratulated on his election to the P.A.A. position. Their gain is our loss.

Fastest '10' of the year at Chelmsford

75 starters in Force Walk

THE FORCE 10 miles walking race, the second leg of the winter championship, took place at Chelmsford on January 24. Coupled with the inter-divisional contest, was a match against outsiders so that the head of the field moved at a cracking pace, Bob Dobson, a British Olympic representative, putting up the fastest 10 miles time in Britain this year.

The internal contest was walked at slightly slower gait though still at a "personal best" level. Denis Sheppard started fast but by the end of the first lap John Hedgethorne had caught him. This was not to last and the younger walker eased away to clock his best ever time.

Alan King put in a strong last lap to escape Barry Daymond's attentions and next home were Larry Britt, Ron Hammond and Trevor Williams.

Southend East and Colchester had each put out large numbers of competitors but Colchester, with Daymond, Jones and Blackwell — allegedly more or less in retirement — spearheading their effort were always ahead and Southend although second, could not gather enough points to overtake Chelmsford's cross-country total.

Various other matches were in contention and in the main event Essex-Southend beat Metro and "The Rest", made up of various guest walkers, a morale boosting effort as Metro had some of their faster men present (not all, alas).

In a cadet contest Chelmsford beat Hendon by a street. The field of 75 which toed the line was the largest, and perhaps the best for some years and the fact that 4 competitors came under the judges' ban showed that competition was fierce.

Race result

1st R. Dobson, Basildon A.C. 76.20; 4th D. Sheppard (Es) 83.52; 5th J. Hedgethorne (HQ) 84.32; 9th A. King (Es) 87.16; 10th B. Daymond (Col) 87.58; 12th L. Britt (Es) 91.26; 15th R. Hammond (Chelm) 93.00; 17th T. Williams (Es) 96.03; 22nd B. Jones (Col) 98.25; 24th G. Matthews (Es) 99.09; 25th M. Blackwell (Col) 99.34; 27th K. Mann (Bas) 100.15; 28th P. Blois (Es) 100.18; 31st L. Berry (Es) 100.54; 37th M. Thornton (Es) 103.33; 40th J. Bowman (Chelm) 104.30; 42nd M. Faulkner (Es) 104.44; 43rd A. Davies (Col) 106.44; 44th C. Buller (Col) 107.38; 45th M. Coleman (Es) 108.10; 46th I. Brown (Es) 108.31; 48th N. Cook (Es) 109.46; 49th M. Groat (S.E.) 110.32; 50th M. Fairweather (Col) 111.20; 51st A. Saunders (S.E.) 112.45; 52nd C. Day (Es) 113.29; 53rd J. Tompkins (Col) 116.12; 54th G. Northcott (Es) 117.05; 55th J. Leppard (Es) 118.28; 56th D. Manders (Es) 118.29; 57th P. Spurgeon (Col) 119.46; 58th A. Donovan (S.E.) 119.59; 59th J. Banks (S.E.) 119.59; 60th Corbett (Chelms) 122.22; 61st R. Madden (S.E.) 122.22; 62nd J. Hegerty (Col) 125.20; 63rd D. Miller (Chelms) 126.19; 64th B. Reynolds (S.E.) 128.39; 65th B. Ramsey (Chelms) 129.51; 66th S. Bird (S.E.) 136.06; 67th D. Woodgate (Es) 136.19; 69th M. Tarbin (S.E.) 141.17; 70th S. Rowe (S.E.) 145.10; 71st R. Fugl (S.E.) 145.10.



The field bunched up shortly after the start. Pic by Essex Chronicle.

the scoring well enough to take 3rd place plaques for the first time ever.

In the league race, good packing by numbers 5 and 6, Paul Davies and Peter Blois advanced the team one place to second, holding second place overall behind the experienced Sussex team.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Women's team race
1. Essex 'A' 14
2. Kent 34
3. Essex 'B' 44

Individual Scorers
2nd R. Beardwell, 15.45; 3rd B. Cussen, 16.08; 4th F. Ringer, 16.19;

5th S. Moss, 16.42; 8th J. Foster, 18.08; 9th B. Burgin, 18.31; 13th P. Gubb, 21.22; 14th V. Granville, 21.22.

Men's team race
1. Surrey 25
2. Sussex 49
3. Essex 60
4. City of London 65
5. Herts 71
6. Thames Valley 81
7. Kent 109
8. Beds and Luton 134

Individual scorers
4th A. Down, 31.58; 16th B. Daymond, 34.21; 19th C. Skingley, 34.32; 21st M. Fairweather, 34.43; 26th P. Davies, 35.05; 30th P. Blois, 35.19; 44th A. King, 38.26; 45th G. Matthews, 38.50; 48th L. Berry, 39.33; 51st D. Sheppard, 39.44; 59th J. Dicks, 42.49; 60th T. Williams, 43.12; 62nd L. Britt, 44.03.

