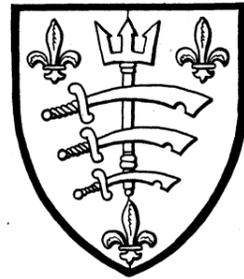


THE LAW

Number 58
January 1974



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

What a month

DECEMBER certainly was the silly season! The nineteenth was the day they changed the telephone number of police headquarters. The Law heard about this from CID. A member of this flexible organisation had tried to phone in to say he would be delayed. Eventually after much fruitless dialling he learned the new number from the GPO operator.

At that stage the headquarters telephonist did not know the new number was 67267. Eventually a teleprinter message carried the glad tidings round the county, but as this was timed at 10.00 hours it came just a little late.

Readers should note the new number is Chelmsford 67267.

But that's not all. The Police Authority finance committee has found that a total of over £1,600 has been over-paid to garage mechanics employed by the Force.

Apparently there was an administrative error in 1970 which put the mechanics on a higher pay rate than they should have drawn and on top of that they have had nearly £400 more than they should have had in bonuses.

But the story has a Christmas ending. The Finance Committee feel it would cause hardship to ask for the money back, so they recommend that it should be written off.



Then there was the Colchester Cat! It seems that the canteen in the ancient mouldering pile in Queen Street suffered raids from mice.

Professional mousers were called in but could not find the mice — does one "find"

It's the getting on and off...



WHO can grumble now if deprived of his warm comfortable panda and made to pedal or even, say it softly, walk on duty? The Chief, who has for some years excited the media by taking an early morning swim, now has them positively flowing over by pedalling to the pool. By dint of information received The Law intercepted Mr. Nightingale en route to the Training School before Christmas. Said he, after the usual pleasantries, "Riding is easy, it's the getting on and off that causes problems." There may be no truth in rumours that ponies and traps are to be issued to Divisional Commanders.

Best wishes for 1974 from the Home Secretary

I AM VERY PLEASED to have this opportunity to send a Christmas message to the Police Service.

During the past year I have come to appreciate more and more how much our whole way of life depends on the men and women prepared to do their duty, often in the most difficult circumstances, in the best traditions of our unrivalled police service. This year we have experienced violence for political ends in a way we have scarcely known before. This has put an additional strain on the police but their response, as I would have expected, has been magnificent.

If the past year, like every year, has had its special difficulties it has also brought its successes. Among these I find particularly encouraging the downward turn in the crime figures. While this gives us no cause for complacency or diminished effort it is its own tribute to the police service.

I thank you all most warmly for your past efforts and send you and your families my very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Retirements from the Special Constabulary



SPECIAL COMMANDANT C. T. Rainbird is to retire at the end of January. Mr. Rainbird joined during the General Strike of 1926 and later mounted armed guard on the Brentwood Cable and Wireless Station during the Munich crisis. Promoted Acting Special Sergeant at the start of the war he eventually rose to be Commandant in 1966. He is to be succeeded by Special Superintendent M. Giller.



THERE WAS almost a goodbye Mr Chips air about the function at Witham on 7th December to mark the retirement of Sam Willingale from the Special Constabulary.

Sam joined in 1939 and became a Sergeant in 1950. All his colleagues contributed towards the hand painted bowl presented by Special Superintendent M. Giller to mark Sam's 34 years as a Special. Mr and Mrs Willingale live at Goldhanger.

mice or get rid of them, after all they do lurk about in small places — and they advised the employment of a cat.

So a character called Tiger took up residence and was put on the payroll, so to speak, amid the full glare of local and even national press publicity. That he devoured more sandwiches than had the mice could be overlooked

but when he was taken short in the Detective Chief Inspector's office an "either he goes or I do" situation led to pussie's departure.

A sad little tale at this time of year and one which indicates the futility of any attempts to bring back the cat.

But finally, information

Law about a senior detective officer involved in case of homicide — in a professional capacity, of course.

It would seem that he was due to meet other officers at the local mortuary but arriving to find himself alone came up on his radio, saying, "There's no sign of life

Away from it all

Inspector Dusty Miller his family, aircraft from Grays Prosecution permitting, to South Section is taking a breather Australia to visit friends, for from his paper work this approximately three months, month and ducking out of having obtained leave of the rat race. absence.

With petrol rationing saga of his adventures on his looming over our heads and return, which we hope to

PITY THE POOR PANDA

THE PANDA system, taking the Service as a whole, is in disrepute. After less than a decade it has been found less than ideal and in some areas is being shelved.

Announcing that in Sussex unit beat policing will cease in February, their force newspaper, "Patrol", remarks that "for many a long day the public have cried out for the return of the Bobby on the beat... the Police have always acknowledged that their presence on foot is the best form of deterrent to would be thieves...". oft repeated old saws, for which, no doubt, "Patrol" would not claim authorship. But are they true?

The "public" is a vast conglomerate and one should always be wary of attributing to them any one voice or opinion. Three-quarters of them could probably not care less whether policemen are on foot, or on two wheels or four so long as they can find them when they want them — some have good reason not to seek them anyway. In Essex some villagers have petitioned for the return of their Bobby and these cases make us wonder why he was taken away in the first place. Perhaps nothing ever happened there and the villagers merely want the reassurance which the presence of a constable can give.

Townpeople in Essex do not daily beat upon the doors of police headquarters demanding foot patrols in the High Street.

And yet it has to be admitted that the character of the British Police would change radically if contact were lost with the public because the Service would cease to be part of the people. But panda cars and the unit beat scheme should not be lammed for moving the Police in this direction if, indeed, any such shift has occurred.

The scheme, ideally, should have had just the opposite effect. The level of police-public contact achieved on country beats was to be introduced into towns — backed up by panda cars and a personal radio system. But we suspect that the scheme never had a chance in many areas having been introduced willy nilly in face of serious manpower shortages. These meant that whereas the unit beat constable should have been left on his beat to make contact with the public, because there were no reserves, he was, in fact, taken away for escorts, court duty, panda driver, observation, crowd control training, and the rest. And because the panda drivers were too few they spent their time scuttling from one job to another never stopping to make contact as they were meant to.

So we cannot find it in our heart to blame the panda scheme. Neither should the Service take up embattled pro and anti panda positions on the issue. The cars and radios have been provided, perhaps with a little modification and a few more men the scheme will work well. Certainly, we understand, no county wide plans are afoot in Essex.

And what about the other old maxim about foot constables deterring potential villains — presumably also proceeding on foot? We have never fully accepted this. Who can measure what he prevents or deters? And bear in mind that during the panda era, crimes under £5 have been statistically abolished. They are no longer in the figures, making any attempt at measurement even less accurate.

On the other hand with more constables on foot and in contact with the public, all those statistical crimes which they never bothered to report while the panda borne Bobby belted by in his warm car, could knock the crime figures for six and give quite the wrong impression. But then, they can always bring back the pandas.

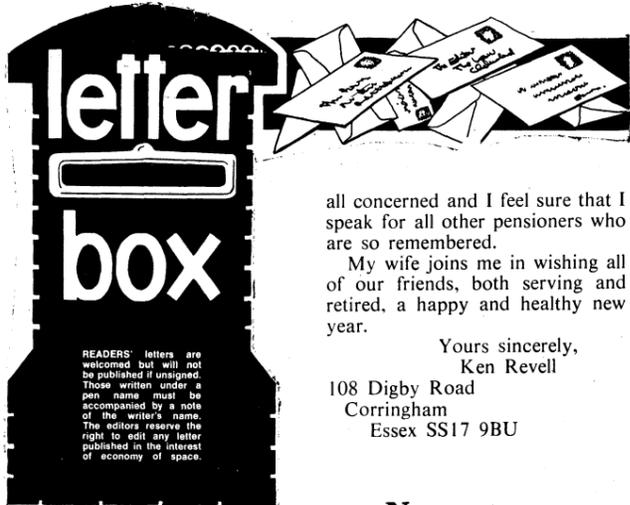
ENERGY GAP

DOES IT NOT seem strange that we must now refer to various forms of fuel as energy. No doubt this is a quite correct use of the word but this is not its normal everyday meaning. When Good King Wenceslas looked out he saw a poor man gathering not energy but winter fuel — he had to because the wind was cruel and this would not rhyme with energy.

Our administrative steersmen at headquarters have not been slow to jump on this modern, forward-looking, white-hot-technological bandwagon and the shoals of memoranda which have recently issued from their darker recesses have been all about energy, a characteristic they have not lacked in producing paperwork. And the use of this word has led to comic effects here and there.

For example divisional commanders have been charged with appointing an officer "to be responsible for the control of energy" in each building in their areas. We would imagine that the gov'nor's only problem here might be deciding upon which of his many highly qualified officers to appoint. And we note without comment that one of the appointee's tasks will be the "supervision of cleaners to ensure there is no unnecessary use of energy".

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.



Greetings cards appreciated

Dear Sir,
For the third consecutive year I have received a Christmas card from the serving members of Grays Division, Station of origin, South Ockendon, a station at which I did not serve.
My enquiries into the source have proved negative, but I believe the instigator is Bob Mead and no doubt he has a band of willing helpers as I understand that all Police Pensioners in the Grays Division are sent such cards for the festive season.

It is a practice which, so far as I know, was not followed when I was serving. I for one really appreciate both the gesture and the thought behind it and would like, through the columns of your Force newspaper, to express my thanks to

all concerned and I feel sure that I speak for all other pensioners who are so remembered.
My wife joins me in wishing all of our friends, both serving and retired, a happy and healthy new year.
Yours sincerely,
Ken Revell
108 Digby Road
Corringham
Essex SS17 9BU

Nowt ta say

Dear Sir,
I refer you to the recent edition of The Law (December) and the article from one of our most prolific writers. I mean, of course, our friend Mr. Brown.
My message to him is quite brief and originates from the land of my birth which is a little north of Essex. I quote, "If tha's got nowt worth talking about, shut up." To date Mr. Brown has said nothing which is worth a lot and I suggest that he takes the second part of the phrase and puts it into practice.
Yours faithfully,
L. G. ALCOCK P.c. 588
Stansted.

Thank you, Mr. Alcock. But on this particular subject we shall be pleased to do the same and consider the subject closed — all readers please note. But what is this place to the north of Essex? Is the Stour not the edge of civilisation? — Ed.

