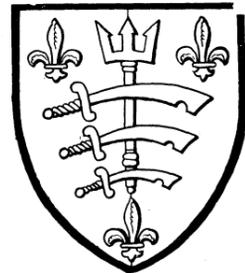


THE LAW

Number 59

February 1974



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

Ernie drags an unconscious man from blazing car



JUST before Christmas Sgt. Ernie Dark of Southend gave a total stranger a present he will cherish for ever — his life.

Sgt. Dark, who was off duty at the time, managed to pull a driver from his car seconds before it burst into flames.

Ernie told the Press: "I arrived just as an accident happened in Sutton Road, Rochford."

Mr. Hart's Volkswagen was in collision with another car and burst into flames on impact. He fell out of the door but his legs were still inside. He was unconscious.

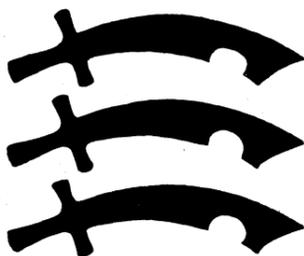
"The front of the car was a blazing inferno and I just managed to get him out before the whole car was engulfed in flames."

Mr. Hart, the driver of the Volkswagen later praised Sgt. Dark's "brave quick thinking action" and added: "Luckily I wasn't wearing a seat belt. If I had been the policeman would probably have been burnt trying to get me out."

Sgt. Dark's 11-year-old daughter, Janice, who was with him at the time, said: "I am very proud of my dad. He saved the man's life."

New Force emblem

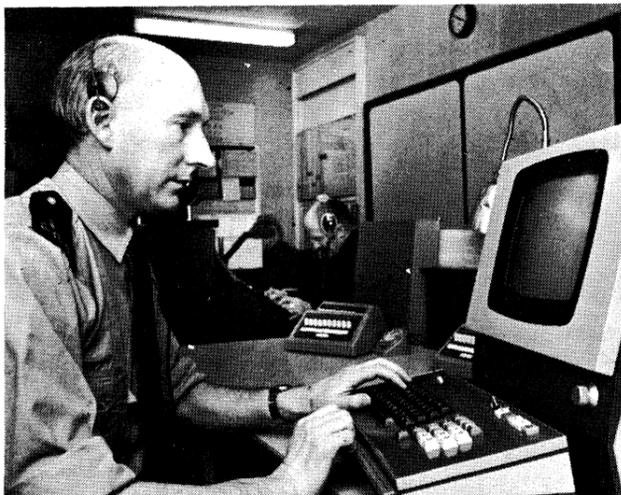
AFTER the new Essex County Council decided that their emblem after April 1 when new local government arrangements come into force, would be the three seaxes of Essex, floating, the new Essex Police Authority agreed on December 17 to follow suit.



But the new emblem will differ from the old in that instead of the seaxes being in diminishing order they will be floating and in parallel. This means that they will appear without a shield and will be all the same size. The seaxes will be

coloured red on stationery and white sign boards but may on suitable occasions appear white on a red ground.

Efforts are being made to have new helmet plates, badges and buttons ready for April 1.



COMPUTER LINKED UP

ALTHOUGH the starting date for the National Police Computer has been put back for three months the New Year saw the installation of the first three terminals of the initial allocation of seven, at Information Room.

The link up with the computer was made on January 1, 1974 with testing and training programmes.

When the Computer system becomes operational any officer who is in possession of a radio or has access to a telephone, can be put in contact with the terminal operator at Headquarters, to make any enquiry available on the computer.

What is a terminal? A V.D.U. or Visual Display Unit, in other words a television screen, an electronic typewriter and a teleprinter.

The request for information is received by the operator who calls the computer with a code. The information required is then typed on to the electronic writer and this comes up on the screen.

The computer then searches its memory banks and feeds the information back, again being recorded on the screen, and this is passed out to the enquirer by radio or telephone.

At present the computer is not working at full strength and will take up to a minute to give a reply but this will be speeded up in due course.

When the computer first becomes operational it will only be programmed to provide a Registered Owner index. On June 1 of this year it will have a record of stolen and suspect vehicles and in 1975 a programme of wanted and missing persons. It is envisaged that by 1976 a Nominal Index will be housed and in the following two years a memory bank of disqualified

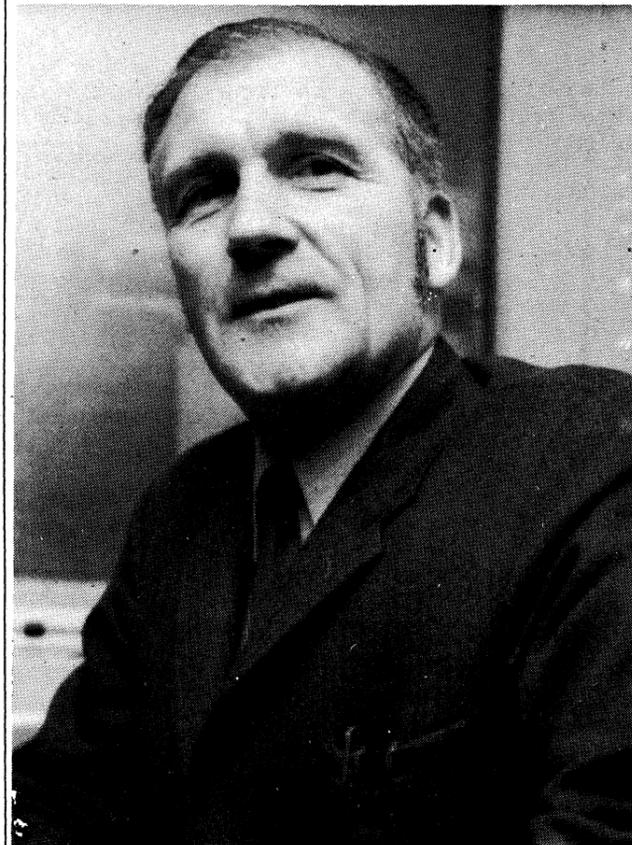
drivers will be completed.

Following these additions will be a property index but that will, apparently be the last of the priorities.

Superintendent Moore of Information Room has asked The Law to invite any Police Officer of the Force, who is visiting Headquarters and has an interest in the computer system to call at the Information Room where the system will be on view, but he added that the visitors should only come in ones and twos as the Information Room is hardly big enough to house those working there.

Our picture (by Essex Chronicle) shows P.c. Don Puxley operating the machine. Don retires next month after 26 years service — 23 of which have been with Communications.

Southend men on the ball



and in the money

TAKING a break from the Coroners' report forms P.c. Henry Christie of Southend has been practising putting his mark on other pieces of paper and has come up with a prize of £300.

Henry made a "fair cop" in the Southend Evening Echo Cross the Ball picture competition with a "near miss".

He told The Law: "I was very surprised when I was told of my win. However it has come at a most opportune moment. One of my

grandchildren is in urgent need of an operation for tonsils and adenoids but we have been told that there is a two-year waiting list under the National Health system. Now he will be able to have the operation as a private patient."

The rest of the money will be split up between the family.

This is not the first time the Christie family have had a win in this competition for Mrs. Christie has won two £10 consolation prizes for near misses.

Ian Goldsmith strikes gold



As a result of this win a little bit of "oneupmanship" has entered Southend Police Station.

P.c. Ian Goldsmith, of Southend Traffic Depart-

ment decided to have another go and came up clutching the golden egg.

However, just one week after Henry had his windfall

decided to have another go and came up clutching the golden egg.

He arrived home after duty to be told "You have won £5,000"

EDIVIEW

CALCULATING THE COST

AT LAST the Force has become cost conscious. The new Essex Police Authority took the step of allowing Force members to keep their old uniforms, if they wished, after hearing that sales of cast clothing in the past year brought in £956. But they also heard that the storeman who spends most of his time sorting out the mountains of cast-offs took home £1,242 in salary. And as there were other hidden costs involved in its collection it would be best to leave it where it was — cluttering up constables cupboards.

The real breakthrough in this small item is the recognition of the hidden costs of carrying out this sort of process. We would estimate that if all the time spent by policemen and civilians of various grades were calculated, all the vehicle mileage, all the storage space were costed, the total would make the storeman's salary seem pretty small beer.

And the fact that the Force now seems to be working on principles of cost effectiveness could cause all sorts of entrenched police practices to shake at the very foundations.

LONG HAND TAKES A LONG TIME

THE letter on this page about report writing raises several issues. Not least of these is the assertion that in the good old days reports were always submitted on time and correct. Supervising officers from those times might take another view.

Indeed if it is true that since civilians and mechanical aids became more widespread paper work has been more difficult to submit in a reasonable time there might be several reasons for this trend. Perhaps, simultaneously with the arrival of the aids, there was a paper work explosion. Perhaps constables are not very good at dictating reports. Inevitably there will be a time lag between dictation and the finished report being submitted. How much of the fault in this lies at the typists fingers? After all she only types what she is told.

We wonder what is wrong with handwritten reports in any case. Admittedly the manuscript of the letter from Colchester needed decyphering and correction before being printed and if this is an example of average paper work the two month time lag does not surprise us. But neatly written reports are quite adequate for most purposes. We do not see that the handwritten statement is less admissible as evidence than the back of a process card, since both can be completed at the time if circumstances allow and would not be if conditions did not permit.