INTER DIVISIONAL CONTEST

Winter Athletics Championship

Division	Running (20 Dec. '72)	Walking (24 Jan. '73)
Colchester	100	158
Chelmsford	73	66
Southend East	31	90
Clacton	27	
Headquarters		26
Southend West	22	
Basildon		21

Inter-Div. soccer at semi-final stage

In the Inter-Divisional Football Competition the teams have fought for the semi-final placings with Southend 'H', easily beating Basildon 7-0 at home. Chelmsford played Southend 'J' at Southend, both teams taking the field short of men — Chelmsford with nine and Southend 'J' with 10.

After Southend scored in the first few minutes it seemed, with their numerical advantage, as though they would have an easy win. But Chelmsford had other ideas about the result and eventually won 8-2.

In an enjoyable but predictable game Clacton beat Colchester 5-0 and qualified to meet Grays who had the hardest task in reaching the semi-finals, against Harlow.

Having drawn the first game, the replay was a hard-fought match with the final honours going to Grays with a score of 7-2.

The semi-final between Southend 'H' and Chelmsford was due to be played on January 29th, but because of duty commitments at Southend, the game has been postponed.

Cadets held to first draw

AT THE beginning of the month Cadets visited Shotley and played H.M.S. Ganges. Complacency in the defence led to two quick goals from the Ganges forwards and this seemed to wake up the side who equalised through goals from Hurrell and Reynolds. However, Ganges went ahead again just before half-time.

The second-half followed the pattern of the first, with Essex pulling level with a goal from Harrison and Ganges going ahead again. The team were eventually saved by two more goals scored by Hurrell. Final score 5-4.

Against an improved Chelmsford C.F.E., Cadets won comfortably with the score at 4-2. Goalscorers were Carpenter (2), Gammon and Smith.

In a return match against N.E.E.T.C., Cadets had to be content with a 2-2 draw. Gammon scored both goals, one from a penalty. The Cadets second team had a convincing win over the N.E.E.T.C. 2nds, 12-1.

games to 1. Team: Inspector Naylor, P.c's Westrop, Mead, Wilson, Reed and Bendall. The return match against Burnham was played on 14th January when the county team was defeated by 6½-2½ games, one game being halved owing to the lateness of the hour and the caretaker waiting to lock up the hall. Team: Inspectors Page and McDonald P.c's Bendall, Mead, Reed and Grover.

DATES AND VENUES DECIDED

REGIONAL championship events in several sports have been allocated to Forces by the Regional P.A.A. Committee. The chart below shows which force is staging each and where the date and exact venue is known this is shown also.

Event	Organising Force	Date	Venue
Angling (coarse)	Sussex		
Angling (sea)	Sussex		
Athletics	Essex and Southend	13.6.73	Chelmsford
Badminton	City of London	Feb. 1973	Wimbledon
Bowls (single)	Surrey	3rd and 4th	Guildford
Bowls (pairs)	Hampshire	July	
Bowls (triples)	City of London		
Bowls (fours)	City of London		
Cricket (knockout)	Sussex		
Cricket (six-a-side)	Thames Valley		
Football (knockout)	Surrey	22nd or 29th	
Football (six-a-side)	Kent	March	
Golf	City of London	3.5.73	Wentworth
Indoor Games— (Darts and snooker)	Surrey		Addlestone
Indoor Games— (billiards and table tennis)	Essex and Southend	16.2.73	Southend
Rugby (sevens)	Thames Valley		
Sailing	Bedford/Luton	23.5.73	Grafham Waters
Tennis (individual)	Hampshire		
Tennis (team)	Kent		

Team results:

1. Essex Police 'A' 38
2. Met Police 'A' 42
3. The Rest 43
4. Essex Police 'B' 103
5. Met Police 'B' 129
6. Met Cadets 'A' 131
7. Met Cadets 'B' 176

THE Force athletics secretary comments: "Of course the disqualified walkers were disappointed but walking like every other game has rules and judges appointed to see that they are adhered to. Anyone not walking according to the definition — unbroken contact with the ground — is gaining an unfair advantage just as much as a footballer using his hands or standing off-side. The fact that it may be unintentional as presumably it nearly always is because not many athletes cheat intentionally, does not reduce the advantage gained and therefore cannot alter the sanction imposed — disqualification."

Force Cricket Dance

Three Cups Hotel

Springfield Road Chelmsford

FRIDAY, 23rd MARCH

DANCING to "Part of Us" and "The Fuzz."

Excellent Buffet.

Tickets £1: from Cricket Committee members.

Badminton

THREE County Badminton matches were played in January.