Wives Club programme

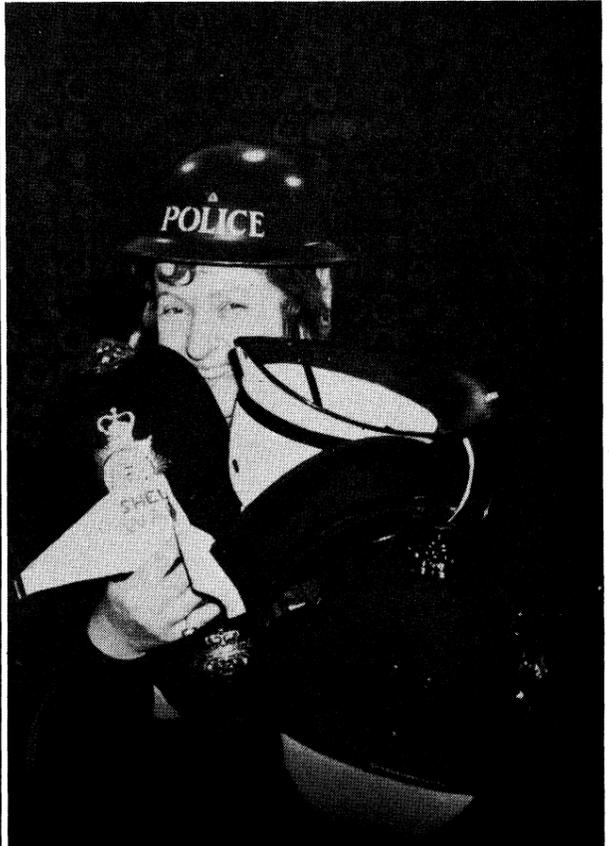
- LISTED BELOW is the Headquarters Police Wives' Club programme for early 1974
- JANUARY
 - 9th Beate Drive
 - 16th Call My Bluff
 - 23rd Miss Cotgrove — Cooking demonstration
 - 30th Show week — closed
 - FEBRUARY
 - 6th British Canals — Talk and film
 - 13th Rev. Wells — Talk about Springfield and the church
 - 20th Favourite Recipe evening
 - 27th Dunmow Fitch Bacon — Talk
 - MARCH
 - 6th Sports Evening
 - 13th Mrs. Bailes — using up raffia
 - 20th Citizens Advice Bureau — Talk
 - 27th Sports or Beate Drive
 - APRIL
 - 3rd Anniversary Dinner
 - 10th Easter
 - 17th Easter
- We meet at Police Headquarters on Wednesday evenings at 7.45 p.m. Any wife is welcome to join us.

Olde Tyme at HQ



HEADQUARTERS musical society got together before Christmas for an "Old Tyme" evening. Here Johnny Johnson performs under the eagle eye of chairman Jim Allen. This was a distinct change in the entertainment scene at HQ, this first time venture being organised by Roger Richardson, Derrick Thomas and members of Sports Club Entertainment Sub-Committee.
About 145 people were in attendance, many of whom were suitably dressed for the occasion. Bill of fare was simple but adequate in the form of a generous "ploughmans lunch." The programme was mainly vocal and was well received by the audience.
The star attraction was "Monte Ray" who in his heyday topped the bill at most of Britain's theatres. He was very ably accompanied by drummer Danny Levine, who like Monte starred for sometime with Gerald's orchestra. His pianist was Rita Ives, a very talented artiste. Others taking part were musical director Bryan Cass, Peter Fitzjohn, Doug Rampling, Clara Smith, Derrick Thomas, Pat Evans, Vera Bayliss, Wally Thurgood and Johnny Johnson. Lighting by Trevor Day.

Force history is worth preserving



"WHAT was it like being a policeman when you were young granddad?" No-one is interested in that. My memories are in my head; I've thrown out all my books and photographs, and we hadn't got room for my old helmet. It was all a load of rubbish.

Don't be like this former police officer and think that no-one is interested in the police force of yester-year. There must be a wealth of historically valuable material in existence, and if steps are not taken now to ensure its preservation then no-one in the future will know what it was like to have been a policeman in the former Essex County, Colchester Borough or Southend Borough Constabularies.

Some of us remember with regret the dissolution of the force museum and the distribution of its relics between the Chelmsford Borough Museum and the Essex Record Office. Just before the force undergoes another change of name seems an appropriate time to make an appeal to readers of "The Law."

Search the attic or the spare room and find what the uninitiated might condemn as rubbish: the old pocket books which weren't handed in; early copies of the force magazine; photographs of accidents when Traffic Division were 'courtesy cops'; handcuffs; truncheons; old helmets; cap badges; that closed neck tunic the dog has been sleeping on — in fact anything which provides an insight into police life and work in the past.

Maureen Scollan of the Cadet School staff would like to know just what is in existence, and if the response is as good as it is hoped then consideration will be given to collecting together such items to form a display which would be a source of interest and fascination to serving officers and members of the public alike.

National Association of Retired Police Officers

by Bert Brinkley

FORCE WELFARE FUNDS

The National Executive Council has circulated all Branches to encourage representation on the Force Welfare Fund Committee. Representation already exists in some parts and so far as our County is concerned we do not enjoy representation on the local Committee. However, so far as the Chelmsford Branch is concerned

we are kept informed of local happenings and several cases of widows that have been put forward have been very favourably dealt with. Liaison has been made with the Colchester and Southend Branches and when their replies are received the matter will be referred to the local Secretary (Sgt. Easlea) for consideration.

A correspondent (regular officer) in December issue of this publication asks: "Who is this Mr. Average?". The answer, or part, surely is to be found in the Advertisement on page 3 of the same issue — HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM to act as general manager etc., duties listed fall within four categories, JOINT SALARY about £1,800, with the proverbial carrot of a free house (tied cottage of course). The job favours an ex policeman naturally, but one would think that by now potential employers would at least get their priorities right. It so often happens that when we delve into the question we come up with the same answer — 'of course, you help out. Pensioners will know the

answer to that one.
In my postbag this week appeared a TP circulation dealing with the conserving of electricity in Police Buildings, this was an obvious missort by our civilian
Continued on Page 7

'Ten-four', and up to 115 m.p.h.

Stefan Labedzki describes an evening's routine patrol with officers of the Winston Salem Police Department

"IT is Saturday night in downtown Winston Salem. The September air is hot and humid and the air conditioner fitted to the 120 mph Dodge Patrol car, in which I am riding, is working overtime. The shirt on my back sticks to me with sweat.

A constant stream of messages drones over the personal radio, worn by my driver, an attractive young patrolwoman, Linda Petree, despatching other cars to burglaries, accidents and domestic disputes.

As we glide quietly through the city streets, groups of black youths, with 'high-stepper' shoes and braided hair, glare contemptuously as we pass.

I glance quickly at the .38 revolver on Miss Petree's gun belt and at the pump-action shot gun clipped between the car seats, wondering what the night will bring.

Armed robbery

Suddenly I am aware of the steady monotone of the radio operator. "Cars Ten, Twelve, forty two and six zero to Jackson and Fourth — armed robbery."

Linda punches the 'transmit' button on her set, "Car Six Zero — Ten Four."

Simultaneously she stamps on the accelerator and the massive eight cylinder automatic leaps forward.

At the next intersection my dainty driver flicks the steering wheel and spins the car round in a perfectly controlled slide.

We rocket away with blue lights flashing and siren yelping. Other traffic dives for the gutters as we

approach and our speed continues to increase.

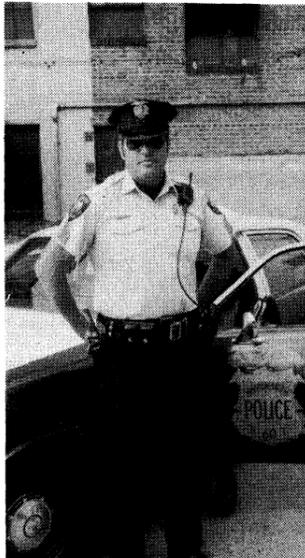
"How far away is this call?" I shout, pulling my seat belt tighter.

"About four miles," replies Linda, as we drift round a curve at 80 mph, with tyres screaming.

Now we are on a stretch of Interstate Highway, with our speedometer reading 115 mph, and I hear the radio operator acknowledging the arrival of two other units.

He relays the description of two armed youths in a red Chevrolet. As we leave the Interstate Highway I can see another Police car and an ambulance with flashing red lamps, also converging on the scene.

"Car Six Zero", calls the



Patrol Sergeant Ernest Yokley of Winston Salem Traffic Department.

operator, "Cancel your last call. Go to Liberty Street — Police Officer reports sound of gunfire."

"The natives are getting restless," jokes Linda, "It will be like this all night now."

We speed past the robbery scene where a small crowd is gathering and where a young man, presumably the victim, stands, illuminated by the slowly revolving blue lights, holding his head as he is questioned by a patrolman.

We are penetrating a predominantly black area of the city and we flash past timbered houses where families sit on dilapidated verandahs and where young barefooted children, even now, at midnight, are standing around in runny nose groups.

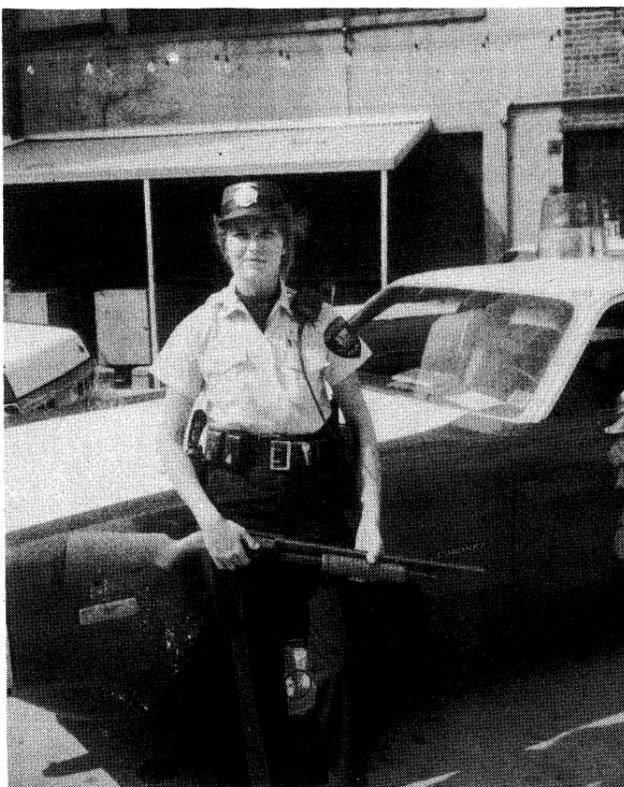
In Liberty Street a burly sergeant waves us down and explains that he has heard shots fired from one of three nearby houses.

Another patrol car arrives and parks alongside.

No hurry

I detect a certain lack of urgency and ask, "What do you do? Make enquiries at those houses?"

My query greeted with hoots of laughter and the burly sergeant says, "Hell no. These people are shooting guns all the time — either at one another or just to attract the police. One thing you don't do though is to go poking round someone's back yard or some drunk's likely to blow your darned head off."



Pistol packing Patrolwoman Linda Petree, first class pistol shot and Karate expert.

I sit back and reflect on what would be happening now if something similar had happened back home.

"Any car Liberty Street area" asks the operator, "suspect vehicle has just gone to the rear of the technical school."

"Six Zero — we'll take it," says Linda, and we screech away, running silent but with blue lights on.

As we enter the school grounds the suspect car, a purple Mustang with fancy wheels, is on its way out.

Grabbing a portable search light from the dashboard, Linda shines it in

the eyes of the driver, forcing him to stop.