And is more time therefore spent on report writing, as opposed to typing, than in the old days? We can remember constables doing one finger exercises on the battered parade room typewriter in years past when standards were set so high that a mistake — even an erasure — on the last line, meant starting again.

We cannot see that this is anything but a sensible attempt to cope with things as they are, as opposed to life as one would like it to be. Now if we went right back to the really good old days and insisted on copperplate handwriting . . .

THE EXODUS BEGINS

SOME retirements reported in this issue, and others not specifically mentioned, show that the large post war intake has begun to leave, in some cases with the bare 25 years' service necessary to qualify for a pension.

It seems odd that at a time of comparative recession in the outside world policemen are willing to throw everything up and launch into civilian life on the minimum pension. Can conditions be so bad in the Service? We would not have thought so. Is it not ironic that while one plank in the mineworkers' case is that more money is needed to halt the drift away from the pits, the police, who may occupy a key position if affairs come to a foreseeable point in the near future, are suffering from precisely the same problem — a rate of wastage which is hard to match with recruiting?

Is money the answer in either case? Probably not: neither the coal miner's nor the constable's lot is a particularly happy one, even at times when they are not confronting each other. The Police may even be contributing to their own troubles with such devices as resettlement courses.

The fact that policemen seem to be able to find other jobs, enabling them to retire, is a sign that the Service is held in esteem in some quarters.

NO POINT IN ASKING

AMID ALL the fuss over the remarks by the so-called self-confessed Communist leader of the mineworkers there lies hidden a remarkable compliment to the Police. This person said that if the miners struck and if troops were called in he would call upon the working men's sons among them to help the miners. What we noticed was that there was no talk of calling upon policemen who are sons of working men to be derelict in their duties. Presumably even a militant knows the futility of this.

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.

National Association of Retired Police Officers



by Bert Brinkley

Pensions (Increase) Act, 1971

This matter was reported in December issue of "The Law", a reply has now been received from Norman St. John-Stevas, M.P. enclosing a letter, in original, from Kenneth Baker of the Civil Service Department, Whitehall, the letter is reproduced below and needs no comment from me. Personally speaking, this is no more than was expected, however, we can take comfort in the fact that we at least "had a go" and obtained an assurance that the points raised would be borne in mind.

Dear Norman,

Your letter of November 29 has been passed to me for reply.

As the Prime Minister has already told the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council of the Civil Service, it has been decided that it will not be possible to give retrospective effect to the public service pensions measures now proposed so as to cover also those who retired during earlier periods of wage restraint.

I am afraid retrospective in superannuation matters is always difficult. In this particular case, although we appreciate that previous administrations failed to take action which might have been appropriate at the time, there is an additional very special difficulty. In principle it is wrong for Governments to introduce measures to mitigate the effects of their own incomes policies on public service pensions, which would not be equally available to employers in the private sector who might wish to take similar action. We therefore propose to change the Inland Revenue Code of Practice for approved occupational pension schemes to allow the private sector pension funds to take action comparable to that which we will be taking for public service pensioners retiring on or after January 1, 1973. But it is not possible to change the Code with retrospective effect. I fully understand the feelings of the pensioners involved, and can only assure you that we have not reached this conclusion without the most careful consideration.

We are very well aware that rapid inflation bears particularly hard on the pensioner. This was why in 1972 we amended the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971 to provide for annual rather than biannual reviews. By their nature cost of living figures are not available until some time after the event. With increases keeping in step with the cost of living it is inevitable that there should be a gap between the review period and the date of payment. I am afraid however that, the need for new legislation apart, the work involved in the making of many sets of regulations and the manpower required by the paying authorities to bring the new rates into operation is such that more frequent reviews present serious difficulties.

The introduction of annual reviews less than 2 years ago was hailed as a major step forward. I think it is too soon to contemplate any further change. Nevertheless I take the point which is being made and we shall be keeping an eye on this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Kenneth Baker

Force Welfare Funds

Replies have now been received from the Southend and Colchester Branches regarding representation on the Force Welfare Fund Committee as desired by our National Executive Council. The decisions are as follows:

Southend: Quite happy to leave the matter as at present; derive every satisfaction and consideration from the Force Welfare Officer and require no change or representation on the committee.

Colchester: Quite happy to leave the matter as at present, but as meetings are always held at Chelmsford would agree to representation by the Chelmsford Branch.

Chelmsford: See no need for representation. Always kept in

Twelve join Divisions



PHASE Three does not only apply to the Government Pay Policy. Seen during their "phase three" are the new members of the Force. Having completed their induction course, initial training and local procedure courses the new dozen have been posted to Divisions as shown below.

Basildon Division are, apparently, slightly embarrassed by the four "new arrivals" being left on their doorstep by the "police stork," because of lack of lodgings, but no doubt comfortable nests will be found for their fledglings.

Left to right, back row: Ken Ward (Grays), Dave McDowell (Rayleigh), Clive Butler (Colchester), Steve Golding (Basildon), Frances Ringer (Basildon), Nigel "Cuckoo" Cook (Southend). Front row: Brian Wilkins (Basildon), Tony "Titch" Hurrell (Basildon), Stephanie Hoskins (Grays), Dave Counsell (Harlow), Nick Padmore (Harlow), Derek "Rabbi" Sewell (Harlow).



READERS' letters are welcomed but will not be published if unsigned. Those written under a pen name must be accompanied by a note of the writer's name. The editors reserve the right to edit any letter published in the interest of economy of space.

Administrative errors

Dear Sir,

I refer to the item in the January issue regarding overpayments in wages to mechanics employed by the county. The payments as I understand it were made as a result of an administrative error. It was with great interest that I learned that the overpaid amount of £1,600 was to be written off so as not to cause hardship.

Very commendable!

Over a period of two years from 1969 to 1971 I was overpaid again because of an error. When the error was discovered by the Treasurer's department the money was demanded back as soon as possible with the ultimatum that some back pay owing to me at the time would be withheld as part payment. I did pay the sum back but fortunately on much better terms than were originally demanded.

I cannot recall the Treasurer considering whether any hardship would be caused or any suggestion by him that the matter would be written off.

Why then can £1,600 be written off and not a very much smaller sum? Why can one case be dealt with differently from another? Why

touch by Welfare Officer, who admits the greater part of his duties are concerned with pensioners and their widows.

If the committee feel that a pensioners' representative would be of assistance the Chelmsford Branch would be willing to nominate a member to serve on the committee.

Subscriptions

By way of reminder, Receipts are always issued for all monies received, but in order to conserve our postage they are forwarded with the first available quarterly bulletins. December quarter has not yet been received but should arrive any time now. Several members have asked what has happened to their subs, and receipt, so I hope this has cleared the air.



are civilian employees given more consideration than policemen?

Is it because the policeman has no effective way of answering back?

M. B. HICKS
Sergeant 364

A little late

Sir,

As the person responsible I note your criticism on the subject of the Force Headquarters telephone number. Although we knew well in advance that the number was to be changed the Post Office were not sure that the new number would work until they actually installed the first ones and we were not therefore able to publish the number in advance.

I thank you for drawing it to the attention of your readers, perhaps you will also bring it to the notice of your editorial staff who have printed the old number on the bottom right hand corner of page 8.

Yours sincerely

M. Moore
Supt, Comms.

Touche. Let him who is without sin — and all that stuff. Readers may turn to page 8 to see that we have now rectified the mistake, to quote our own words, "just a little late". — Ed.

Quiet life

Dear Sir,

In reply to your post-script in "letter box" in the January edition of The Law, I would say that whether or not the Stour is the edge of civilisation must be left for the individual to decide.

How pleasant it is to sit on the banks of the River Stour at Mistley, eating crab pate sandwiches and listening to the strains of Mr. Softie and "Cor Blimey" — 'arold 'ill style.

Hark! The colourful sounds of Indians making their way up river in "dug out." They will pass the picnic areas of Harwich Quay, Bathside, Gas House Creek, Wrabness prison with chain gang Ugh! Ughing!, Bradfield, they come into view now as they pass, the "Lady Dixon," Allied Brewery's maltings, Manningtree, the A137 Cattawade Bridge where after an aliens' check we bid them Bon Voyage.

The full delights of the Stour should not be exposed as visitors must seek for themselves, and with a smile and a chuckle see the local "bobby" in mini-van together with his collapsible cycle in the back, not to mention the cage for catching black panthers or straying swans.

At least the birds up here sing and don't croak.

Yours sincerely,
P.c. 1293 FOULDS
Misley.

Paper work

Dear Sir,

In the good old days when Policemen used to make out all their reports by hand or received a typewriter allowance everything was always correct and submitted on time. But in today's modern police force with the aids such as tape recorders and typing pools to do the policeman's ever increasing load of paper work things have changed. He is now able to spend more of his time fighting crime and not report writing.

That was so at Colchester until at the end of 1973 when it was found that reports were taking 2 months to get typed. Now the policemen are no longer on the beats but are hand writing all their reports including A57's, crime reports, VE/12/10's and all reports not going outside the county. The latest move has been that only the front of process cards are completed and a handwritten statement is attached giving the evidence. So no longer can a process card be used as notes made at the time and once again a good idea goes down the drain. The reason for the hand written statement is, you've guessed it, because if they want to serve documents under section 9 a statement doesn't have to be typed.

So what is next? More pens issued or back to typewriter allowances!! One thing is clear more time is having to be spent on report writing.