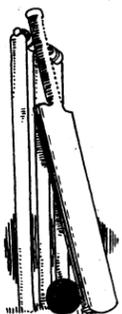
The first was in the Chelmsford and District Knock-Out Cup against Maldon, the match being played at Chelmsford Town Police Station. This was played with a mixed team consisting of Inspector Page, P.c's Reed and Mead and W.P.c's Kidd, Lewis and Mace. Men's doubles, Ladies' Doubles and Mixed matches resulted in Maldon being the winners.

The next game was on 15th January at Chelmsford against Marconi III when the county team ran out winners by 8

Force beat Thames Valley by 5-1

THE FORCE football team march on through the Southern Counties cup with a victory over Thames Valley on their opponents home ground. Playing at Thame the Essex and Southend team with a final score of 5-1, should have given their next opponents — Northants/Surrey — a few things to worry about.

Scorers:— Hudson (2), Rhymes (2), and Bragg.



Walking

IF THE Force championship race was fast, the section found themselves in an even quicker 10 miles 3 days later in the Essex League's Basildon race.

As a team contest this was a highly successful outing. Everyone was on form and in a tight finish Police just edged first place jointly with Basildon A.C. And Woodford Green were only one point behind. This lifts the Section into second place overall. Denis Sheppard second individual and John Hedgethorpe third.

Sheppard took this race as his chance to annexe the section's 10 mile record, a remarkable effort on a course acknowledged to be tough going, and added to his 6 and 7 mile bests 2 weeks before gave him a satisfying month.

But the improvement has not been limited to one man. The win at Basildon, and the others at Blackheath and Chelmsford show that the whole team are getting faster. Alan King and Barry Daymond, never far apart at the race end, are pushing each other on. Ron Hammond is on the come-back trail and backing up are Trevor Williams and converted runner Larry Britt.

Soon the championship season will be here with contests organised by Essex, Southern Counties, Race Walking Association, and P.A.A., not to mention the continuing Essex League saga. Teams will contest everything in sight.

League Table

Woodford Green	569
POLICE	488
Southend	479
Basildon	438
Ilford	330
Newham	210
Essex Beagles	98

Individual scores: D. Sheppard 124, J. Hedgethorpe 122, B. Daymond 76, K. Mann 43, M. Eldred 40, T. Williams 59, L. Berry 37, A. King 27, R. Hammond 24, G. Matthews 23, M. Faulkner 20, L. Britt 19, I. Brown 13, B. Jones 7.

Other results

Chigwell Jun 3/4 — 6.1.73:
3rd D. Sheppard 30.22; 9th A. King 32.13; 12th R. Hammond 33.58; 16th B. Jones 35.11; 17th T. Williams 35.40; 21st G. Matthews 37.24; 23rd M. Faulkner 40.49. **Team placed 2nd.** Boys 2m: 8th R. Sheppard, 17.51.
Imber Court 7 — 13.1.73:
46th D. Sheppard 56.49 (Force Record) 77th J. Hedgethorpe, 59.10; 103rd B. Daymond 61.41; 153rd T. Williams 67.10; 155th L. Berry 67.15; 170th M. Faulkner 70.03; 171st M. Thornton 70.06. 204 started.
Blackheath 6 — 17.1.73:
3rd D. Sheppard 48.59 (Force Record) 7th A. King 51.52; 8th B. Daymond 51.54; 16th T. Williams 56.34; 17th L. Berry 56.45 (won handicap); 18th M. Thornton 57.36; 24th G. Matthews 59.23; 25th M. Faulkner 59.57; 30th I. Brown 60.46; 34 started; **team placed 1st.**
Croydon 10 — 20.1.73:
4th D. Sheppard 85.23; 8th J. Hedgethorpe 87.50; 15th R. Hammond 95.11; 18th T. Williams 98.07.
Basildon 10 — 27.1.73:
8th D. Sheppard 82.34 (Force record); 10th J. Hedgethorpe 85.57; 14th A. King 88.53; 15th B. Daymond 88.55; 17th R. Hammond 91.10; 18th T. Williams 91.51; 22nd L. Berry 98.29; 24th K. Mann 100.33; 25th L. Berry 100.35; 28th I. Brown 103.07.

Shooting

MORE rounds have been shot in the national small-bore league resulting in the 'A' team climbing to 2nd place in Division 4, partly thanks to a "ton" by B. Williams in round five, and consistent shooting by M. Brangham.

In Division 6 the 'B' team with two defeats languish in sixth place.