"Keep the light on him," she says, handing me the lamp, and she circles round, approaching the suspect car from behind.

Police," she says, quickly checking that the rear seat did not conceal anybody, "this is private property. What are you doing here?"

The driver, a black youth, says, "I ain't doing nothin'. I thought it was a short cut."

"Let me see your licence," says Linda and the youth hands over his plastic covered licence which

contains his photograph and personal description.

Linda requests a computer check on car and driver, and, within seconds, receives a reply to the effect that details as given agree with State records and that the car belongs to the driver, who is not wanted or suspected.

Another patrol car arrives and checks the premises. All appears in order and the Mustang is allowed to go.

It is now 1 a.m. and, while Linda goes for her meal break, I continue to patrol in the other police car, with Sergeant Tommy Martin.

"Some girl, that Miss Petree," says Tommy. "She was top of her class in pursuit driving and she is a first class pistol shot and Karate expert. She generally patrols alone and answers exactly the same calls as the men. In fact I wish I had a few more men as keen and able as she is."

We spend the next couple of hours attending fights and fires and 'book' a couple of speeders with a 'radar gun' — a portable instrument you merely point at a passing, or approaching car, and squeeze a trigger to obtain a digital 'read-out' of its speed.

As 3 a.m. approaches and the air is still filled with the sound of sirens Tommy drops me off at the motel.

"Sorry it wasn't a little more exciting," he says. "You will have to come out on a Friday night if you want to see some action."

"You must be joking," I mutter, and, waving him farewell, walk shakily to my room."

What's on



Who's off

AS YOU ARE ALL AWARE, there are, within our ranks, certain members who have the power to examine motor vehicles to a higher degree. It was this thought that struck me when I happened upon a well-known character from Colchester Division, who was below a motor car in Headquarters Garage the other day. Apart from the fact that he is prone to lying beneath motor cars, from falling into their path at regular intervals, I considered why He of all people should be selected to examine.

THEN IT HIT ME . . . as a motor cyclist he can check anything wrecked by Super Bugle. We always knew he was a guv'nor's man . . . now we know.

However, since the Bugle has reverted to joining the amateur fuzzi we had a replacement, welcomed to the fold in the recent issue, namely Phil Carr.

We shall have to watch the progress of this one . . . He was out the other day doing what all motorcyclists do, when he had an

desire to spend a penny when in the sticks one generally crosses a ditch to a suitable field and there carries out what nature orders. Not our hero, who had such a desire, HE took his bike with him. I can see that we shall have to send him more detailed instructions from the manual of guidance — motor cycles are fitted with tanks. Still, Phil, don't let it get you down. Just answer one question, were you able to or not?

Apart from this one incident there has been nothing to record and I hope there will not be either.

Leaving all thoughts of unseatings behind I had words, the other day, about the new Triumphs and their gear ratios. It appears, from some of you that have them, that they tend to rev rather hard at the 70 range and just over. Well,

the garage have your interests at heart and the matter is being looked into and whatever transpires I shall inform you accordingly. On the whole, with one exception, the new bikes are riding well. The advantages of the five speed boxes have proved that any abnormal load can be dealt with quite easily. This can be borne out by Brian Waller from Southend who was escorting just such a load in Wickford the other day along Church End Road. As many of you are aware, there are several bends along this stretch of road and whilst Brian was round one of them, the load fell off. After about half an hour he suddenly realises that his load just ain't there where it ought to be. Rapidly recovering ground that he had just been over he returns to the scene of the matter

to find that the load, just a 60 TON CAT BULLDOZER rejoining its transporter. Surely, he thinks, there's an offence here somewhere and carried out what action he thought fit. He wouldn't tell me what he got out of it, either failing to set the handbrake, insecure load or no tax on the part of the bulldozer. Even the name of the firm was not forthcoming, but it sounds like . . . CROOKED SHERRIFF, or something like that.

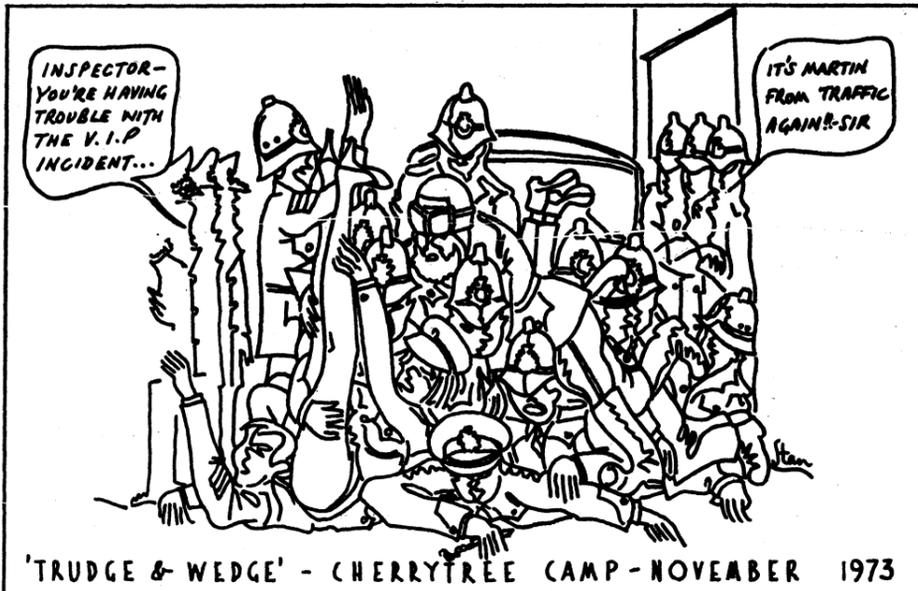
We had some fun the other day when we found Father Christmas on board a new type Triumph complete with flowing robes. The story starts when I thought that perhaps we could make up some Christmas cards for the lads. (Unfortunately it proved a little too expensive.) However, certain



photographs were taken by shakey hands WOODS of Driving School fame of the Yuletide lads and the motor bike. It should have been Jeff Hughes but the comment was, "Now look, whoever does it won't make any difference as they will all think it's you." Therefore IT IS ME and one such print is shown. Naturally I would like to show you all the remaining prints but I am under contract to Warner Bros. and I cannot do so, but if you happen to be in the vicinity of H.Q. anytime, just ask.

I suppose that the season of good will is back AGAIN and you will all be asked to do plenty of overtime with A SMILE ON YOUR FACE and when the Sergeant says: "Who will work Christmas Day?" jump forward

Of course at this time also you won't find too many lads out and about with the same enthusiasm. They can still be found here and there but in cars. I ask you what's the difference between taking a Section 6 in slung across your tank cowboy style or sitting in the back seat of a warm traffic car? The weather must have a lot to do with it as Derek 'Larynx' Lee was sighted travelling down the A12 the other day frantically trying to shake a frozen dew-drop from his nose. I even caught a glimpse of Container 'Paisley's' Long Johns, Mitch Martins tights, Super Bugles' Nose Muff, and to cap it all, Jeff Hughes has had a heated rear window device fitted to his visor. Mind you, my Sergeant was very good. The other day he said that I



AS MAD MITCH frequently appears in name in this column, writes Stan Day, I take this opportunity to place a visual appreciation of his success at the last all-divisional "punch-up" which took place on November 22.

Traffic Sub Divisions get a face

TURNING back to the series on new or extended buildings The Law this month features Traffic Division.

Traffic are fortunate in having work on two of their sub-divisions in the pipeline (and in the long term, plans for work on three other buildings) in one case still at an early stage as yet but in the other well advanced with a summer 1974 completion

target. This is at Harlow. For many years this area was policed from the station — a typical country establishment with courtroom and police houses adjoining — which stood beside the main London to Newmarket Road at Old Harlow.

The new town development not only drew the main road away from Harlow Village but also the

centre of operations and with the opening of a new station — itself since extended, how time flies — the old police station was left to Traffic Division.

Converted

The courtroom, with its parterre floor became a workshop, the cells were converted into stores and the dwellings in to offices. Crime squad moved in beside Traffic.

As the strength of the Traffic Sub-Division grew and the Divisional vehicle fleet increased, the premises became inadequate and a purpose-built Traffic Sub-Divisional station, workshop and garage for Harlow was introduced into the capital building programme.

No site

For a number of years unsuccessful attempts were

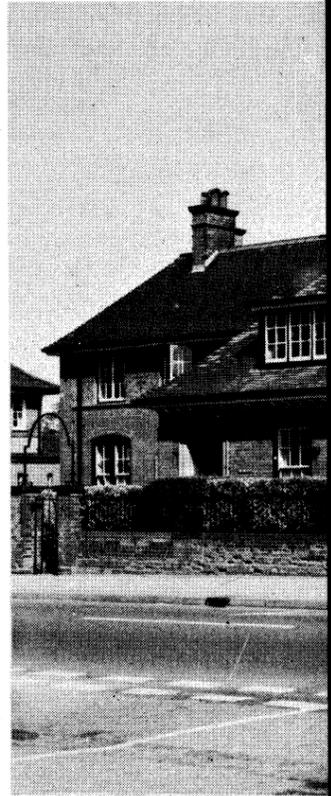
made to acquire a suitable location for the project but as the planned building date approached no site had been found. So the decision was taken to demolish the old station and use the site for a new complex.

The Sub-Division and Regional Crime Squad moved to temporary accommodation at North Weald and work commenced on the new building which

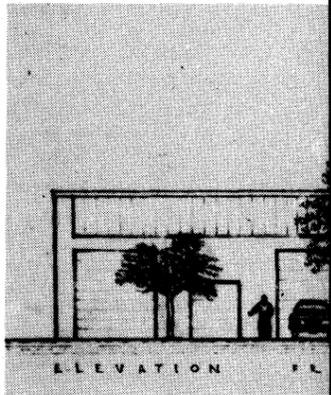
should be ready for occupation in July 1974.