Mileage done

Dear Sir,

Doubtless the present restrictions — both voluntary and compulsory — have brought many amusing incidents.

Here is one from the message book at Ongar:

Serial No. 6/26.
From W.P.c. FALCONER, Epping.

"For the information of the Duty Sergeant, I was supposed to do a foot patrol in Ongar on January 29, but I am unable to do so as I have completed my mileage for the month."

My comment: Will the Finance Dept. be deducting 10% off the boot allowance?

G. W. DARBY, P.c. 99
Ah, yes, but we all know what she meant — or do we? We never seem to be able to complete our mileage for the month — on foot that is — so we offer our congratulations to Miss Falconer. — Ed.

HOT SEAT

A FLASH of lightning? Perhaps overheating from excessive use. Firemen were called, recently, to the hottest seat in Chelmsford, at the College of Further Education.

The seat of the fire was a "thunder box" or lavatory. The actual cause of the fire is unknown but Chelmsford Police are treating it as arson.

Do you sometimes wonder

... when you telephone to H.Q. on a matter of administration who it is you are talking to?

Or not so much "who" as what do they look like.

So this The Law guide to Headquarters Administration.



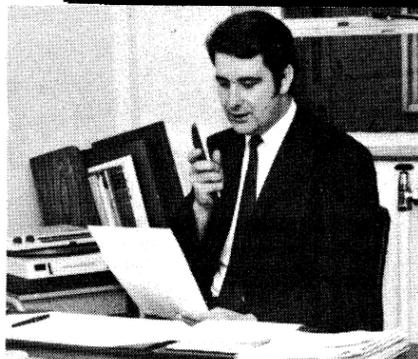
Mr. H. M. Taylor, A.C.C.(A) in charge of administrative matters throughout the Force. Transferred from Durham.



Mr. Thomas I. Abel, B.Sc., Chief Administration Officer to the Force. Another 'foreigner' from Durham, in charge of the paper factory.



Chief Inspector Malcolm Purvis. Staff Officer to the A.C.C.(A). Formally of Grays Division. Transferred from Newcastle City Police.



Mr. Ray Bowker, Head of Office Services. An ex-Police Cadet from Sheffield he is responsible for office equipment and furniture throughout the Force.



Mrs. Vivien Bainbridge, Head of Registry. Shortly leaving the fold for personal reasons. The post will still remain but no-one has yet been appointed to this position.



Mrs. Kay Bearman. Mail, Messenger and Reprographics Department. Member of the famous H.Q. Bearman family.



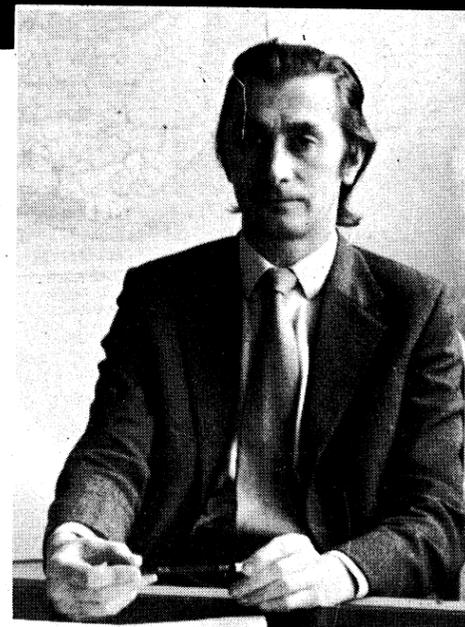
Mr. Michael Posnack, Senior Finance Officer to the Force. Controls the purse strings.



Mr. Bill Austin. Finance Officer and keen cricketer. Acts as umpire not only over financial matters but also for the cricket team.



Mr. Les Smith. Clothing Stores. Recently recovered from ill health. Ex-Police Officer ensuring that all present officers and uniformed civilians are fully clothed.



Mr. Peter Ware. Senior Administrative Officer for Property Management and Public Licensing. His hobby is his family!



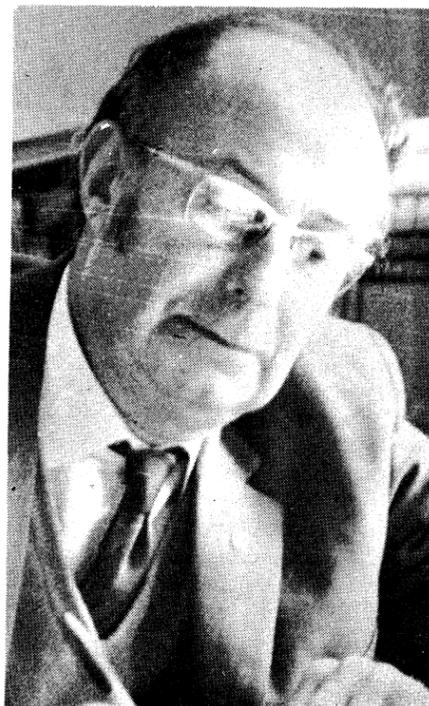
Mr. Colin Tant, Property Management. Keen amateur footballer and cricketer. Enjoys doing most things. Brother-in-law is Mervyn Day, first team goalkeeper for West Ham.



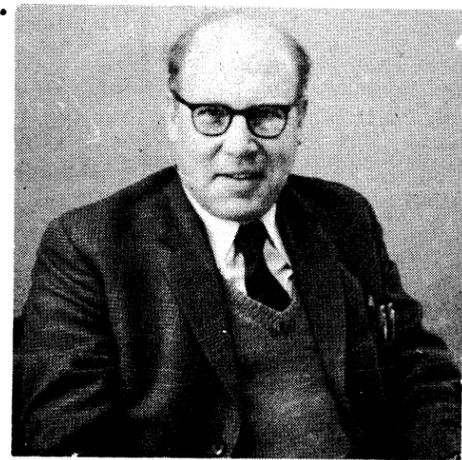
Superintendent Peter Nobes, L.I.B. Research and Planning Officer for the Force. Part-time author and university graduate. Transferred from Suffolk.



Headquarters typing pool. From left to right: Jane Brown, Wyn Foley (supervisor), Sue Mackay, Ann Brown, Jenny Dunn, Pat Brewer, Flora Naronha and Sheila Reynolds.



Mr. George Hopkins — responsible for the purchase of just about anything for the Force.



Mr. Douglas Wheatley. General Section — responsible for Firearms, Aliens, Explosives, Public Licensing.

80 years ago they certainly did booze

AS WE launch ourselves into 1974, potentially the "best" year for a decade THE LAW was prompted to look back at some of the goings on at similar times of yesteryear.

And a glance at the old discipline book shows that just 80 years ago a constable was fined 10/- for "being under the influence of drink and misbehaving himself in a public house when he should have been on duty."

The next year however, under the influence of drink when in uniform only cost 5/- — but he had no previous.

January was a good month for boozing in those days. Apparently it was "disgraceful" to be drunk at Gravesend but only priced at 2/6d — as was "drinking beer on duty" five years later.

On the other hand "drunk and asleep" cost 10/-, only with "previous."

Did the twentieth century herald in new ways? Not a bit. January 1900 saw a third class constable "severely reprimanded only on account of short service" — drunk on his beat. Indeed, the entries under that year far exceeded any previous 12 month period so "they" had evidently decided to tighten up.

In January 1901 being found in bed instead of at a conference point cost 10/- and from the number of entries which follow this the gov'nors were still on the rampage.

By the following year the system had gone off drunks and onto frauds. "Taking in lodgers when receiving rent aid" and "Engaging in pig killing and dealing" both brought forth severe cautions — and fines.

But "found drunk and lying on the pavement" — presumably reclining rather than prevaricating — and an order to resign forthwith came across.

And so on from one January to the next staggered our bewildered forebears, drunk, missing conference points, being absent from beats and found asleep in police cells, borrowing money from publicans wives, until 1910 when matters really got out of hand.

Under January of this year is the entry "Gossiping, using insubordinate language and making unfounded statements against a sergeant" (his mother was married, presumably). The very next offence,

Continued on Page 7

Refit for Vigilant

VIGILANT has had an engine lift. The Tilbury based patrol boat and the mother vessel of the Force River Police has been in the hands of Ford Marine engine specialists from Thames Ditton.

After they had finished poking about in her innards she emerged with two new Ford Mermaid Turbo aspirated engines which gives her an improved performance and a top speed of 16½ knots.

The craft is now being gently cruised around during her patrolling sessions whilst the new engines are being run in.

Ex-Essex Mountie at HQ

HAVING DEPARTED these shores some thirteen years ago, Bernie McKeever late P.c. 514 of the Essex Constabulary, returned on a visit to his relatives and whilst in this country called at Headquarters to renew acquaintances with old friends.

Bernie is at present a Corporal in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and is stationed in a section within the province of Alberta. There he is one of two corporals, two sergeants, one staff sergeant and eighteen constables who police an area of some 200 square miles.

He has recently left the training centre for Alberta where he was an instructor in Police Duties.

Asked if he had ever thought of returning to the home country for good he replied, "Yes, one afternoon in July 1964."

Having spent the day wandering around the Headquarters complex in company with his old schoolmate, Sgt. Roy Clark, now student at the College of Knowledge, Essex University, he left with the view that things have definitely changed since his brief service with the old County Force.