RESULTS

Division 4

Round 3 v. Lincs. — M. Brangham 99, B. Williams 97, K. Light 96, G. Harvey 95, R. Sanderson 95, G. Breeding 95, A. Gowers 92. **Won 577-574.**
Round 4 v. Sussex. — A. Gowers 98, G. Breeding 98, M. Brangham 97, G. Harvey 97, K. Light 96, R. Sanderson 94, J. Stenson 93, B. Williams 92. **Won 580-568.**
Round 5 v. S. Wales. — M. Brangham 97, R. Sanderson 98, G. Breeding 94, A. Gowers 98, J. Stenson 97, B. Williams 100, K. Light 93. **Won 584-581.**

Division 6

Round 4 v. Teesside. — L. Carter 95, C. Snow 95, J. Smith 95, R. Westwood 84, J. Viney 81, K. Oehrich 87. **Lost 537-570.**

OBITUARIES

AT THE age of 67, ex-P.c. R. J. Whitwell, formerly of the Essex County force died during December.

The death is reported, on 15th January, 1973, of Ex Chief Inspector E. O. Staines, aged 65 years.

Federation

Now that the results of the Promotion Boards are out we are again having a few complaints about the system of informing those who have been rejected. The system has had a few years to work and we feel that the new system is better than the previous method. The only officers to be promoted now are those who have been selected from the last Board. Some people do not interview well, but I am assured that this is taken into consideration. Some thirty odd Constables have been told that they will be promoted. Some will have to wait longer than a year as it is not likely that all the vacancies will come up before the Board sits again next year. An advantage is that they will not unknowingly incur expense which would be wasted if they moved without notice. We are unfortunately going through a bad period in regard to promotion prospects due to the stagnation of recruitment during the War years. Those who have reached the point in their service when they would normally have been promoted but for lack of vacancies are deserving of sympathy as some will always be edged out as other bright lads come up for consideration. The question is — how can the system be changed for the better — the Board will be glad to have suggestions for consideration.

ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

The date of the Force Open Meeting has been fixed for Monday, March 26, 1973 and will take place at the Assembly Hall, Police Headquarters, Chelmsford commencing at 6.30 p.m. Speakers will be the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Constable will outline the way the Force will be changing during the coming year, and a member of the Joint Central Committee who will deal with national matters. Local Divisional representatives have authority to provide free transport where required and this year we are going to follow the procedure in other Forces of supplying refreshment free of charge to those attending.

RENT ALLOWANCE

The Chief Constable has been asked to put before the Police Authority a request for the review of the maximum limit rent allowance payable to members of this Force to be effective from April 1, 1973. The Home Office recommends that there should be two year intervals between reviews unless there are exceptional reasons for a more frequent application. We feel that our claim for a review after two years is a realistic one which will be difficult to deny. Most other Forces within our Region with the same high property values have already achieved a far higher rent allowance than we currently enjoy.

HOUSING

The Housing Committee of the Board will shortly be meeting to discuss matters directly related to the provision and maintenance of Police houses for members of the Force. One constantly hears complaints about houses when moving about the Force and now is the time for any complaints you may have to be aired and considered. Jot your thoughts or complaints on a piece of paper and send them to me and I will put them on the Agenda.

SALARY CREDITS

Those members who have their salaries credited to their personal bank accounts are requested to check their statements to see if charges have been made in respect of the late arrival of salary credits. The Chief Constable will only look into those cases where members have been charged in such cases. The trouble is that Banks make up accounts after the day's business when the counters are closed but we feel that we are unable to do much about this matter as the problems arise within the procedures of the banks themselves. The credit transfers are despatched from County Hall in time so we cannot lay the blame at the door of the County Treasurer. If there are

Round 5 v. W. Mercia. — L. Carter 98, C. Snow 94, J. Smith 85, R. Westwood, 87, G. Whiddon 84, K. Oehrich 92, J. Viney 80. **Lost 540-544.**
Round 6 v. Mid Anglia. — M. Brangham 97, R. Sanderson 97, G. Breeding 94, R. Wolton 97, K. Light 99, B. Williams 99, A. Gowers 93, G. Harvey 93. **Won 583-578.**

Regional Championships

News has come that the section has won the South East Region championship and now qualifies to go to the national finals at Liverpool later in the spring.

Special Parade

In 1973 the Special Constabulary annual muster parade and competition for the Salter and De Rougemont Cups will be held at HQ on Sunday 13th May. Answers in the police duties section may this year be word perfect: the subject — offences against females.

Band



notes
by Harry Rossiter

THIS month appears to be free from band engagements, the last until August. I do apologise for my error in last month's notes. I announced that the band was due to play at Grays on the 31st January. It would seem that I was a "mite previous" with this news. There is to be a concert in that neck of the woods some time, but not just yet. Sorry especially if somebody went there on the 31st only to find that it was a non-event.

Our Christmas concert on 20th December wasn't quite so bright as in previous years, whether the fog thinning out the audience, coughs and colds among our members, or just that the spirit seemed to be lacking. Never mind, even our

rivals the "Black Dyke" outfit have their off days I believe.