The workshop element will consist of five maintenance bays, two car hoists, a turntable, stores and a large automatic car

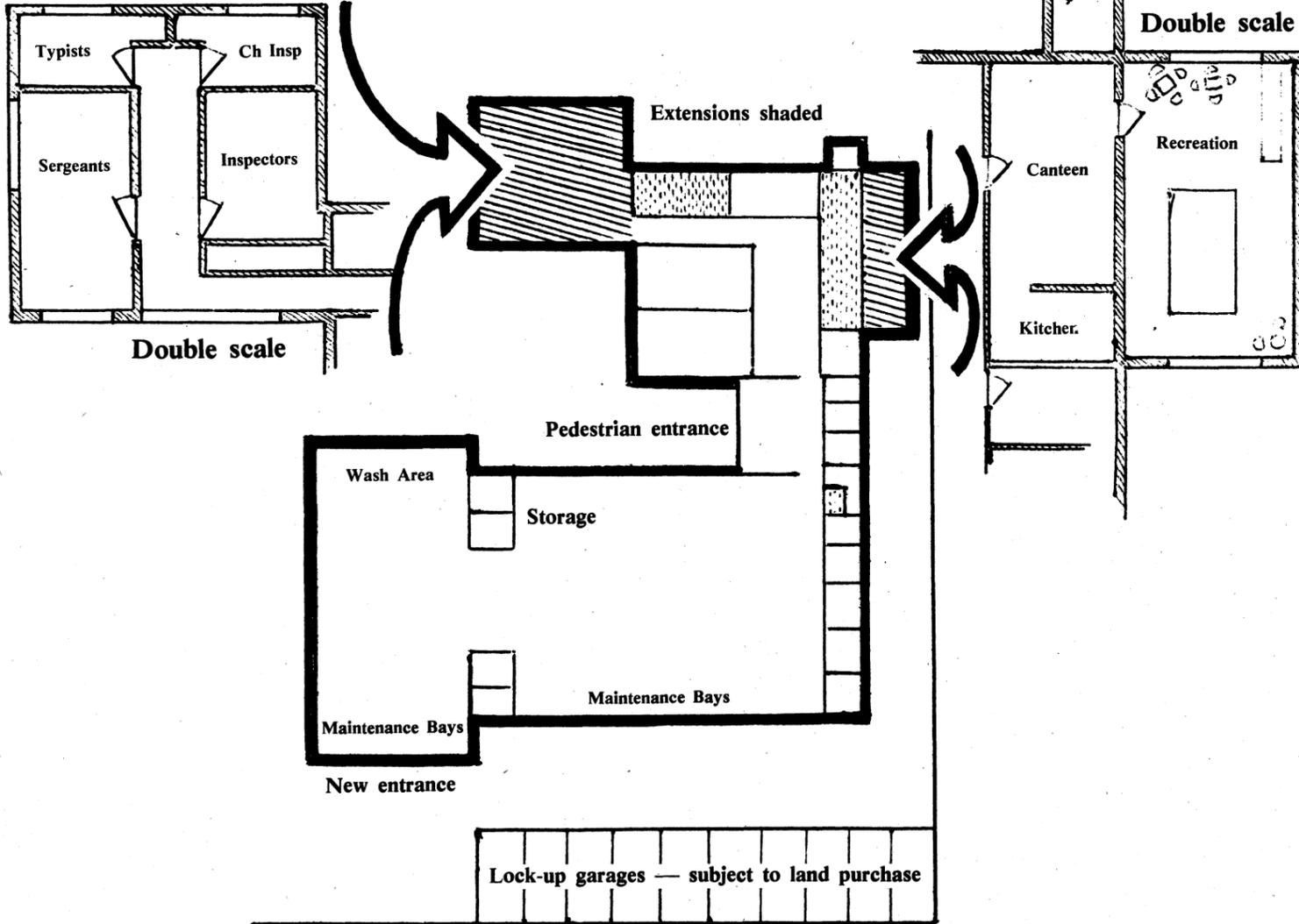
Old Harlow Po



Artist's impress



LAINDON TRAFFIC STATION



Panda



Supervisory



Traffic



Detached Beat (Rural)

If the Force becomes bicycle borne again—

HEARING THAT GERMAN POLICE HAVE TAKEN TO BIKES IN THE FUEL SHORT

News of Dan Hare's doings in Hong

HAVING flown back to Hong Kong recently after a fleeting visit to their daughter and her husband, Chief Inspector Danny Hare and his wife, Joan, once again take up the reins of normal living.

Hong Kong is a colony situated at the mouth of the Canton River, China, and covers an area of approximately 398 square miles. The population is about four and a half million, of which, Danny says, three and a half million are concentrated on Hong Kong Island and Kowloon. "The weather is very hot and very humid in summer," said Danny, "but the winter is just like an English spring."

Buying dogs

Danny is in England to buy twenty two dogs for the dog section of the Hong Kong Police, of which he is Dog Master or head of the dog training section and chief dog

Danny has an office on the Chinese border in Hong Kong Province at a place called Ping Shan (which means Tiny Hill), where he and Joan also live. The dog training section has a permanent staff of fifty-five and six students on courses. Each course lasts six weeks and there is always a course going on.

The only European in the Dog Unit is Danny, and he is in charge of not only the training school but also four sections.

Part-time job

Whilst Danny Hare leave his seemingly secure job as second in command of the Essex Police Dog

has a job with a refugee organisation, doing clerical for two and a half hours a day in order to relieve the monotony of being on her own.

Danny told The Law, "The Chinese refugees flood across the border. They have to swim the river in order to get across, but the Chinese border guards seem to do very little to stop them. In fact there is a very amicable situation, at the moment, on the border — which is just as well as Joan and I live so close to it."

Why did Danny Hare leave his seemingly secure job as second in command of the Essex Police Dog

Hong Kong?

"A difficult question," he said. "A bit of adventure really, I suppose. Financially it is a good thing. I am only seconded from Essex for three years basically. Fortunately I am paid by the Hong Kong Government, for I couldn't make ends meet if I had to rely on the pay I got in Essex. The cost of living is much higher there than it is in England, although one doesn't seem to notice it. Food is more expensive because most of it is imported from places like Australia. But radios and cameras are very cheap. The only trouble is that when you are hungry it is no

cameras. The food is no trouble. I like Chinese food. English food is easily obtainable and we even get corn flakes, the only difference is that the packet says they are made in Australia."

Interpreter

Before leaving Essex for Hong Kong Danny had served in the Essex Police Force for 22 years, spending 19 years as dog handler in charge. He says, not boastfully, "I can train dogs and their handlers anywhere, but trying to train handlers who do not speak English is difficult. In Hong Kong I have to train the handlers through an

language, it is hard and difficult work.

In Hong Kong we use, mainly, Alsatians for normal police work. So far I have trained only one dog to find opium, and that dog was a German breed — a Weimaraner. It has had great success, and I have just bought four Labradors which are to be used on narcotics work. There were 45 dogs used by Hong Kong Police when I arrived. We are going to raise the number to 90 and that is why I am in England now — I have just bought 22 more dogs.

The dog is very important

lift—and there's more to come

ash. In addition to office accommodation, a recreation room, canteen and kitchen are being provided. Because of the location of the premises in Old Harlow special design

features have been required so that the new building fits in with the character of the surrounding neighbourhood.

Laindon

The second Traffic Sub-

Divisional Headquarters, to receive attention is the Laindon Workshop and Garage. Alterations and work on an extension has already started and is aimed at increasing and improving office accommodation,

recreational and canteen facilities. A second phase of the planned improvements, to increase the vehicle circulation area and provide further lock-up garages which involves the acquisition of additional

land, has had to be deferred because negotiations over the land involved are incomplete.

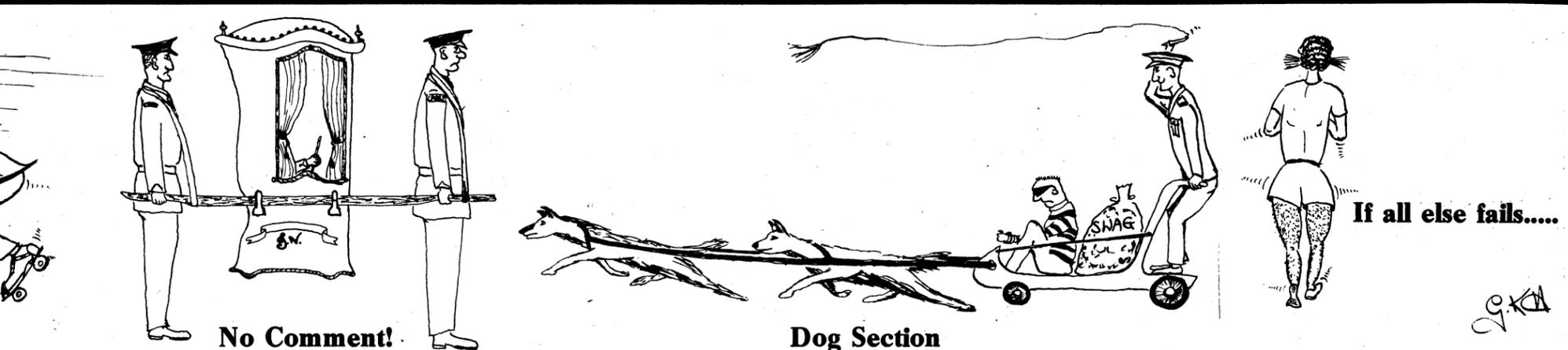
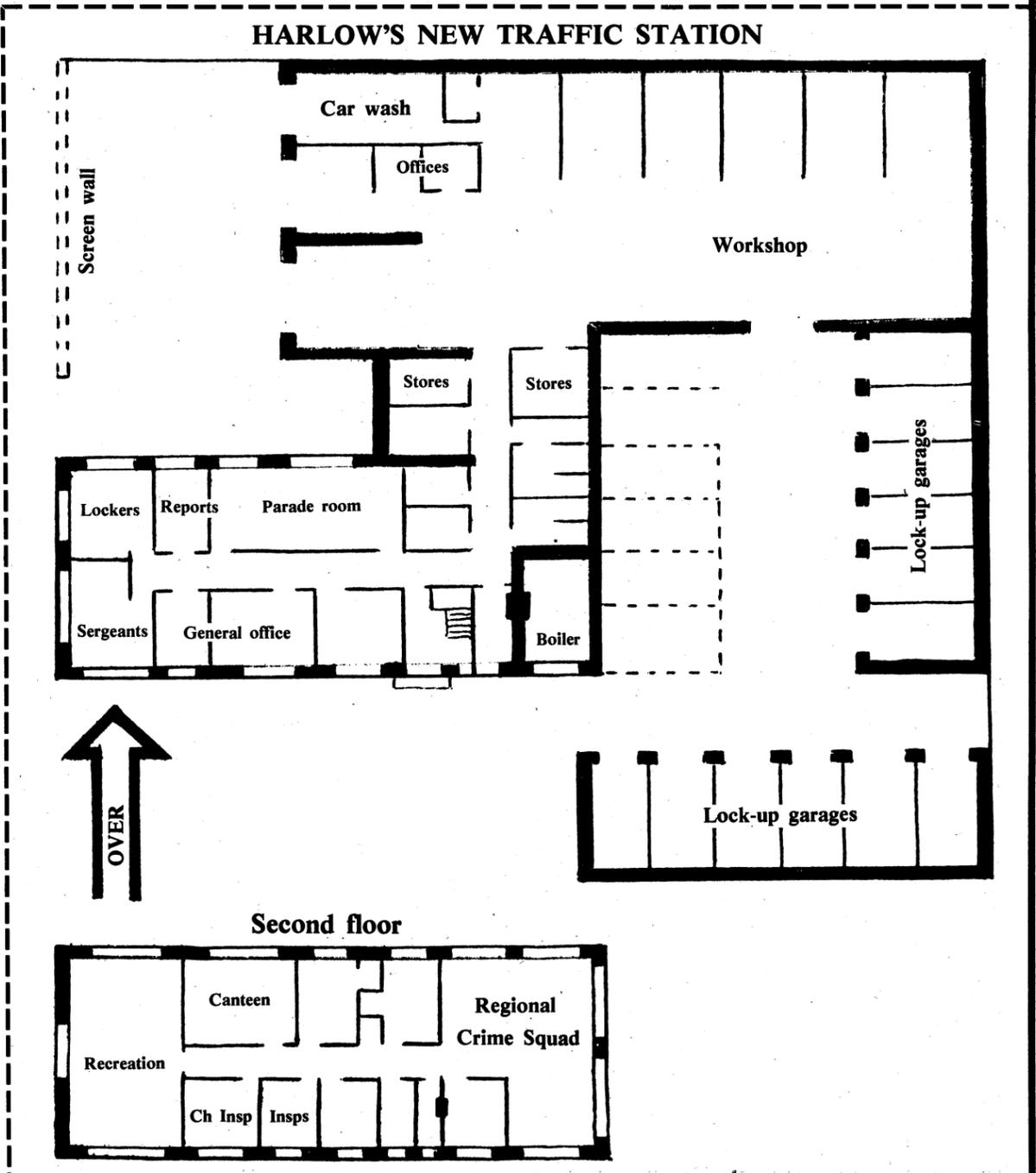
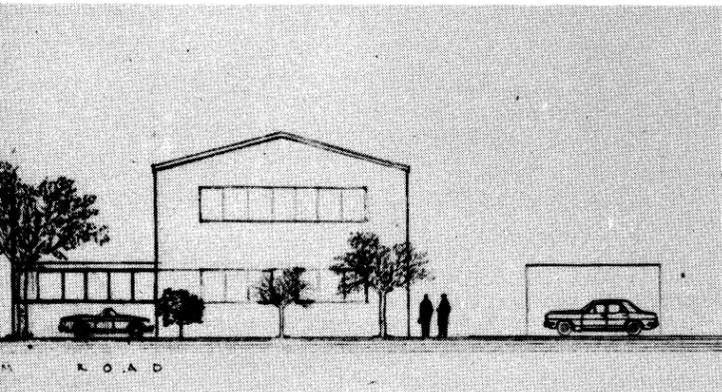
Looking to the future it is planned to extend the Traffic complex at Stanway, build a