George Waterman

SAD NEWS reached The Law last week that George Waterman, late of the Essex County Constabulary, had died. At 89 George was our oldest constable. He was a widower and died after a short illness.

He was a regular contributor to The Law by way of letters reminiscing on the good old days. He should have known all about that too. Born in 1885 he joined the police and was stationed at Southend before their UDI. This was in 1909 and from there, 10 years later, he moved to rural Essex at Woodham Walter and then on to Stansted in 1920.

In this same year he moved on to Harwich and retired from there in 1935 to enjoy over 38 years on pension. On behalf of the Force, The Law salutes an old friend and offers condolences to his family.

AS A RESULT of recent widespread, and as yet, unconfirmed reports in the national press that the unit beat policing schemes are to be discontinued and the 'panda' car is to disappear from the streets, there has been much speculation throughout the Service as to what form the replacement patrols will take.

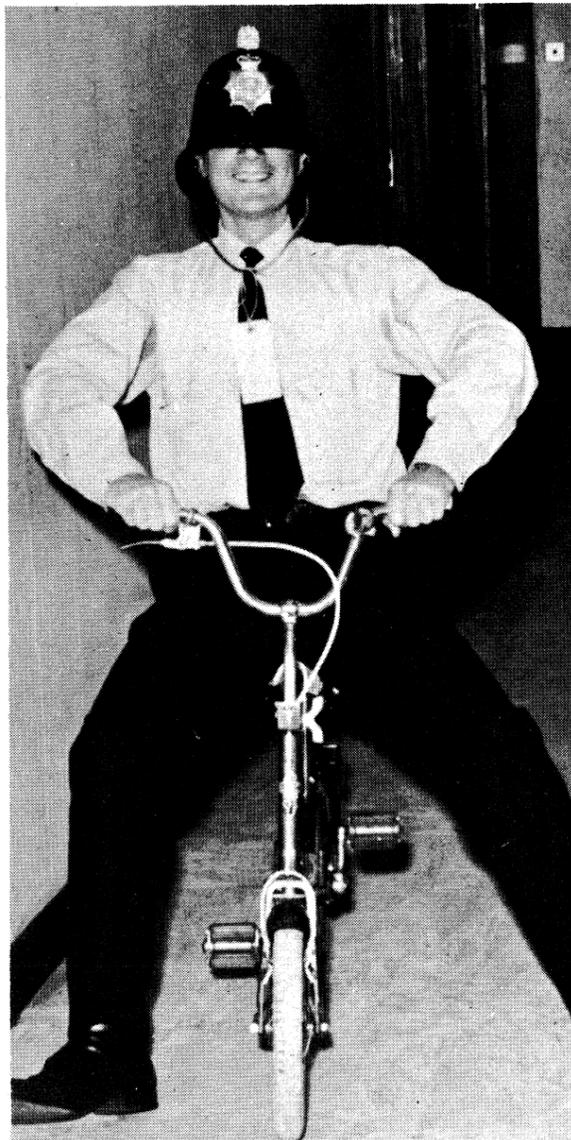
Experiments have already taken place within this Force area and the above photograph shows just how far advanced the Constabulary has progressed in its search for the successor to the ubiquitous 'panda'.

The new large style helmet answers the question of where to put all the equipment at present carried in the cars. The helmet is safer and anatomically more pleasant than earlier suggestions considered by the planning department.

Covering the eyes of the officer, effectively preventing him from seeing all the incidents, he will not be able to deal with due to his new state of de-pandarised immobility. It also prevents complaining members of the public identifying officers arriving late to calls for assistance!

Note the new-style bike. It has been decided not to resurrect the old County cycles. This follows numerous complaints that many of the more recent recruits are (a) unable, due to their small stature, to mount the old style cycles, and (b) if mounted, unable to dismount without

In a state of depandarised immobility



incurring serious injury.

These ultra-modern patrols are expected to commence their duties as

soon as the driving school changeover from standard driving courses to bicycle courses is completed.

Contributed and not to be construed as stating Force policy.

New Special Commandant a Naval type

The new Commandant of the Specials, Mr. M. J. Giller, has had a very rapid rise within the Police Service.

Born in 1928 at Rayleigh, he was educated at Brentwood School between 1938 and 1944.

He left school and joined the Royal Navy as, to quote Mr. Giller, "a very Ordinary Seaman and left as a not very Able Seaman." He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1948 and was commissioned in



1952 — now a Lieutenant Commander.

Mr. Giller was married in 1958 and has four sons.

He joined the Essex Constabulary in 1965 and stamped around Ingatestone under Sgt. Feeke — now retired. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1967, Special Inspector in 1969 at Chelmsford Sub-Division and Special Superintendent in 1971.

Whilst a Special Sergeant at Chelmsford he was i/c the Salter Cup Team in 1969 when Chelmsford were the winners and also won the

Neville Trophy for Essex at the Guildhall.

He has been employed on the staff of the Bank of England since 1948 and is presently at the Printing Works of the Bank at Loughton.

He is a Churchwarden and the Treasurer of Pleshey Parish Church. He is also the Treasurer of Diocesan Retreat House at Divesey.

Mr. Giller now resides at The Old Post House, Pleshey and lists his hobbies as rearing children, walking and renovating the Old Post House.

White H almost

By Mary Yarde-Martin

THE MUSICAL SOCIETY Police Headquarters perform White Horse Inn and I attend the first night with mixed feeling.

The curtain went up to a slow start, missed cues and lines, high pitched voices and continued for the first act in this vein.

The second act produced a sparkle which almost glowed to the end of the show.

Clara Smith's strong voice compensated for Johnny Johnson's less distinct one, but he clown his way to the end. Derek Leitch, suitably handsome, won the affection of Sue Webster whose voice was too highly pitched at the start but reached audible tones the evening went on.

Peter Fitzjohn's comic character showed well throughout as did Des Biggs, Barry Walker and the remaining male cast.

The singing of the full chorus was tuneful and conducted admirably by Cy Smith.

Praise must be given to the colourful costumes and splendid scenery.

A happy and entertaining evening.



Peter Fitzjohn and chorus.



ESSEX Police Band appeared before the Public at the Chelmsford Civic Theatre on the evening of Monday 21st December to a half-filled theatre which is a new experience for us. We shared the bill with the Choir of the Chelmsford Opera Society who filled the second half of the concert. However, the audience gave us appreciative applause which conveyed the impression that they enjoyed our music. We also enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere which always helps matters.

Keith Duxberry gave fine

Orse Inn glows



Johnny Johnson clowned his way through.



Rambling round Essex makes a nice change

A GREAT life those cadets have, swanning off on so-called adventure exercises to Scotland, Wales, Germany, even. Holidays at the ratepayers' expense more like! Perhaps the cadets might fail to agree with the holiday bit half way up — or down — Cairngorm in a blizzard.

And if critics really want to put their theories to the acid test The Law has it on good authority that they will be most welcome to go along. All P.c. Larry Piper would say, "They want to try it!"

But in these times of shortage the screws have gone on to adventure training in the form of limited mileage. So, no longer able to drive to the exciting, adventurous parts of these islands did they cancel the January course?

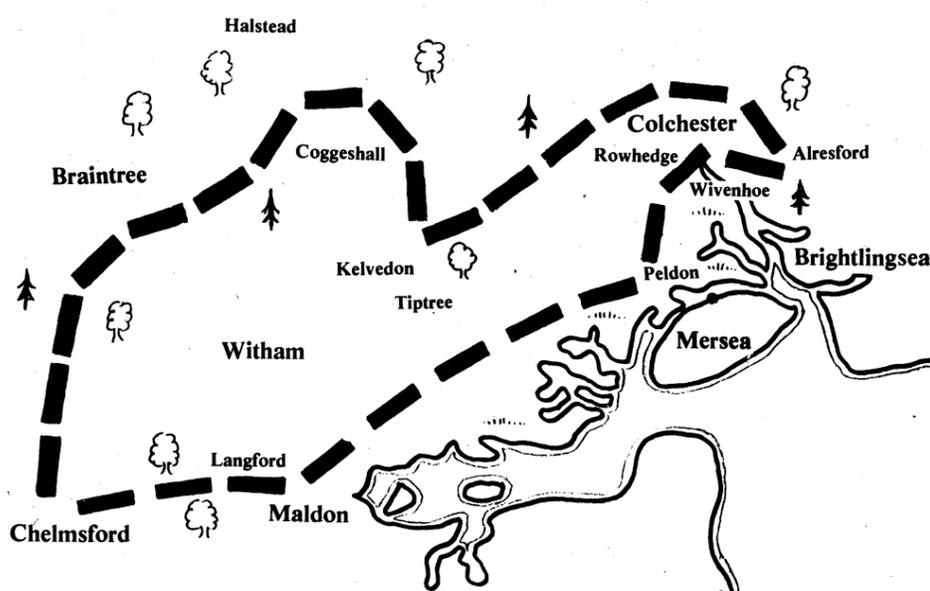
Floods

What do you think? They walked round Essex instead. Now don't scoff. That was the week the rain came through the roof back at HQ, and the flood warnings went out along the coast.

Adventure done this way uses no petrol, costs no money, and still tests the trainee's endurance and determination.

Day one was easy. Away from the Cadet School after lunch to walk to Langford, near Maldon by nightfall, packs at this stage not too heavy at about 35 pounds. The shortest way to Langford is about ten miles. Glorious weather blessed this walk but the night was less settled with wind and rain.