As previously announced and confirmed, we have two dates in February, the 7th at St. Luke's Church, Tiptree, at 7.45 p.m. and at the Chelmsford Civic Theatre on 19th also at 7.45 p.m. See details in bold type.

We have our friend Keith from the Scots Guards military band playing a trombone solo specially arranged for the band. There will also be two or three guest artists. Should be quite good.

Talking of public concerts. I have a file on every concert we ever did. It makes interesting reading if only to show the towns and places we have visited. Basildon, Braintree, Billericay, Clacton, Dunmow, Epping, Halstead, Hutton, Leigh-on-Sea, Ongar, Southend and Terling. This last named village saw the setting of our first ever concert given in public. It was in December, 1966, in the village hall. We first played "out" at the Chelmsford Cathedral in August, 1966.

at a memorial service to the three Met. police officers killed on duty. On this occasion, we were re-inforced by several of our friends from the Chelmsford Borough Silver Band.

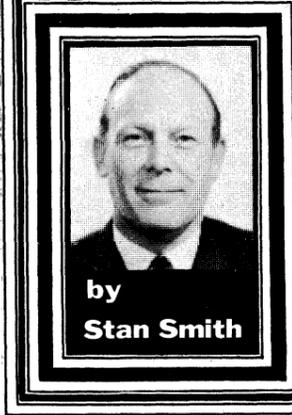
Our past record has been mainly one of success especially two concerts we gave at Ipswich and another at Bury St. Edmunds not to mention numerous public appearances in and around Chelmsford. Our "off" performances have been really few I am happy to say. We almost certainly play better before an appreciative audience. It is also very encouraging to see our regular members of the audience. However most of us play simply because we enjoy doing so. No band can even hope to succeed in making music if the hearts of the performers are not in what they are doing. Certainly the band is still very much in demand and it is unfortunate that so many requests have to be refused because we couldn't guarantee a full band for the date in question.

Good listening.

Police Band Concert

Conductor: Ken Cole
Guest Soloist: Keith Duxbury
Trombonist with Band of Scots Guards
Charles Wood our popular pianist
Dougie (Who?) Rampling
Comper: Brian Denton
Seats may be booked through Civic Theatre Box Office

Notes



difficulties members should consider changing their Banks or arranging for a personal pay cheque to be sent to them direct from County Hall, this will reach them before the fifteenth of the month and will therefore be available to them on that day.

POLICE SUPPORT GROUP

Members will shortly see a Force Order advertising the fact that a Support Group or Task Force is about to be set up and will operate from the Chelmsford area. No doubt many members will look upon this as a glamour job as it gives a chance to do something which is not run-of-the-mill. Before making application to join I would advise members to carefully talk the matter over with wives/girl friends as it will mean a move to the Chelmsford area and the hours of duty could be long and awkward. Remember if you are already in a job you like this will be filled when you leave for the Support Group and if you do not like it once you get there you may not be able to get back to your present position or location in the county. One should go into this with eyes open. It will do no good if personnel wish to change soon after joining thereby reducing the effectiveness of the Group.