new station, workshop and garage in the Southend area and provide purpose-built office and garage accommodation for the Chelmsford Traffic Sub-Division.

Station now demolished



Location of new Traffic premises



AGE CONSTABLE GRAHAM HARVEY PONDERES ON THE SAME SITUATION HERE

Kong

high in Hong Kong, and the Chinese have a very healthy respect for dogs, more so than Europeans."

Drug problem

Drugs are becoming, if they are not already, an international problem and Hong Kong is rife with the problem. Danny said, "The drugs in Hong Kong are believed to come from Siam and Thailand. We have a problem with their circulation, but the Police Narcotics Branch and the Preventive Service receive a lot of information on their use, and after

why dogs trained in the detection of drugs are so important."

Danny was asked, "The British people are against arming their police for fear that the country will become a shooting gallery. The Hong Kong Police are armed. How do you feel about carrying a firearm?" He replied, "The amount a firearm is used by police in Hong Kong is very little. I have only heard of two cases of one being used, and that is in two years." Danny went on, "I have to wear one as it is part of the uniform, but when I go on patrol I have greater faith in my dog as a deterrent than I have in my sidearm."

Danny has a problem with the Chinese language, although he is trying to learn it. One big problem is the name of his men. There are so many Lee's and suchlike that he overcame the problem by getting his men to answer to the name of

easier as all the dogs have English names.

Dan won the cup

When Princess Alexandra visited Hong Kong she presented Danny with the cup for the smartest section in the Hong Kong Police. What she did not bargain for was Danny being chased by a Saracen armoured car. The police use these, as well as tanks and helicopters, and the next to parade before the Princess was the mobile armoured section. The armoured car entered the arena early and chased Danny around the arena. To this day Danny is not sure whether the driver lost control of the vehicle, or whether he was upset that his section had not won the cup for the smartest section.

He regularly receives a copy of The Law and we hope, takes an interest in the Force and his old

THE HEAD OFFICE of NALGO organised a Residential Course for Police Authority Staff Representatives at Highgate House Conference Centre, at Creaton, Northants, from 16th to 18th November 1973.

I represented the Staff of this authority in my capacity as a member of the Sub-Branch Executive.

The timetable included a lecture, on the first evening, "NALGO as a Trade Union" by G. A. Drain, General Secretary.

On the Saturday Mr. W. R. Rankin, Local Government Service Conditions Officer NALGO, talked on "Collective Bargaining and Whitleyism" and "Local Government Reorganisation and Branch Machinery". Later Mr. T. Dewhurst, Chief Admin Officer to Kent Police, talked on that knotty subject, "Civilianisation."

NALGO Notes

By Doug Wheatley

Education Officer, made the introduction to group discussions which then proceeded separately. In the Sunday morning session groups "reported" and this was followed by an open forum chaired by W. R. Rankin.

As will be seen this was a very extensive and concentrated syllabus. As well as meeting our opposite numbers to exchange points of view some very good discussions took place. During the two discussion periods each group was asked to consider: recruitment of members; branch

members interests; members participation (including publicity, communications, education and NALGO facilities for members).

The most important points to emerge from the discussions were: a separate section of the "Purple" book for Police Authority Staffs is essential; all clerical and technical staffs in Police Authority employ are undergraded; same job — different forces — different grades; necessity for integration; a career structure.

The conclusion reached by all present was that those police authority staffs who were only members of a sub-branch of a County branch must persevere to attain branch status before 1 April 1974.

A very extensive and enlightening course and I am grateful for the opportunity to attend.

SPORT

Soccer squad go to the top

THE Force football team, having been eliminated from Police Cup competition, are obviously out to prove that they are better than their opponents in the Olympian League.

In their first match in the month of December they met Bowers, a team four places behind them in the table, when they played them at home.

Bettering the visiting team in all quarters of the field the Force won this match easily by four goals to nil.

Their next fixture was against Marconi at Marconi's ground when the opposition proved no match for the Force, losing the match by eight goals to nil. Scorers in this match were John Carpenter (3), John Cannon (2), Tony Bragg, Jock Gamble and John Weatherly (1 each).

Riding on the crest of a wave the team next travelled to Burnham where they played the second-in-the-league team in almost gale-force weather. Kicking into the wind the Force forwards were doing everything but scoring, hitting the woodwork and being denied by good keeping by the Burnham goalkeeper.

However, when the teams changed ends the story was slightly different and twice John Weatherly crossed the ball to be met by Carpenter, who scored first with his head and the second with his foot. This winning result pushed them up towards the top of the table.

In a match against Collier Row at Headquarters both teams were sadly disappointed by the standard of the refereeing. Needless to say after a comment like that, the game turned out to be quite a rough event with three players having their names taken and a bout of "fisticuffs" taking place on the field. However, the Force scored the only goal of the match through John Cannon in the second half, when he hit a fine shot from the edge of the penalty-area.

This result has put the Force top of the league, a position, which some players say, they cannot remember having occupied before.



JOHN CARPENTER, the only Cadet member of the Force Football team, and therefore the youngest member of the team, was asked to play for them after the Force selection committee saw his playing skills in a match between the Cadet Corps and the Force.

'Chippie' has been playing football all his life, representing all the schools he has attended, including Mayesbrook Comprehensive School, Dagenham, which had over 1,000 from which to pick their team.

He is not in the County team for the beer for although he has only played in three matches to the time of writing his goal tally has already reached five and he made two in his first match.

He has moulded in with the rest of the team quickly and is a popular and probably the fittest member of the team for he is always running and never gives up.

Olympian League

SENIOR SECTION

P. W. D. L. F. A. Pts.

Essex Police	15	9	3	3	36	12	21
Bentley	13	9	3	1	30	12	21
Brentwood	15	7	6	2	28	16	20
Sawbridgeworth	14	7	4	3	34	16	18
Burnham	14	7	4	3	28	14	18
Herongate	16	6	6	4	30	25	18
E.C.C.	15	5	7	3	33	27	17
Chad. Heath	9	7	1	1	24	11	15
Writtle	13	6	3	4	23	13	15
Bowers	14	6	3	5	28	25	15
Old Ch.	11	4	4	3	18	17	12
Runwell Hosp.	12	5	1	6	24	17	11
Ongar	14	3	4	7	21	29	10
Collier Row	13	3	2	8	23	24	8
Dunmow	15	2	3	10	21	50	7
Stortford Sw.	15	1	2	12	14	48	4
Marconi	16	1	2	13	12	70	4

Cadets still winning

UNLIKE the F.A. the Cadet Corps football programme has been curtailed due to the energy crisis.

However, they have received a visit from the City of London Cadet Corps when they contested a "friendly" football match. This was the Cadets' first and only match since their unfortunate defeat at Birmingham in the cup.

On a cold afternoon and after a scrappy start, Austin put Essex ahead with a well headed goal.

With the City pushing hard for an equaliser, Essex made a quick break and were awarded a free-kick. Austin pushed a low cross through which beat Gamman and a defender but left Carpenter to put the ball into the net.

A great solo effort by Harrison resulted in the winger putting Essex three up at half-time.

After the interval City found a great fighting spirit and pulled the score back to 3-2.

During the second half it was only the City goalkeeper, living a charmed life, who prevented Essex from increasing their lead even more.

After several attempts at goal by Gamman he finally got his name on the score sheet when City conceded a corner which was taken by Sear. A good cross well flighted found Gamman running powerfully in and he scored with a fine header.

This was the final goal in a game, played in good spirit and well refereed, resulting in an Essex win by four goals to two.

Athletics

NEXT summer's athletic programme is likely to be heavier than for several seasons past.

The section having been entered in the Southern Athletic League, the programme opens in early May with the first league match. This month will also include Force and Essex County Championship meetings.

In June the team will contest a league match, possibly at Chelmsford, Melbourne being the Police home track, on the 1st with the SE Region meeting on the 12th.

After this Southern Counties invitation, inter club and national police meetings fill the calendar until August.

Fixtures

May 11	— League, St. Albans
May 25	— Essex Championships
May 30	— Force Championships
June 1	— League, Chelmsford
June 12	— S.E. Region, Brighton. 1.
June 26	— Cadets v. Metro
June 29	— League, Brighton.



Mervyn Fairweather

Walking

League trophy presented

DECEMBER was not too good a month for itself but on the laurels won last year it gave a brief chance of glory.

The Essex League race on December 22, the last conflict of a year which has seen Police in nearly 100 races, was followed by the presentation of awards won during the 1973-74 League campaign.

Second individual award went to John Hedgethorpe for the second successive year and then the handsome team trophy, a statuette won by Essex walkers in Switzerland, was accepted on behalf of the team by Dennis Sheppard.

The race which preceded the ceremony was far from the most glorious police exploit of 1973. Though Sheppard recaptured his form to take the award for the first junior the rest of the team was sadly depleted or off form. This race is usually a holding operation when the team, afflicted by holidays and Christmas shopping, try not to give too much ground.