So next morning the packs, instead of being lighter through food



consumed, were heavier by wet canvas.

But next night at Peldon, near Mersea — "another fifteen miles on the clock" a bit of luck when a local landowner presented them with a building to sleep in.

So what's the matter with a pig sty when you're tired? And by now the two girls Kay Meiklejohn and Barbara Spencer would have

shared with the pigs. No need — even the pigs moved out two years ago so Kay and Barbara had one sty and Constable Piper and the boys the other.

Anyway the tents dried out.

Next day on to Rowhedge on the River Colne where a boat owner, learning that the bedraggled specimens were not from the

University of Essex ferried them across.

More rain

Then on through Wivenhoe to Alresford where the tents went up in an apple orchard just before the rain came down again. Next morning it was goodbye to coastal Essex and away inland.



First stop Colchester where, as usual, dragging the happycampers past the shops proved impossible. Then on inland to Messing where in the village by the church a gentleman farmer offered his barn.

Here Constable Piper spoke for all when he declined the barn. Had they not tents? Were they not on a training exercise? So a sheltered corner of the paddock was theirs for the night.

Next morning on to Coggeshall where the tents were pitched on farmland near Coggeshall Hamlet. And what a night this was. Rain, gales, lightning and one tremendous clap of thunder that was enough to slacken the guy ropes.

On the final day use was made of the recently laid down Essex Way, a series of footpaths running from Loughton to Dedham. Through White Notley and Crossing the cadets marched back to Chelmsford.

The general verdict was that the course was a bit soft for hard "mountain men" who have been on courses of similar length in the hills or have attended Outward Bound. On the other hand for beginners it was fairly severe.

And strangely enough, hard on the feet. The alternating soft Essex mud and hard tarmac roads made for blisters — though experience of this problem will overcome it.

So courses of this type on our own ground in Essex are likely to become a regular feature of future years' adventure programme.

What's on



Who's off

THERE has been so much matter arrive at H.Q. for this month's column that it's really difficult to know where to start. First to arrive

at St. Luke's Church, Tiptree, in what will be an informal concert. They always make us welcome and we shall be commencing at 7.45 p.m. So please do come and see and hear how your kind contributions are being put to a good use. In a

was details from Laindon of someone who I am led to understand, is trying to supersede "Super Bugle" for the title of "Wrecker of the Year." I am not at liberty to say who, but the wording of the letter says he blows a mean horn or trumpet. So watch it Super Bugle you have competition. Also I hear that by virtue of the present crisis, there will be fewer courses at H.Q. for those who were to attend this year. Big Brian from the other seaside appears to be somewhat sulky lately in that he has been told that he will have to wait for his course. Never mind lad . . . KEEP PLUCKING THOSE CHICKENS . . . YOU'LL GET OVER IT!

At Stanway, it appears the Superbike has been up against some real class in the form of a COUNTY BIKE . . . (The push type). It seems that the only way the Norton or "The Stanway Crop Sprayer" was able to fend off the challenge was by sheer dogmatic conformity to the Manual of Guidance by HIM.

The somewhat distorted story started whilst HE was returning to base for refs when coming across Ipswich Road Roundabout. He sees what to him was a Traffic

month's time, the band is playing at Witham Public Hall commencing at 7.45 p.m. I'm afraid I won't be there for that one as I shall be away at Ryton-on-Dunsmore. Not for ever I hasten to add. Good Listening.

Mans dream, i.e. tattered wing, no headlight, no excise licence and to all intents and purposes an accident looking for somewhere to happen.

Rapidly taking off in chase, spraying all and sundry with 20-50, he fully intended snaffling the insult for himself. But, hold hard, he was obliged to extricate himself from a rather nasty situation to avoid a collision between two county vehicles.

One, the "Superbike" and two, a county pushbike! He swears (He always does) that the helmet wearer was doing 70 mph. The other thing that makes me think HE was drunk is that he thought the bike rider had 30 pairs of feet that were rotating at high speed. To the absolute amazement of the "superbike" rider, IT ACTUALLY OVERTOOK the mobile knock off and STOPPED IT!

On pulling up behind the pair, HE approaches them and with difficulty the beat lad said, "Keep him talking whilst I recover, mate." After a little while, recovery complete, a full examination was carried out and some matters were reported. After a little discussion, it was established that the bike rider had followed the vehicle from Parsons Heath some two miles back up the road.

Well having heard that, MITCH, I haven't the gall to print the other matter about the section 6 for fear of letting the side down from the motor cyclists point of view and laying myself open to a challenge from the medical Board.

Stallion in foal

THE time about 2.30am. The scene — A dark country lane in Essex. A horse has been involved in a collision with a car and its dead body is lying in the road.

A brand new W/P.c. arrives on the scene — her second ever night duty. She looks at the carcass in the road and says, "That horse is in foal!" Shortly afterwards, "The foal is still alive inside the horse. I can see it moving!"

Area car driver feels the body. Duty Sergeant puts head to body and listens for stirring noises.

Duty Inspector starts thinking about Vets bill. Anxious discussion all round. Flashlights held immobile on belly of horse.

Sudden arrival of neighbour who looks at horse and says, "Crikey. The owner will go potty when he sees this. This stallion is worth five hundred quid."

Flashlights move in unison from belly of horse to more significant part of anatomy. It is a stallion.

Anxious discussion all round — are they really teaching our girls the right things at Ryton?

* * * STOP PRESS

We have pleasure in announcing that Phil Carr has been approved as 1973-74 Santa Claus for the 14th Million Browns (Halstead) Pack Ltd., I personally think that he is getting somewhat like his idol (Martin) the only difference being he is, and I quote:

"I have passed that stage, I am now The lonely ladies, Grass widows and other female persons . . . SPECIALITY! How can you follow that? Except to say, WHO WENT INTO THE SEAXE SHOP TO PURCHASE NOT MOTOR PARTS OR ANYTHING AKIN TO MOTOR PARTS BUT A

COMB. The Tri-stripe is still frantically dashing around trying to buy bulk comb crates at good discount.

* * * To continue, from the Southern Division Barry Gardner was on his way to an accident in the Doddinghurst area when he was warned about the hazard ahead in the form of ice on the road. It may appear humorous but the message arrived somewhat late for our hero who had already tested the road surface. The result, application for the new jodhpurs . . . (steel sprung), and one Gyroscope (for determining angle of machine) Handlebar fitment, and finally one

Continued on Page 7

Cadets make a splash



LESLEY Robinson who won three events at the Cadets' Gala last month.

SOME fast swimming was seen at the Cadet Gala, held at Chelmsford on 19th January. With the Chief and other senior officers in attendance to present prizes, competition to take part in victory ceremonies seemed more fierce than ever.

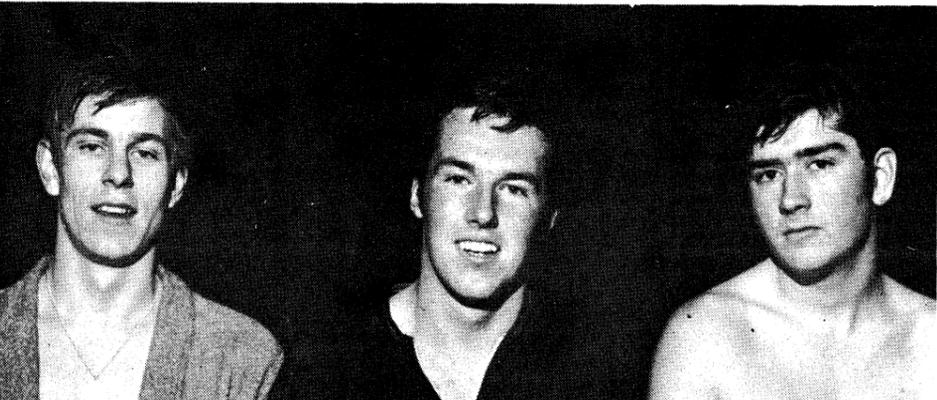
Most successful individually was Lesley Robinson who scored a triple win taking freestyle, breast and back stroke races. Kevin Nowell and Alan King fought out the three boys' finals, Nowell winning freestyle and backstroke while King won his speciality, breaststroke, and went on to take the life-saving race.

Keen competition and high excitement led to the Crouch relay team being disqualified after winning, for a take-over infringement.

This would have made no difference as Chelmer won easily with 110 pts. to Colne's 88 and 76 for Crouch.



CONGRATULATIONS from the Chief for the first three in the novices' race; from left, Jessie Ringer, Barbara Staddon and Jackie Beer.



AWARD winners in the diving for bricks event, winner Martin Cook in the centre and Nigel Wiseman, left, and Keith Fitzjohn who tied in second place.

Cadet Swimming Results

Women (all one length): **Freestyle** — L. Robinson 22.0, S. Keeble 23.5, K. Meiklejohn 26.3; **breaststroke** — L. Robinson 29.0, A. Dempsey 34.0, V. George 35.0; **backstroke** — L. Robinson 27.5, M. Hicks 30.2, R. Beardwell 31.0; **novices** — J. Ringer 36.0, B. Staddon 36.1, J. Beer 42.0; **lifesaving** — S. Keeble 81.0, K. Meiklejohn 84.4, V. Granville 97.0.