What's on



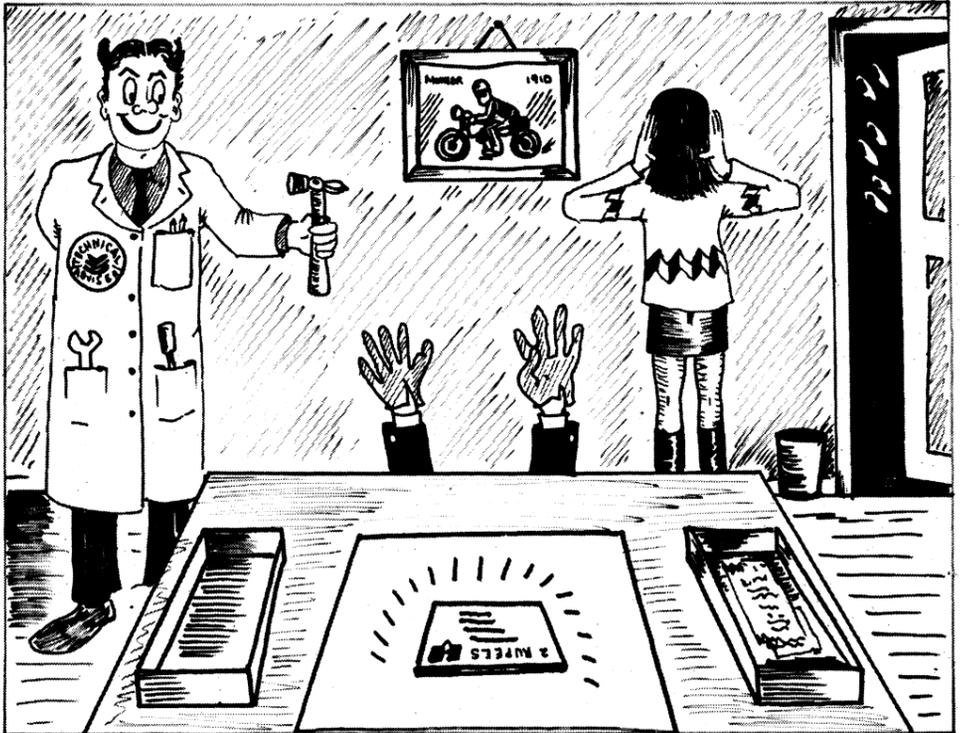
Who's off

'QM3 commencing patrol — Route A12c — Sorry — should be 'VG QM3 10 — 1 R4 with an occasional look at R5, 6, 7, 8) over' — You've got to be a blinking mathematician these days just to sign on: — I hear they're starting classes in counting at Headquarters shortly! A couple of Harley-Davidson's, a wad of gum and we're there — America.

Ian Sparks of Headquarters signed off the other day 10-12. When told it should be 10-10 he replied "I know but I'm late off" — at least he proved he could go up to 12!

I think at the moment all us 2-wheeled goodies are in a state of 'suspension' because of this changeable weather. One day ice and frost — in a car, next — warm and dirty — on the bike. This must be the worst part of the year for us — half the County working 6-2 pm and 4-12 pm, the other half doing 8-4 and 2-10 pm. Never mind — it's nearly Easter!

There has been no 'major' incident reported from the Subs this month — no OFF's that is (come to think of it — there's been very little ON's either) except Headquarters of course — boom! boom!



At Police Headquarters, during the letter bomb scare, a senior officer demonstrates an unorthodox method of dealing with an explosive package.

Arthur Johnson is now on a driving course — 'the traitor' so the result of his return to Harlow is going to be very interesting — hope it comes off Arthur. Otherwise Harlow, as usual, appears very quiet — no news received from that area — will be ringing you early next month. Who is i/c motor cycles there now? Les! Mick! let's know.

Colchester, as usual, have been active — especially over the Xmas period — Mad Mitch has 10-4'd so many times he didn't realise he had so many friends — I'm told he 'crawled' on to his bike, the other day — after a 10-4 stop and thought someone had 'nicked' his fairing — it wasn't till he heard some "pips" coming from behind him that he caught on what had happened — he'd got on the wrong way round — isn't there an office job somewhere Mitch? By the way — the fleet number of his bike is T28! How appropriate — but T42 might be better.

Chopper Wood of Clacton is back with us after a period of sick leave — your fleet number is T345 — which I hear is prone to blowing up etc — don't let that Colchester mob palm you off with the rubbish Chopper — you need a good bike for the summer. How's the tides?

Ray Finch has got so fed up with washing his bike he asked County Hall to change the colour from white to Yackee Dirty 'och'! (I always thought it was Ray!)

Colchester Canteen has had one of its chairs strengthened by 1/2in. steel girders to take the weight of Long John Paisley

and also an extension built to enable people to pass him — you'll need a 750 John shortly just to move you! Never mind eh Just your winter coat!

Talking about age and size etc Southend seem to have their fair share (just age as far as Mrs. Ma Carter is concerned!)

I hear that Tug Wilson had to be helped to shift his bike off the stand the other day by Ian Swift and is now seriously considering hanging his helmet up — why not do what us County men do — use the side stand! at least this way our feet touch the ground!

Sergeants on motor cycles

Also at Southend I hear that 2 certain Sergeants who shall remain nameless — Bob Maclaren and Sergeant Lonagen — have been approached in connection with riding motor cycles and having a course — I believe the replies were not available and if they were — unprintable! Pity really — could have been the start of the long awaited 'Motor cycle squad' I could just see Bob Maclaren riding down Southend High Street, helmet, boots and kill! Stop Press from H1 — Terry Moffitt is looking for his 3rd ride on a motor cycle this year — well done Terry — could this be your year for double figures.

Finally Headquarters remains placid — Derek 'just roll a fag' Lee is partaking in the musical again this year and Ian and Ben await the arrival of their new bikes. By the way 2 new items of equipment should be with us shortly, so more of that sort

time. So until next month '10-10' (I must learn the rest) Ride safe and to the system.



They must be McBloody joking — my name's not

And we've never looked back

FORCE Order 57 of 18th January, 1916, issued by Capt J. A. Unett, Chief Constable, stated:

Pocket books are forwarded to Divisional Stations. Superintendents will please distribute the same to the men they consider will have the best use for them.

A report will be called for in due course from each man to whom the book is issued, showing whether the book fulfils all necessary requirements and whether any alteration is desirable prior to the whole Force being supplied with them.