So the slip on overall league scores from 2nd to 3rd, fortunately by only a narrow margin, may not be too serious.

Two other races over odd distances, 7 1/4 miles and 15 kilometres stretched the rather small Police teams which took part. The former race was conducted as a yacht handicap, where the slowest goes off first to be chased by the faster men.

Gary Matthews hit the front late on and held off the others to win. And as if to back him up the team fought through to second place. But the 15 kilo race in Battersea Park was a high class affair and the distance a little out of season. All this added up to a bad time for Police who finished sixth of six teams through some personal best times resulted.

RESULTS

7 1/4 miles: Chigwell: 1.12.73.
1st G. Matthews 65.37 (actual time); 17th L. Berry and T. Williams, 67.23; 26th K. Mann 70.07; 36th M. Eldred 66.01; 39th J. Hedgethorpe, 66.25; team 2nd.
15 Kilos: Battersea: 15-12-73.
28th D. Sheppard 82.25; 30th J. Hedgethorpe 82.55; 37th L. Berry



Lou Mockett (Metro) individual trophy winner, left, and Denis Sheppard with the Essex League team trophy after the presentation on

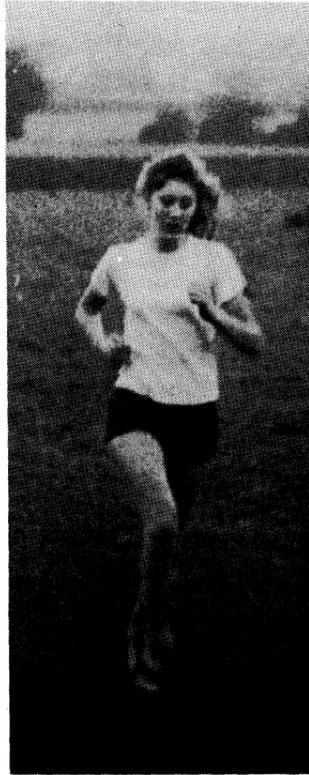
Poor field in Force title race

A DISGRACEFUL lack of interest marked the 5 miles Force Cross-Country Championships at Chelmsford on 19th December. It is certainly true that if Inspector Mike Blackwell of Colchester could bring along every able bodies man from his shift — on their rest day — to contest the race it is only lethargy which kept others away.

Ignoring those who stayed away, those who came had a good run. Clive Skingley, full of Christmas Pud, as were all the cadets after their festive luncheon two hours before, ran a steady race to gradually extend his advantage to 50 secs at the finish. He is a tough runner full of promise. So too is Kevin Nowell, though a big chap for cross-country, who got the better of Gary Matthews for second place.

Next home was Mervyn Fairweather, recapturing the Force title in the absence of Andy Down with newcomer Trevor Burdett, a swimmer who can run, under a minute behind.

After several fit young men came an equally fit Mike Blackwell still leading by example in 10th place. Indeed his example was enough to give Colchester victory over HQ, led by Keith Mann of the Support Unit, by 93 points to 27.



Julia Foster

T. Burdett, 33.54; 3rd M. Blackwell, 35.08; 4th J. Wilkins, 38.16; 5th P. Spurgeon, 39.43; 6th B. Daymond, 40.40; 7th K. Mann, 44.15; 8th K. Parker, 46.30.

Policewomen

1st A. Wade, 30.15; 2nd A. Turner and J. Websdell, 35.08.

Cadet placings

1st C. Skingley, 31.29; 2nd K. Nowell, 32.19; 3rd G. Matthews, 32.46; 4th P. Blois, 34.06; 5th L. Berry, 34.14; 6th M. Faulkner, 34.32; 7th A. King, 34.49; 8th P. Warriner, 35.55; 9th L. Reeve, 36.18, 10th W. Stephen, 36.30.

Women

1st J. Foster, 19.21; 2nd M. Hicks, 21.45; 3rd V. Beard, 22.27; 4th A. Crust, 22.38; 5th B. Burgin, 22.51; 6th B. Staddon, 23.27.

Force Positions

1st M. Fairweather, 33.08; 2nd



Just before the start of the Force Championship.

85.18; 47th K. Mann 89.41; team 6th.
10 Kilos: Chigwell: 22-12-73.
13th D. Sheppard 51.26; 27th J. Hedgethorpe 54.12; 36th L. Berry 56.48; 39th M. Faulkner 57.52; 43rd K. Mann 58.43; 50th B. Daymond 62.34; 55th R. Simmons 68.20; team 4th.
Essex League overall.
Woodford 437; Ilford 422; Police 411; Southend 388; Newham 281; Basildon 80.

Third place in country league

WITH the field depleted by petrol-panic Essex had a great chance to leap into the lead in the South East Region Police Cross Country league race at Maidstone, Kent, on December 5.

But the team seemed sadly off form and with David Dutton spectating because of injury they were just not strong enough to hold Herts and Sussex who finished in that order.

The tough Mote Park course, scene of two national police championships in recent years, and a full six miles (to say the least) seemed heavy going for the young Essex runners. Even Andy Down had to be content with second place, Surrey's Mick Wayland, who had lost their two previous league encounters this season, turning the tables by over a minute.

The girls race came first and was a straight Essex-Kent fight. When the runners re-appeared the first five were white shirted Essex girls, Shirley Keeble being first home in a good time for this course.

Only Clive Skingley was in touch with the front of the men's race, taking 13th place. The rest of

Winter win for cricketers

ESSEX POLICE Cricket team won the South East Region P.A.A. Cricket Cup in December following a game that was not played in September.

The story is that Kent were due to play Essex in the South East Region Final in September, but refused to do so, saying "they," could not obtain a ground". Essex appealed to the P.A.A. Cricket Committee who held that Kent should concede the final to Essex. The committee went on to say that what probably swayed the final to Essex was that "Kent played an inter-Divisional final on a day and on a ground they said they could not obtain for the P.A.A. Final".

Essex are still awaiting the Cup for yet another celebration, having already celebrated their great win in the six a side P.A.A. Competition.

Shooting

IN Round One of the P.A.A. Pistol Shooting Competition the Force 'A' team beat York and N.E. Yorks 'A' team 488-324. The 'B' team beat Dumbarton 'A' team 436-277.

In the second round the Force 'A' team reached a score of 503, the first time an Essex team has passed the figure of 500, and the 'B' team scored 448.

The Force handicap competition has reached round two with Brooks and Nisbett leading the League Table with three points each. The remainder of the field are close behind and the competition is still wide open.

The N.S.R.A. Winter Pistol League saw Staff Division drawn against Maidstone 'B' who took the match by two points, the scores being Staff Division 604-Maidstone 'B' 606.

Congratulations are due to John Watson and John Sutton who finished 1st and 2nd in Division 4 of the P.A.A. Individual League. The same pair (in reverse order) finished first and third in Class 'C' of the Essex County Centre Fire Championships of 6th October, 1973.

PISTOL LEAGUE

IN THE first round of the PAA Winter League, Essex Police beat Bristol in Division 3 — 571 to 556. Individual scores were as follows: R. F. Wolton 96, M. Brangham 96, R. Sanderson 96, G. Breeding 95, M. Hyde 96, C. Snow 92, G. Harvey 90. Unfortunately, Chief Inspector Smith's card went astray on route from Southend to Colchester and has never been seen since.

In the second round Essex lost to Fife 'A' 582-585. Individual scores were as follows: R. F. Wolton 97, M. Brangham 99, R. Sanderson 96, G. Breeding 98, M. Hyde 95, C. Snow 97, G. Harvey 90, J. Smith 89. Current position in Division III is fourth.

placing between 24th and 39th, but were just too far back to repeat last month's win.

Essex now stand second to Sussex overall, but lead the women's table.

Force placings

Men — 6 miles: 2nd A. Down, 30.54; 13th C. Skingley, 34.40; 24th P. Blois, 36.08; 25th G. Matthews, 36.16; 27th K. Nowell, 36.24; 28th M. Fairweather, 36.38; 29th A. King, 36.58; 35th J. Carpenter, 37.36; 36th M. Faulkner, 37.44; 37th T. Williams, 37.44; 38th P. Gamman, 38.38; 39th M. Sear, 38.38; 43rd L. Austin, 41.50; 44th M. Eldred, 42.00; 47th L. Berry, 43.12.

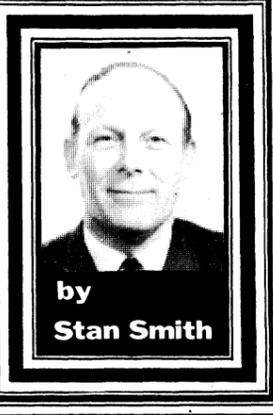
Women — 2 1/2 miles: 1st S. Keeble, 17.03; 2nd M. Hicks, 17.17; 3rd J. Foster 17.45; 4th A. Crust, 18.16; 5th B. Burgin 18.30.

Teams

Men: 1 Herts 285; 2 Sussex 278; 3 Essex 245; 4 Kent 243; 5 Thames Valley 150; 6 City of London 120; 7 Surrey 109; 8 Hants 44

Federation

Notes



by Stan Smith

DESPITE my plea for co-operation from owner-occupiers to send details of their rent allowance, only a handful have bothered to comply. At their meeting at the end of January the Joint Branch Board will be required to state their position on whether the new rent allowance formula will apply to this Force and because the information at Headquarters does not cover all the points which are required before a sensible decision can be taken, I need to have all the information quickly in order to be able to present to the Board statistics from which an assessment can be made. I had hoped to be half way through the preparation of a report by Christmas but it now seems touch and go whether I can get the job done in time. Come along you shower — pull your fingers out and take the two minutes that is necessary to put the information I require down on paper, or you may find that a decision is taken on your behalf which does not represent your views. What I need is a small report covering the following points:— (1) The rateable value of your property (2) The date of the last valuation by the District Valuer for rent allowance purposes (3) Your present maximum limit to which you can rise (4) The sum produced by the multiplication of your rateable value by 1.64 with your rates and water rates payable added. (5) The District in which your house is situated. PLEASE LET ME HAVE THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

It would appear that many Officers who are at or above the present Force maximum limit do not think that the new system will affect them in any way, but from talking to a few people in this position I have found that they do not really appreciate the position so I will once again outline the situation.

You will all be aware that the Force maximum limit is set by the District Valuer's assessment of the RENTABLE Value of a chosen purpose-built Police Authority house to which the rates, both general and water, are added. This formula sets the maximum rent allowance which can be paid to any member of the Force irrespective of the magnitude of the property he owns. The reason for this upper limit is that the Police Authority cannot be expected to pay a rent allowance to a member which is in excess of that which it costs them to house a police officer. This exercise is performed at intervals not more frequent than two years between valuations.