Men (all two lengths): **Freestyle** — K. Nowell 42.0, A. King 45.0, M. Thornton 50.0; **breaststroke** — A. King 57.0, K. Nowell 61.5, I. Brown 63.5; **backstroke** — K. Nowell 51.5, M. Mattack 56.4, A. Imms 58.6; **novices** — A. Masson 25.5, M. Coleman 28.0, L. Reeve 32.0; **lifesaving** — A. King 70.6, S. Youngman 72.0, M. Cook 76.2.

Relays (men, medley 4 x 1 length): Chelmer 97.0, Colne 101.8, Crouch 107.0; (women, medley 3 x 1 length) Chelmer 90.5, Colne 107.6.

Netball

ON 9TH JANUARY the Force Netball team travelled to Guildford to play Surrey in the quarter finals of the PAA National Cup.

The match started at 2.30 sharp and although the Essex girls were nervous and made some silly mistakes in passing the ball, they soon took the lead and at the end of the first quarter were leading 5-2.

Despite this lead the Essex girls went into the second quarter still a little nervous but still managed to lengthen their lead and at half-time the score-line read 8-4.

After a break and with words of advice and encouragement from the team coach, Essex entered the third quarter a much more confident side. The passing and shooting reflected this confidence and the Essex girls started to pull away ending the quarter at 14-5.

In the last quarter Surrey came determined to fight to the end and scored three goals, but Essex were not to be beaten and scored five more goals, making the final score 19-8.

The cadet team marches on. They now stand top of their league having recently disposed of two other teams who had been pressing them closely.

Last Wednesday they wound up January with a close game against Birmingham cadets who came back

Rugby

ON JANUARY 9 the Force played the Metro 'K' Division at Priory Park, Southend. The Met had to be reinforced by three Essex Cadets but held fast for the first half. However, with continued pressure the Force scored good tries through Bowman and Saunders and the score ended 8-0 despite an injury to Markham in the last ten minutes.

The following week the Force again played at home against Mid-Essex Technical College. Under bad weather conditions the first half of scrappy rugby, was without score. But at the changeover Essex pushed forward and tries came from Bowman, Saunders and Horsman who scored two, of which one was converted by Sparks. The score ended 18-0 against a tired M.E.T.C. side.

at Essex after trailing 4-8 at half-time. The closing score was a tense 14-12 to Essex.

This match was immediately followed on the same court by the Force team playing Kent in a friendly, with some of the players in the first game involved again. Jeanette Yoxen and Virginia Granville, who both played twice, were on court for almost two hours. Even so the Essex team's speed was too much for Kent who fell steadily behind to lose by 7-26.

Soccer

THE Force football squad met Thames Valley Force in the Beds. and Luton Cup competition at H.Q. in a strong cross wind.

In the first minute the visitors had to rely on an off-the-line clearance by a defender to avoid going one down but with the strong wind not many chances were created in the first half.

After the interval Thames Valley went one up when a cross from the left wing was headed into the goal by an Essex defender.

Essex quickly equalised but the goal was disallowed and with their morale depleted because of this they allowed Thames Valley to score again.

A disappointing display by Essex — at no time did they look as though they could win.

In the Essex Olympian League complacency has lost them the league leaders' position, after a match against Bishop Stortford at Stortford, when they lost 2-0.

However, the following match put them back on top when the team beat Dunmow at Dunmow by four goals to nil.

In a disagreeable match all round against Benfleet a nil-all result was obtained but the match was greatly marred by the dissent that abounded.

The Cadet team continue on their winning wave, defeating Clacton Division at Headquarters,



LOOKING pleased with themselves on their arrival back at HQ after showing their rivals in the south east how to run, the girls of the two Essex teams which placed first and second in the S.E. Region Championships at Wimbledon. From the left Michele Hicks (2nd), Shirley Keeble (behind, 3rd), Brenda Burgin, Julia Foster (champion), Susan Moss, Maria Oldall (front), Anne Crust and Bernadette Cussen.

Girl runners take first Regional titles of 1974

IN THE FIRST Regional championship to be decided in 1974 the Essex cross-country running girls completely dominated the field to win the two miles race easily on Wimbledon Common on 2nd January.

Only one Surrey runner broke the Essex grip at the head of the field, six Essex girls finishing in the top seven. The three who have consistently led the team in all of the season, Julia Foster, Michele Hicks and Shirley Keeble, took the medal places and they were followed by Bernie Cussen and Maria Oldall, both back after illness, and Susan Moss.

When it came to the men's five miles championship the Essex prospects were less rosy. Of our predictable first four, three were absent: Andy Down (paternity), David Dutton (injury) and Kevin Nowell (railway trouble). But the remainder of the team fought so well that in the end they only missed 3rd league position by the

narrow margin of 3 points. Clive Skingley again ran strongly to finish 8th, the highest ever by an Essex cadet. And Mervyn Fairweather at 20th just behind Gary Matthews, showed improvement. But these scorers were just too far back to take the team race.

No matter, the league rules allow each team to discard their lowest score of the season so there is still a chance of overall victory.

Results

Men (5 miles) 8th C. Skingley, 33.15; 19th G. Matthews, 35.23; 20th M. Fairweather 35.33; 24th P. Blois 36.25; 29th A. King 37.56; 33rd L. Berry 38.38; 36th T. Williams 39.25; 37th M. Faulkner 39.36; 51st J. Turrell 43.16. **Teams:** 1. Herts 292; 2. City of London 262; 3. Thames Valley and Sussex 235; 5. Essex 233; 6. Surrey 151; 7. Kent 106.

Women (2 miles) 1st J. Foster 13.10; 2nd M. Hicks 13.27; 3rd S. Keeble 13.36; 4th B. Cussen 13.50; 5th S. Moss 14.22; 7th M. Oldall 14.45; 10th A. Crust 15.22; 11th B. Burgin 15.29. **Teams:** 1. Essex 114; 2. Surrey 80; 3. City of London 72.

HQ win but it's Colchester overall

FAST and furious was the pace set in the Force 10 miles championships at Chelmsford on January 23. A full turn-out of the walking sections present active strength took on a strong Met Police squad in the match held in conjunction and it was mainly the rivalry between the two forces which led to good times being recorded.

In the overall race Peter Hodgkinson and Charlie Fogg, fought to the end as they did in last year's Barking to Southend race, the former just getting the verdict in a close finish. Though tiring, Denis Sheppard moved up to fourth place in the last half-mile to hold his Force Championship in a very fast time. But even so John Hedgethorpe and Alan King were both within a minute behind him and both were catching up fast.

Further back T. Williams, L. Berry and G. Matthews were on good early season form and match scoring was completed by P. Blois and K. Mann whose times were in mid-90's. Met Police won the match with 67 points from Essex 91 and Met Cadet School 162.

In the inter-division contest Colchester's run of victories came to an end at the hands of HQ whose combination of Task Force and Cadet Staff did enough to win by 54 to Colchester's 44. But this was too small a victory to upset the long lead Colchester gained in the Cross Country leg of the winter championship. It should, however, give other divisions food for

in a match played in terrible conditions. With the final result at 3-1 to the Cadets the two teams were glad to leave the pitch which

Result of winter championship races

1st, Colchester (Cross-country 93, Road walk 44) 137; 2nd, Headquarters (27 and 54) 81; 3rd, Basildon 15; 4th, Southend West, 7.

thought in the future. If HQ can put out a winning combination in a tough event like this, perhaps they might also in other events.

On the following Friday it was the girls' turn to show their paces over 3 miles on the occasion of their inter-house event. Julia Foster, known to be quick over this distance, clocked a sub-30 minute time, a record, but in second place unknown quantity Jackie Beer pushed in well ahead of Bernie Cussen.

Leading times

4th D. Sheppard 81.38; 7th J. Hedgethorpe 82.10; 8th A. King 82.40; 11th T. Williams and L. Berry 90.10; 14th G. Matthews 91.04; 17th P. Blois 94.54; 18th K. Mann 96.04; 20th J. Topolewski 98.00; 22nd W. Stephen and A. Trebilcock 98.32; 25th M. Blackwell 99.20; 27th B. Daymond 99.54; 62 finished.

Women's 3 miles on 25-1-74: 1 J. Foster 29.28 (record); 2nd J. Beer 32.13; 3rd B. Cussen 33.04; 4th A. Crust 34.17; 5th B. Stadden 34.15; 6th P. Gubb 34.26.

OTHER EVENTS

The Essex League campaign continued with a gruelling 10 miles at Basildon, where the stiff course and nagging head winds over the last miles took their toll.

Athletics

IN TWO outings in Crystal Palace winter track meets Clive Skingley, cadet cross country champ, put up useful times at 3,000 and 10,000 mts. His even paced lapping in the latter race showed good judgement. 3,000 mts., 6-1-74: C. Skingley, 10m 21s; 6, Matthews, 10m 40s. 1,000 mts., 20-1-74: C. Skingley, 35m 41s.

Here Alan King led the team home followed by Sheppard, Hedgethorpe, Williams and Mann to secure second place to Ilford and leave the section in second place overall.

CUP WIN

At Chigwell early in the New Year the junior team lifted the Phil Everard Memorial Cup with the 'B' team second, though their elation was dampened a little by the knowledge that administrative decisions by the race organisers had ruled out some of the opposition. Just as well, perhaps. At that stage most of the team were evidently still full of Christmas pud.

Two Sunday contests at the Palace over 5 and 3 kilometres made a welcome break from the longer road races of this time of year, though no "break-through" times were recorded.