Latest recruit squad depletes Cadet Corps



A PICTURE to upset all those who think that The Law should be renamed the Cadet Gazette — no fewer than six of this month's recruits are ex-cadets. Caught looking cheerful after their three months at Training Centre and a few days already at H.Q. for local procedure, they are, from the left: Jim Crystal, Southend 'J', half hidden; Bob Rowley, Colchester; Andy Barnes, Epping; Maria Oldall, Basildon; John Shanahan, Basildon; Gary Egerton, Colchester; Jane Ayres, Grays; Ian Schofield, Grays; Graham Sharman, Colchester; and Dave Nixon, Brentwood, third highest on the Eynsham course.

33 pass promotion examination

ONCE AGAIN peace of mind has come for some of those who have suffered months of studying for the constable to sergeant promotion examination. The results, published this month, show that the force had the third highest percentage of passes in the Eastern area of England, although 13.8 per cent is still pretty low. Top of the Force's passes was Pc Bill Horsman of Southend Eastern Division and the highest marks amongst the ladies went to Wpc Maureen Kidd of Saffron Walden.

Full pass list was: Constables W. D. Horsman, J. C. Rose, R. A. Buller, J. F. Trott, A. M. Conerney, Wpc M. J. Kidd, Constables P. R. Probyn, D. J. Lawrence, Dc R. D. Griffiths, Constables D. E. Appleby, R. J. Brotherton, G. D. Payne, T. D. Gardiner, R. J. Bodley, M. K. Bliss, B. Hudson, K. C. Venus, R. L. Stanhope, Wpc C. A. Hardy, Constables R. J. Pitts, G. R. Aves, P. Adams, D. G. Rensch, J. G. Roberts, M. J. Williams, Dc D. F. Harvey, Constables D. M. Conerney, H. D. E. Steer, B. Spraggan, A. L. Wilson, J. J. Higgins, Dc M. J. Haig, Wpc S. Hall.

First Aid honour



AT A FUNCTION recently held at Chelmsford Superintendent Joseph Baker, the force recruiting officer, was made an Honorary Member of the St. John Ambulance Association, the presentation being made by Captain R. J. Wenley, T.D., J.P., D.L., the St. John Ambulance Regional Representative Commissioner.

Mr. Baker told the Law: "This appointment is obviously in recognition of the work done by members of the Force Training School and all the first-aiders in Divisions."

Ticket areas enlarged

FIXED penalty schemes are gradually spreading over the face of Essex. Areas most recently brought under the "fixed-rate" umbrella are Chelmsford, Brentwood and Billericay and surrounding villages.

The Law Shop

FOR SALE. Pair "Simlam" football boots, worn only twice, size 10½, £1.50. Suzuki motor cycle, 90cc, purchased August 1972, not now required, excellent condition, £170. HP can be arranged. PC Lennon, Maldon Police Station, or Tel Maldon 2605.

LUXURY Holiday Chalet at select Seaview Holiday Village, overlooking the sea at Talland Bay, Polperro, Cornwall. Sleeps six. All mod. cons. TV, Swimming Pool and Club. Chalet is brick built and fully equipped. Ideal for an off-season holiday. Inspector Craig Bailey, Harlow Police Station.

Two awarded testimonials for rescue attempt in the mud

TWO COLCHESTER Constables have been awarded Royal Humane Society Testimonials on Parchment. They are Ian Turner and Mick Handley of Traffic Division, based at Stanway.

About 3.30 p.m. on August 16, 1972, 8-year-old Ian Mutch fell into the River Colne at the Hythe when fishing with other boys.

Constables Turner and Handley, arriving at the scene about ten minutes later, stripped to their underclothes and entered the water to search for the boy. Constable Handley is a poor swimmer.

Polluted water

Both officers searched for some 30 minutes in water heavily polluted with sewage which enters immediately opposite the incident.

When searching in shallow water the officers were at times up

to their waists in slime. At some stage both vomited from the foul water they had swallowed. They were assisted by another officer holding a rope and this helped them, particularly Mick Handley.

Constable Turner eventually found the body in mid-stream and his colleague helped get the boy

out. Although artificial respiration was immediately commenced and continued, the boy did not recover.

Presentation

The presentation will be made at Colchester Magistrates Court before commencement of business on Tuesday, February 27, 1973.

Both Mick Handley and Ian Turner have received awards before, Turner receiving a Queen's Commendation for a river rescue in freezing weather two years ago.

College celebrates 25

TO CELEBRATE its 25th anniversary the Police College, Bramshill House, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, is staging several sporting events in 1973 when "British Police" teams will play there.