When a member occupies his own property this is then assessed by the local District Valuer in exactly the same way as that for the selected police house. The general and water rates are added and the sum is then the occupier's upper limit, but, of course, he cannot exceed the amount set as the Force maximum. This property is revalued at three year intervals and an adjustment is made in the officer's favour giving him arrears back to his last assessment or valuation based upon the new upper limit gained from the recent assessment, conditional, of course, on the prevailing Force limit during those three years, so that if the Force maximum was raised since his last assessment the occupier will receive arrears calculated on the two maximum limits. Any adjustment in rent allowance due from extensions or modifications improving the premises are taken into account from the date when the alterations were notified to the local rating authority.

The difficulties experienced all over the Country by reason of waiting for District Valuers to make their triennial assessment; the inability to make an appeal against an unrealistic assessment; and the widely varying assessments made by different Valuers on identical property have brought about a desire to obtain a simpler and more equitable system and the Metropolitan Police have recently agreed to a system which has now been introduced into that Force and which is being recommended for adoption in all Forces.

In this system the purpose built or agreed house is assessed every two years in the same manner in order to find the Force maximum and to set the base from which calculations can be made at once applicable to every owner-occupied property within that Force. One major difference is that there can be no arrears paid back to the last assessment as the new rates are payable immediately in line with the

date of reassessment of the Force maximum limit, and no individual visit by the District Valuer is needed for each house.

In plain words the formula to be used in calculation of rent allowance under the new system is to divide the RENTABLE VALUE of the agreed house by the RATEABLE VALUE of that same house, thus setting the 'Multiplier' to be used in all calculations for individual rent allowances. In this Force the 'Multiplier' is the figure 1.638 having been obtained by dividing the rentable value of the agreed house in Partridge Avenue, Chelmsford, which was assessed this year at £475 p.a.; by the rateable value of that house, which is £290 p.a. The Force multiplier therefore would be 1.638 if we go to three decimal places. So, in order to obtain one's personal maximum for rent allowance, multiply the rateable value of your house (this is the figure upon which your annual rates are based) by 1.638 add both general and water rates paid per annum and the resultant figure is the annual rent allowance upper limit for your property. For comparison purposes divide that figure by twelve to give you the monthly amount.

It will be seen that the RATEABLE VALUE of both the agreed house and one's own house now becomes the most vital factor in determining rent allowance. In future the agreed house will have to be most carefully chosen in order to be able to obtain the highest possible multiplier, and when a member purchases a house he will be able to determine at once how much rent allowance he will get for that property merely by referring to the rateable value and the rates paid.

It is already obvious from examples quoted to me that many of our members who live in low rated rural areas will not gain from the adoption of the new system, indeed one officer will have his upper limit reduced by £1.40p per week if it is adopted as it stands. Many others who although by calculation with the new formula will seem to be better off have not taken into account that they are already eighteen months or two years behind in having their properties reassessed and so could reliably bank upon having their rent allowance increased by as much as £2 a week upon their triennial assessment by the District Valuer. Remember that if this new system is adopted it will apply at once and their base from which future rent allowance calculations will be made would be frozen at the present level, and although there is a 'mark-time' clause whereby the old allowance will be paid if the new formula produces a lower figure, those adversely affected will be pegged down to a level below that which would have been payable under the system of an assessment on the 'rentable value' of their property.

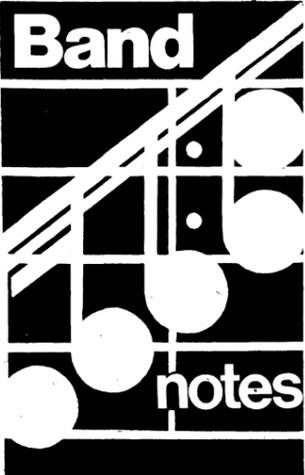
One question the Joint Branch Board will have to answer this month is — "How can you opt for the new system, even if it is simpler, if many of our members are going to be worse off as a result?" PLEASE — PUT PEN TO PAPER — NOW.

Pre-Retirement Course

Those of you with a fair bit of service will probably be interested in attending the Course designed to give as much information as possible on matters which will affect them in retirement. It is hoped that these Courses will be able to accommodate about thirty officers at a time and if there is sufficient demand it is hoped that several such courses will be held



Before the annual Christmas concert the Chief presented new instruments — and then went on to conduct the first piece of music.



Band notes by Harry Rossiter

Joint Force Types No 54 The Federation Man



So when the Super called me an idiot naturally I agreed with 'im — I'm no fool.

each year. I find it difficult to understand why the restriction of impending retirement by May 1975 is a necessary qualification to attend the first course. I would have thought that it would have been best to ascertain the demand for such a course in the first instance and then to grant places to those who have either expressed an intention or desire to retire in the near future taking into account the applicant's age and service. Who knows when one is about to retire? It depends upon one's circumstances and opportunities for future employment which might arise at any time. From speaking to many pensioners I realise that the timing of one's retirement is often very critical and it is best to keep an open mind on the actual date. There can be no doubt that, because of the present economic climate allied with the high cost of housing and increasing inflation, many police officers who would normally have considered retirement after twenty-five or thirty years' service are now seriously thinking of staying as long as they can and quite obviously to gain the most benefit from the course one should attend within a reasonable short time of retirement because many changes affecting the social, taxation and pension spheres will take place within the next few years.

Improvements in Conditions

One of the more important tasks of the Joint Branch Board is to constantly seek improvements in conditions within the Force. It is always better to look forward than back, but despite the unfavourable climate, the Board have been successful in a number of fields and will continue to work for the benefit of the members they serve.

At the recent meeting of the

Police Authority it was agreed that members of the Force will no longer pay for any article of uniform retained from the annual issue and instead of the rigid rule of having to hand every article of clothing back to the stores each year, they may either be disposed of by the individual member or handed in by the normal method at the member's discretion.

Another major benefit to officers will be that from 1 April 1974 there will be no charge made for the occupation of a garage on police property and the rates in respect of privately owned garages on police property will be paid by the Authority.

All local Councils will be urged by the Police Authority to take account of the difficulties of the police officer who has to serve where directed and the problems he faces in trying to obtain accommodation when retiring from the Service. It is hoped that this will make it easier to obtain housing

Continued from Page 2

staff, but one can see a certain amount of humour at a time such as this when one reads the instruction — No. 5. Supervision of cleaners to ensure there is no unnecessary use of energy.

During my 40 years service I must confess not having noticed anything approaching this instruction!

Subscriptions

Dare I mention once again, there are still several defaulters for 1973, no further individual reminders will be sent, so please, to whom it may concern, spread some goodwill during the festive season and get up to date.

Police Pensioners' Housing Association

This Branch of the Association's activity has been disappointing to say the least. At one time it appeared a series of self contained flatlets for elderly police pensioners would be of great benefit to members and would be capable of achievement at economic cost through Government subsidy. The Housing Finance Act has not only meant the effective end of subsidy for a group of people like ourselves, but also created a situation where having done all the work and met all the cost, local authorities assisting by merely making land available, would have the right to nominate 50 per cent of the tenants.

It is still hoped there will be a change in the provisions which will make possible a new start, so at the moment the work of the Housing Association has been placed in abeyance. The funds of the Association are in a healthy position if and when further progress is possible.

In this connection and to get the original scheme off the ground some 3-4 years ago, the Chelmsford Branch donated the sum of £15.

AS THIS is the first for 1974, may I wish all supporters of the band a Happy New Year and better things to come in general and from the Essex Police Band in particular.

During December, 1973, we performed at two concerts. The first on Thursday, 13th, at Severalls Hospital to the aged patients during the afternoon. This really was a happy event and we quite enjoyed giving the concert. This concert is usually a job for an Army band from one of the regiments stationed in and around Colchester, but this year it was decided to invite us to do our stuff. The usual test was successful, that is we were asked to "please come again."

Now to the most important one, the annual Christmas concert at HQ during the evening of Wednesday, December 19, 1973. May I say a big "Thanks very

from the local councils than at present.

It will now be possible for those officers who use motor cars for duty purposes and for which they receive an allowance, to purchase a second-hand vehicle through the Authority's motor car loan scheme. Up until now the Authority have insisted that any car purchased under the scheme must be a new one, but the new ruling will permit an officer in this category to obtain a better type of car for about the same money he would have spent on a new one. This new ruling brings us in line with civilian employees.

Another important decision of the Authority is to extend their Mortgage Guarantee Scheme to members of the Force. This will help new owner-occupiers who have difficulty in obtaining a sufficiently high mortgage to

much" from our fans; it was standing room only and a very successful and happy event. Before the proceedings the chief presented new instruments to various members of the band, including four cornets, a flugel horn and a tenor horn. He also conducted the first item which was the Radetsky March by Strauss. Then followed some carols, some items rendered very nicely by the Rainsford Comprehensive School choir and other numbers from the band. Phyllis Prior, sister of our worthy bandmaster George, also entertained us at the piano and in all, a very enjoyable evening was had by all present including the band. A resume of the year's activities will be appearing in the next issue of the magazine due out shortly. From this you will see that we have certainly been around the county: Grays, Tiptree, Colchester, Dunmow, Braintree, Witham, to name a few. Our next engagement is at the Civic Theatre, Chelmsford, on Monday, January 21, 1974, and promises to be interesting. So please come along and throw something, if you must but do please come.

Once again, if anyone is interested in "joining," every Wednesday evening at Assembly Hall HQ (if we aren't out playing somewhere) or write to our hard-working Secretary, Sgt. Jack Ripley, of HQ Driving School. As I said before, don't pester the life out of him he has a lot to do but new members will certainly be welcomed.

So once again, happy 1974 to all our listeners and once again our thanks to all kind and generous friends who donated towards our new instruments. When the other instruments have been bought, I'll let you know. Good listening.

purchase a house as the Authority will guarantee to the Building Society the difference between the amount they will advance on a particular house and the purchase price of the property. This will only apply to mortgages up to £12,500 in value and it should be remembered that the full mortgage on the purchase price will still have to be met. No money passes hands between the Authority and the Building Society, they merely guarantee the difference. There are, of course, certain safeguards the Authority have to take but this scheme will assist those officers who have difficulty in finding the deposit.

The sum of £88,000 has been allocated for the modernisation of police houses in 1974/75 and it is hoped that this process will continue despite the cut back in Government expenditure.

TRAFFIC DIV TO DINE & DANCE

TRAFFIC DIVISION will hold their DINNER DANCE on 21st February at Chelmsford's CHANCELLOR HALL. Tickets are £2.75 and may be obtained by ex-members of the Division through contact with Peter Colbert, HQ Traffic.

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had my normal late turn cancelled and that I was now to drive a car 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thinking that he loved me and was interested in my welfare, I went to give him a kiss and he said, "Shove off, you twit. I'm short of car drivers this week and I've got no choice." NICE. I suppose that I could not complain too much because little things told me that it was getting colder. One thing... the time of the year, two the penguins in my bread bin and the polar bear trying to get on my bike in the garage. The Sergeant hesitated before selecting the car I was to drive and I, foolish lad, thought he was selecting the one with the best heater. This was not so, he was sorting out the oldest and in his own words "It won't look so bad when you try to kick it over and put scratch marks down the offside." Nevertheless it was a great four days whilst it lasted. Riding shotgun with me was the Sheikh of the A12. Dave 'Skid' nee Goings-thin-on-top Hicks. I think of him as the Sheikh because he falls over laughing at the mention of oil on the A12... BOOM BOOM. Still we are back on two wheels again now and I am trying very hard to get rid of the cracks that have appeared in my boots as they dried out stuffed up the vent of the car heater. That's my complaint, but you should see Dave's, he's got sun-burnt feet.