The championship season now approaches with national, county, southern and police events to be fought out. Signs that the senior squad are beginning to get fit so that they may support the juniors are therefore welcome.

Results

Junior open race at Chigwell, 5-1-74: 6th D. Sheppard, 31.58; 7th A. King, 32.30; 10th L. Berry and T. Williams 35.12; 12th R. Sheppard, 35.21; 13th M. Faulkner, 35.48; 17th W. Stephen 37.20; 19th D. Coleman, 38.44; 20th A. Masson 38.52; 21st A. Trebilcock, 39.10; 22nd R. Simmons, 40.08. **Teams placed 1st and 2nd.**

5,000 mts. Crystal Palace, 6-1-74: 10th D. Sheppard, 26.06; 14th J. Hedgethorpe, 26.31; 16th W. Stephen and A. Trebilcock, 29.21; 20th I. Brown, 30.53; 21st D. Coleman 30.54; 22nd R. Simmons, 31.25.

7 miles at Imber Court, 12-1-74: 69th D. Sheppard, 59.55; 107th T. Williams, 63.34; 109th L. Berry, 63.39; 110th G. Matthews, 63.48; 153rd D. Coleman, 72.30.

3,000 mts. at Crystal Palace, 20-1-74: 8th D. Sheppard, 14.46; 11th J. Hedgethorpe, 15m 6.2; 13th G. Matthews, 15.49; 15th P. Blois, 16.29; 16th W. Stephen, 16.46; 17th I. Brown 17.57; 20th R. Simmons, 18.14. **10 miles at Basildon, 26-1-74:** 13th A. King, 84.44; 15th D. Sheppard, 85.41; 19th J. Hedgethorpe, 87.15; 22nd T. Williams, 89.33; 28th K. Mann, 94.29; 30th W. Stephen and M. Faulkner, 98.01; 34th A. Masson 101.12; 35th A. Armstrong, 101.29; 36th B. Daymond, 101.43; 37th R. Simmons, 107.55. **Team placed 2nd.**

Canvey P.D.T. Dance well above cash target

ON the 20th December 1973 a dance in aid of the Police Dependents Trust was held at the plush new Community Centre at Canvey Island. The occasion was held as a result of many requests from residents of Canvey Island and was organised by a committee of officers from Canvey.

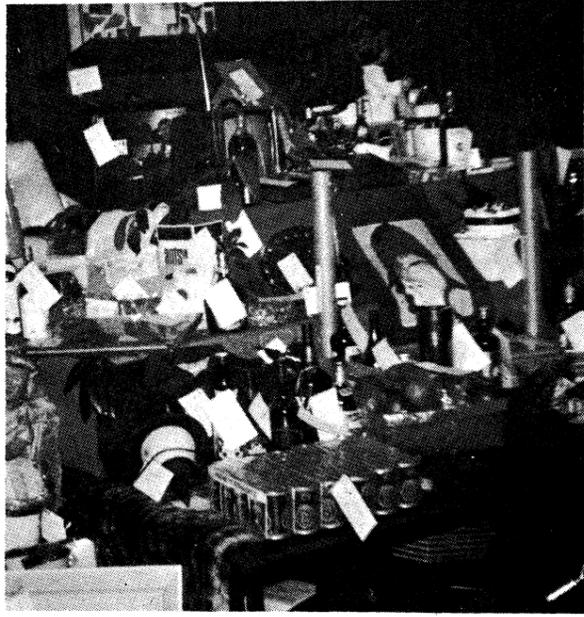
Local traders were approached with a view to them donating a prize for a tombola and these kind people responded magnificently. So good was the response that the tombola was made up of 130 prizes ranging from a long weekend in Majorca to a ½cwt. bag of potatoes and included such goodies as a portable TV, a car stereo, a stereo radiogram, transistor radio and many many more attractive prizes.

The 500 tickets for the dance were sold out within a few days and after that their acquisition became something of a minor miracle. There was also some rumour that they were changing hands on the black market.

Dancing on the big night was to the tune of the Roy Howard Big Band who excelled themselves not only with their good music but also with their small fee. The cabaret was supplied by Chaucers Tales who are a very entertaining group in the mould of the Baron Knights.

Guests included our senior divisional officers and local civic dignitaries and businessmen. The Chief Constable paid a brief visit and during his stay managed to buy the tombola ticket entitling him to take away the portable TV.

The general opinion was that the evening was a huge success. So



The display of prizes, donated by well-wishers, at the Canvey Police Dance.

successful, in fact, that we were able to present a cheque to the Police Dependents' Trust for the grand sum of £762. Considering that the committee's original target was £500 the sum raised is beyond all wildest expectations. This is not all. There were a number of prizes which were not won and in consequence a Valentine Disco Dance is being held at the Gold Mine, Canvey, during which the remainder of the prizes will be raffled and the proceeds from that

will also be donated to the Police Dependents' Trust.

The success of the evening was the result of the efforts of many people, those businessmen who donated the prizes and those officers who donated a great deal of their spare time particularly on the day of the dance. The efforts of the committee who worked so hard and harmoniously towards making the event such a memorable occasion are also more than a worthy of a mention of congratulation.

Ian told reporters: "Well, I'm just flabbergasted."

"Goldfinger" as he has been called, together with his wife, Christine, talked about having their first holiday, buying a new car and adding to their home.

Over a glass of champagne, Ian said: "We have been scrimping and saving ever since we got married and this is just like a dream. I can't believe we have won."

"There is so much we want to spend it on, especially around the house. We want to build a porch, get another car because our old one has had it — and so much more."

But high on the list of their priorities is a party to celebrate the winning of the jackpot.

"Striking a woman on the head with a troncheon." And the Police Act with its complaints procedure came out only in 1964. In 1910 that crack on the nut was worth two bob a week for six months — quite a price, but as the D.P.P. wasn't involved.



Courty gesture from the Chief to Wps. Charles at the celebration to mark her retirement.

Charlie retires

GWEN CHARLES joined the Southend Borough Constabulary on 3 February, 1949, and was posted to Leigh. She was instantly accepted by her colleagues as she was lively and witty and soon became known to all as "Charlie".

On 19th December, 1954, she was promoted sergeant; the first woman sergeant in

the borough and served in that rank at Southend and Westcliff and from April 1965 at Leigh.

On 25th January, a retirement party was held in her honour at Southend social club, where two hundred members and ex-members of the Southend force attended to "celebrate" what was considered a sad occasion and show appreciation of Charlie's services to the police.

On behalf of the Policewomen of the old county force the Chief Constable presented her with twelve cut glasses; and she also received six cut wine glasses from the women sergeants and women officers, six cut whisky glasses from policewomen of H and J Divisions; a pen and pencil set from members of the special constabulary; and a leather handbag and gloves from the civilian staff.

"Charlie" gave a short speech which included examples of her wit and made the occasion a happy one, undermined by the sadness at losing a very good sergeant, colleague and friend.

When "Charlie" was on duty everyone knew; her robust laughter could often be heard; now the officers at Leigh Police Station are going to find it very quiet!

GRAYS DIV CLUB

Invite ex-members of the Division, pensioners and serving members to an informal reunion, 8 p.m. on 27th March, Orsett Cock. Details from P.s. Spensley, Grays.

Cross-country win

AGAINST Birmingham cadets on January 30th, Clive Skingley shot into a lead which lengthened with each mile into a comfortable 1½ minute victory. Garry Matthews and Kevin Nowell moved up well to break Birmingham's hold on the team race at halfway, finishing 2nd and 5th. The team score was 36-42 win for Essex cadets.

Continued from Page 6

by now had become a quagmire from the continuous rain.

The following week the Cadet team played N.E.E.T.C. of Colchester at Headquarters when the match was limited to 40 minutes each half due to the late arrival of the visitors. However, the short time did not stop the Cadets making a meal of the opposition winning the match by 9-2.

In a warm up match against Writtle Agricultural College the cadets again won easily by 5-1.

This match was a warm up session for a "grudge" match against Birmingham Cadets, who put the Essex team out of the National Cadet Cup competition. This time, playing on their own ground, and a full-sized field, the Essex team really put their teeth into the situation and after gaining a two-nil lead at half-time, kicked off into a wind that would have spoilt most teams play.

However, this did not disturb the Essex Cadets, who through good play soon gave Birmingham the biggest drubbing they have had in 20 years of football with a fine win of 7-0.

PF Federation PF

Notes

by Stan Smith

MY THANKS to those members who responded to my appeal to send me details of their rent allowance and especially to those who made pertinent comments upon the situation. This has proved most useful in determining the picture throughout the Force.

At their meeting on January 28 the Joint Branch Board discussed this matter and decided that at the present time no application should be made to have the new system applied to this Force. In making this decision the Board took into account the statistical information supplied to them. The important figures for your information are as follows. There are 931 owner-occupiers about whom I have information sufficient to be able to make the necessary calculations. Of this number some 20% are currently receiving the maximum limit allowance of £11.08 and no matter which system is adopted will not be affected either way. Of the remaining 80% of owner-occupiers 13.6% would suffer an immediate reduction in valuation if the new system were to be adopted. In these cases there would be some protection of their current rate until a further assessment is made of the selected 'typical house' but of course any retrospective would be made on the lower figure brought about by the new system and they would permanently be on a lower base from which their rent allowance would be assessed. Some 37.4% would also suffer a reduction in valuation if a comparison is made between the value the new system would bring and the reasonable estimation of what their assessment would be if brought up to date at the present time taking into account the length of time since their last revaluation. The remainder (29%) would have a higher valuation if the new system were to be adopted. It can readily be seen that the number of members adversely affected would be too large for a vote for the adoption of the new system until such time as a new revaluation of the 'typical house' produced a larger multiplier. The matter has been referred to the Board's Housing Committee to consider further statistical information which may be available and the effect upon the maximum limit allowance the selection of a new 'typical house' would bring. Under the present regulations no change

in the 'typical house' can be considered until April 1, 1975.