Any members of the police service will be welcome to what promise to be high-class events.
14th March v. Chelsea F.C.
18th July v. M.C.C.
8th October v. International Rugby XV

5-year Building Plan

HOME OFFICE has approved the five-year building plan sent up by the Joint Police Authority. But not completely because only those included in 1973-4 can be considered as "firm" the remainder being subject to annual Home Office review.

1973/74
Force Headquarters Office block and canteen.
Southend Western D.H.Q.
Tilbury Sub-Divisional Station.
Laindon Traffic Garage extension.
Motorway (M11) Traffic Section Garage.
Wireless Mast Development.

1974/75
Cadet School extension.
River Section Boathouse and office.

1975/76
Grays Divisional Headquarters.
Colchester Divisional Headquarters.
Southend Traffic Sub-Divisional Workshop.
Stansted Section Station.

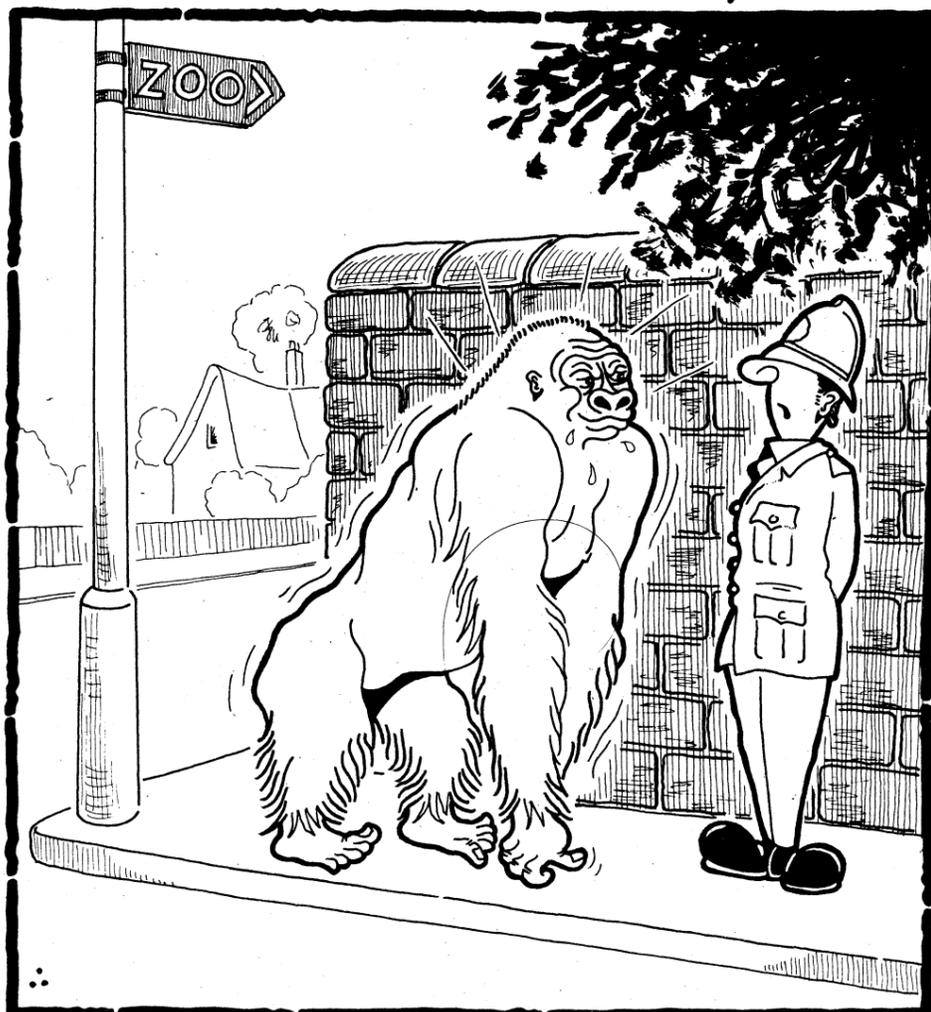
1976/77
Clacton Divisional Headquarters.
Colchester Traffic Garage extensions.
Basildon D.H.Q. extensions.
Halstead Sub-Divisional Station.

1977/78
Maplin Sub-Divisional Station.
Canvey Island Sub-Divisional Station.

Colour tests for beacons

TESTS being carried out by Home Office are aimed at finding the colour most eye catching when used for police-car flashing beacons. Blue beacons are thought to be three times less reactive to the human eye than green and 20 times less than yellow.

A LAWFUL LAUGH ... by Nala



"ALRIGHT SIR!"

Boxing show

JOHNNY LEVINE, the well-known boxing promoter, is putting on an evening's top-class professional boxing at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend, in April, in aid of the Police Dependents' Fund. Tickets varying from 50p to £4.50p will be available in the near future and a souvenir programme will be on sale, the profits from which will all go to the Fund. Further details can be obtained from Sgt Easlea, Force Welfare Officer.