There were no complaints from the AA or the RAC so we couldn't have been that bad. One thing that does go through my mind was an incident that took place whilst on

patrol with Dave and that was... Once upon a time we were travelling along and sighted on a large car park, two Panda cars with crews that were obviously engaged in some conversation with each other. Look says Dave, BABY FUZZ, let's go and have a chat. Whereupon I drive towards the said Panda cars across the wide open spaces. As we drew near to these chaps, Dave, who wanted to appear friendly, decided to give the blue light a quick flip so they would know who we were. Bearing in mind this was about 1 a.m. in the morning, we bore down on the two cars. Quick as a FLASH Dave hit what he thought was the blue light button, but woe is me IT WAS THE TWO-TONE BUTTON. The result was PANDA-MONIUM. With a face that resembled the Wily-E-Coyote when confronted with the Road Runner, I made off as if on other business. If the lads concerned are reading this, all I can say is, sorry chaps, but the nearest Chemist for heart pills at that time of the night was opposite the Civic Centre!

Well, this will have to be the lot for another month and it remains for me to thank all those in the County who have been subjected to comments for their consideration and tolerance throughout the year. Also my thanks to the staff of 'The Law' for receiving this matter for printing and their very welcome assistance in the past twelve months. Therefore, to one and all, Regards for the New Year and keep smiling... and don't forget, if you want to be driven to drink, leave in someone else's car! See you all in the New Year.

The Law Shop

FOR SALE: BSA Daytona 500 cc twin, July 1973; 400 miles; absolutely new condition; cost £514, accept £360; owner emigrating. Ps Wicks, Chelmsford Town.

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NALGO members in Divisions are advised to transfer to the present police sub-branch as soon as possible and certainly before 1 April 1974. By doing so you are assured that only police staff matters are dealt with.

To you non-members of NALGO both at Headquarters and in Divisions, think again, and join. We officers of the sub-branch feel it a greater cause if we are speaking and negotiating for a strong membership rather than for a few. After all you do benefit from the harvest of our efforts, particularly over pay and conditions. If you require literature on "The Facts of NALGO" and "NALGO — Its Objects" please contact me as I am also your Education Officer.

Cadet Corps entertain at "Parents' Evening"

Poetic Warden has work published



TRAFFIC WARDEN 'Syd' Koenick stationed at Braintree is becoming a celebrity in his own right. He has been interested in poetry since he was 16 years and writing verse as a hobby in his spare time.

After hiding his light under a bushel for so long, his efforts became known to some of his colleagues and in 1972 they prevailed on him to approach a publisher. He got in touch with the Regency Press, the publishers of a quarterly anthology, and as a result three of his works entitled "26 Years After," "Memories" and "Age" were published in the Autumn Anthology which came off the press in November, 1973.

Syd is 47 years of age and joined the Traffic Wardens in May 1967 after trying his hand on the railways — passenger guard and station foreman, floor supervisor in a plastics factory and a stint "on the buses" as a conductor.

He is married with six children. One son, Lawrence, aged 20 years is currently serving in the 2nd Royal Anglian Regiment in Northern Ireland and was injured a short while ago in a stone throwing incident. A daughter, Renee, aged 18, is a telephone operator. Another son, Mark (one of twins) aged 17 years is serving as a boy seaman in the Royal Navy with HMS Whitby, recently on fishery protection duty off Iceland and party to a running incident. The other twin, Norman, is a maintenance engineer and there are two other children still at school.

Printed below is a poem by Syd Koenick, inspired no doubt, by his son's presence in the troubled province of Ulster.

The patriots are marching
Unfurled the banners fly
Singing songs of Ireland
And those about to die.

The Mother hides her baby
And Father locks the door
The patriots are marching
And no one's safe no more

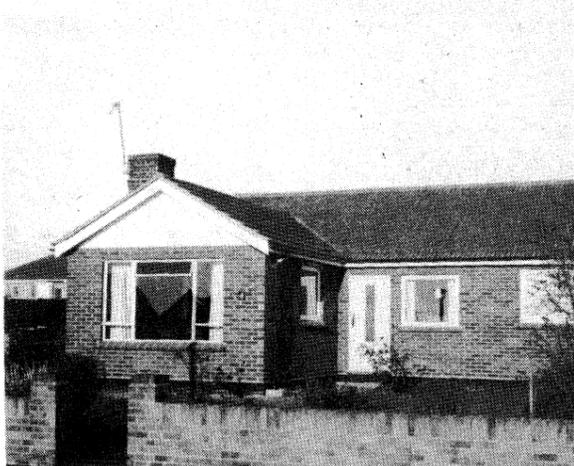
The patriots are marching
The bombers in advance
With beret, gun and uniform
Come and join the dance

'Tis right to kill for Ireland
The land that we adore
The patriots are marching
And no one's safe no more

The patriots are marching
The dead and maimed among
Because they would not join the
dance

Or sing the songs they sung
So sing the songs of Ireland
Her shame for ever more
The patriots are marching
And no one's safe no more.

YOUR HELP NEEDED



UNUSUAL it may be for The Law to advertise real estate but this is a special case.

Older members of the Force will remember Jim Haywood who was Inspector at Colchester when he retired in 1967. He went to live at Clacton where he worked for a firm of solicitors. But in May 1973 Jim had to retire again because he was ill and became almost totally blind. He has to be helped across the road.

For many years Jim Haywood was the Sergeant at Brightlingsea and he has married daughters and son living there. So he has bought a bungalow in the town to be near them. But he could only do that through an expensive bridging loan and now he must sell his bungalow at Newport Drive, Great Clacton, as quickly as possible.

It stands on a corner site and consists of kitchen, lounge, 3 bedrooms and bathroom. All fitted carpets are included and floors are tiled throughout. The good sized garden contains a shed and brick garage. Rates £50.95, water rate £6 per half year; price £12,750.

Any help readers can give an old colleague will be greatly appreciated by Jim Haywood who can be contacted by telephone at Clacton 23742. If you know anyone who wants to buy a bungalow at Clacton, put 'em in touch with Jim.

THE CADET CORPS parents evening manifested itself — like a self-perpetuating monster — on 13th December when the audience, made up of senior officers and cadets' parents, some of those present falling into both categories, were addressed by the Chief Constable.

The Commandant opened the proceedings by waving a storm lantern to reassure the audience should total darkness descend. He introduced The Chief, and the Cadet Tutor, Mr. Roger Jordan, who reviewed the educational year.

Prizewinners

After the speeches the Chief Constable presented book prizes for good work in the educational field and cups to those who excelled in other activities.

Top award, that of Cadet of the Year went to Denis Sheppard who combined a three 'A' level educational programme with prominence in race walking circles. He was also a leading light in the cadet entertainment of both 1972 and 1973 and organised the 24-hour sponsored walk reported last month — which raised £500 for the Kelvedon Spastics Home. Denis joins the Force in late January.

Other prizewinners were:

Cups: Champion House — Crouch; Fitness Cups (boys) — P. Gamman; (girls) J. Foster; Kathleen Thomas Memorial Cup (field events) — T. Mildinhal (now Constable); Photography Cup — B. Burgin; Best Print Cup — I. Ellison; Art and Craft Cup — M. Faulkner.

Book prizes went to Stephen Reynolds — British Constitution,

AFTER presenting prizes and trophies the Chief Constable poses with cadet cup winners at the Cadet Corps Parents Evening on 13th December. From the left: Brenda Burgin (Camera Club best student), Paul Gamman (Fitness Cup), Denis Sheppard (Cadet of the Year), Ian Ellison (Captain, Champion House), Martin Faulkner (Art and Craft), Julia Foster (Fitness, Girls).



EVERY good revue includes trousers falling down. The cadets' entertainment brought about the debagging of Stuart Bines by Michele Hicks to the disapproval of a "member of staff" (Martin Fayle).

Statistics, Class prize; Catherine Donaldson — Sociology; Gary Franklin — Art; Graham Ferris — Metalwork; Pat Gubb — French; Michael Harrison — Economics; Andrew Odell — History; Martyn Fayle — Mathematics; Gary Matthews — Geography; Rosalind Beardwell — English and "Progress"; Robert Clarke — "Progress"; Stephen Youngman — Class Prize; and Denis Sheppard — English and Class Prize.

the justice was — about various cadets.

Cadet Chris Bragg describes the scene

Surprise, Surprise. The Cadets were seated pondering over which of the gathering to elect as servants for the rest of the group, when who should appear, but the Cadet School Staff.

Special mention should be made of Miss Scollan, the Matron and Mrs. Hedgethorne, each looking more delectable than a cheese and pickled onion sandwich.

The meal progressed when a violent interruption was heard. Was it a phantom bomber? No. It was Mr. Treasure, who, whilst exclaiming, "Freedom for the Welsh," managed to scatter a vast quantity of empty dinner plates across the floor.

Mr. Jordan, from the college, delighted everyone with his witticism and his unusual behaviour, as he ran around the tables, avoiding photographers.

Apart from the occasional mutter "Waiter there is some soup on my flie (or was it fly)" and "We expected at least Superintendents," the meal was enjoyed by everyone.

This auspicious occasion was concluded with a few poems from Mr. Hedgethorne, starring prominent cadets, poems we feel sure read whilst under the influence of the excellent table wine, or was it perhaps the soup.

Concert

Refreshments were followed by an entertainment devised and produced by the cadets with instrumental items and several songs and sketches in which the School staff were sent up. One must need to be a very odd character indeed to stand a chance of a posting to the Cadet School. Even the Chief Constable did not escape this year.

The staff, proceeding softly-softly, awaited their chance which came the next Wednesday when, after acting, with his colleagues, as waiter at the School Christmas luncheon, the Commandant delivered an after-lunch speech which included staff jingles — not by any means poetic, though

Cadet grabs thief and pat on back

THE CHIEF took the rare step last month of commending a cadet — Mick Beale then stationed at Basildon but now at Training School having been sworn in just before Christmas.

The cadet attended the scene of a road accident where property which had fallen from one of the cars involved, had been piled on a traffic island. Mick Beale noticed that the property included a portable radio.

Glancing over again a few minutes later he saw the radio was gone and a man walking hurriedly away with a bulge under his coat. Cadet Beale followed the man to a vehicle, saw a radio on the seat, and detained the man who was later fined for theft.



Promoted

LAINDON Traffic may be having a face-lift by way of an extension to the building, but you can bet their faces dropped when they heard the news that Jacqueline Scott who has been stationed there on traffic duties, is leaving on promotion to Sergeant.

Jacqueline transferred to Southend Eastern on New Years Day where moves are afoot consequent upon the retirement of Wps "Charlie" Charles.