National Emergency

If the present industrial unrest escalates into a strike many members of the Force may find themselves drafted either to another part of the country or to another part of the Force area to deal with any situation which may arise. I have been assured that every consideration will be given to members of the Force who have to work long hours and have inconvenient conditions imposed upon them and I have given an assurance that the Federated ranks of this Force will be wholeheartedly behind the Chief Constable in his responsibility to keep law and order. This is what our job is all about. No matter what our feelings are about the political aspects of the situation we are pledged to maintain the peace and protect the public against persons breaking the law. We shall do so without fear or favour in the knowledge that our duty is clear. There will undoubtedly be many complaints or niggles about the conditions in which we are expected to work and

Continued from Page 5

pair of Tri-ang stabilizer wheels. The trouble is that he can't find, as yet anyone willing to sign the E.3. There is no confirmation of the story that the Traffic car crew that tried to warn our lad, nearly pranged him whilst they suffered severe convulsions on seeing the 'Ancient Tar-mac Polishing Ceremony'."

It is also strongly denied by the Lower Division lads that Senior Ranks are giving 10p and 15p respectively for speeders and no index marks. I still can't quite work that one out! Apart from the fact that Albie "The Torch" Horn did manage to get a process the other day. Well done lad, your medal is on the way over.

I hope though it is not a nasty rumour as I hear they have installed a net, Albie proof, between the Locker Room and the Canteen. If he is caught he is planted back

on his bike from the recoil, someone who gets a bonus starts it up, and the last seen of him is as he rockets through the garage doors back on to the A.127. Here at Headquarters, nothing much has happened except AGAIN my mate has done it. "The Sheik of the A.12, Dave Going thin on top Hicks" tried desperately hard the other day to upset a knockoff of mine.

All I said was, The taxi drivers require some attention you know, they are getting cheeky. With that I spies on the nearside, parked within the limits of a ped Xing a TAXI. Stopping, I jumped skywards and clicked my heels together whilst starting to take details of the naughty motor car in question. Foolishly I says to The Sheik, "if you can find the lad responsible mate." He vanished for a minute and came back saying, "What's changing his trousers." "What" I says, "I haven't knocked him off yet." With that a rather confused looking taxi driver rocketed from a nearby house with a flushed face, "Who's a naughty boy" says Dave with a smile on his face, "I know what you've been doing" to which I said, "Regardless of what you've been doing or the needs of nature or other such things, you will be reported... smile and flush vanished from his face. Still it was suspicious, a Moskvich parked on the wrong side of the road outside a Catholic Church.

To finish this month's column: I have found a little detail about the 828cc Norton. This does not appear to be as yet any info about a Police Model that may be of interest to you regarding mechanical changes. With this in mind, the standard bike is:

Bore: 77mm, Stroke: 89mm, Compression Ratio: 8.5:1. Maximum revs per minute at continuous cruising: 5,900, brakes: Norton-Lockheed disc brake with aluminium hydraulic unit and 10.7in. (270mm) Disc. Rear: Cable operated 7in. drum brake. Rough dimensions: Length 88in., Wheelbase 57in., Width 26in., ground clearance 6in., Dry weight 418-430 lbs. (190-196 kg). Performance: Depending on conditions, an elapsed time of 12½ 1 12½ seconds with terminal speed of 103-105 mph (165-169 kph) for a standing start quarter mile and a top speed approaching 125 mph may be expected.

Naturally if the machines are ever used by us then from this one will have to expect certain variations within that range, taking into account the added weight of fairing, radio, etc., still quite a reasonable performance nonetheless. So for the technical amongst you I hope that this will answer some of your questions.

So till next month then, chaps, remember, "If it's not true it's well invented."

The Law Shop

FOR SALE: 12ft. Sea boat, Clinker built, Road Trailer, oars and lights, etc. Seagull Century Outboard motor with clutch and hand start. £180 O.N.O. Contact Det. Sgt. Maxed, Brentwood.

WANTED: Dining-room suite. Contact Ds Graves, Harlow Scenes of Crime.

every effort will be made by your representatives to keep you advised of the reasons for any difficulty. I am sure that we will all work together and be a credit to the Force.

Force Group Insurance Scheme

Perhaps this is a good time to remind those 600 members of the Force who are not members of the Scheme that it is in their interest to join. The benefits for 10p a week are substantial and give cover for death or injury. I know that many members would join if they only spent the short time necessary to ask for an application form. Just pop the request on a piece of paper through the Force mail or give me a ring and the form will be forwarded to you. A reminder of the benefits: £2,000 payable on death through any cause with accident insurance of £4,000 for total permanent disablement; £1,500 for loss of one limb or eye; £500 for compulsory discharge from the Force on account of injury or ill-health; £4 per week for up to two years whilst off sick through injury (excluding first seven days). This is for the full 24 hours either on or off duty. Don't delay — ask for your form now.

THEY MET AS CADETS



HAVING met whilst both serving in the cadet corps Paul Smith and Donna Wilson were married at St. John's Parish Church, Great Clacton, on 5th January.

Donna was attended by three bridesmaids who wore full-length blue floral dresses with short white capes, trimmed with fur.

Donna herself wore a full-length white dress with a fur-trimmed hood and cape sleeves.

A reception was held at Weeley Church Hall.

The couple are both serving at Chelmsford Town and Donna intends to continue working for the time being.

Joint Force Types No. 56.

The Duty Inspector



We've arrested the cardboard thief, Sir.

At Epping recent thefts of cardboard from the backs of shops led to the arrest of two men.

FEDERATION OPEN MEETING

Monday 18 MARCH 74

Southend award for courage



READERS will remember that The Law carried the story of Constables Laurie McKenna and Graham Harvey pulling a man from the sea at Southend on 27th August, 1973.

News has now percolated through that the officers' bravery has won them the Royal Humane Society's Certificate on Vellum.

A date for the presentation has not yet been set.

P.c. McKenna also received the Mitchell Trophy for his part in the rescue.

This trophy is awarded annually by Southend Borough Council for what they consider to be the bravest act of the year performed in the Southend area.

Laurie was presented with the award at a Council meeting held in the first week of January.

Communications expert from Hong Kong visits HQ



PICTURED is the Research and Planning Officer for the Royal Hong Kong Police, Senior Inspector Peter Chan Wai Chi, who visited this Force for two days during January.

After completing a four month course at Bramshill he is now involved in a two-month tour of England and America, studying the training of officers in communications and computer work.

Bramshill bound

CHIEF Superintendents John Graves of Basildon Division and Alf Mitchell of Grays have been nominated to attend a Senior Command Course at the Police College at Bramshill starting in April.

Mr. Mitchell told The Law: "I was, I suppose, overjoyed, surprised and delighted when I heard the news."



Ch. Supt. Graves

Chapman, D.F.C., on retirement, he replied: "As this is the premier Division and the fact that I have a group of very competent and loyal senior officers I will be able to come back to the Division knowing that it will be the same as when I left it."

Supt. Chapman retires from the Force after approximately 27 years' service with The Essex County and the Joint Force. He threw a dinner party for some of his colleagues of the Division on 23rd January, and he leaves the Force on 1st February.



Ch. Supt. Mitchell

When asked how Grays Division would cope in his absence and with the loss of Superintendent Jeffrey

Tilbury

reinstated

ON FORCE Orders 'B' during January it was announced that Tilbury, that one time haven of dissidents and other buckers of authority, is to be a sub-division again.

And so to mark this event the Law publishes this little tale of river-side routine.

Police were recently called to a large vessel berthed at a local jetty. Upon their arrival they discovered that ten Ethiopian members of the crew had deserted the ship and refused to return because of alleged grievances.

During the enquiries it was learned that one of the men was, in fact, a stowaway and had never been signed on as a seaman at all.

The ship was sailing under the Liberian flag and the owners were Greek. The captain also hailed from this country.

He stated that he had no intention of dismissing the Ethiopians and required them to return to the ship.

The immigration authorities were called and made it known that the men would be refused official permission to land.

The Greek officers, other than the captain, announced that they would walk off the ship if the Ethiopians remained on board.

The captain complained that they were troublemakers and agitators, the men complained the captain was too hard on them, the dock superintendent complained that if the ship sailed any later it would snarl up the whole works in the dock, the boatmen said it was too damn cold anyway and if something didn't happen they would clear off and leave the ship 'tied up' for good.

To add to complications a



Bill Borley retires

From one career of recording details to another recording similar details goes Sergeant Bill Borley.

On retirement he starts his second career as Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages at Epping.

A farewell party was held in his honour at Epping Police Station on 10th January when some sixty friends and colleagues attended.

From subscriptions by his friends he was presented with a watch and a barometer, the presentations being made by Harlow Deputy Divisional Commander, Superintendent Redgwel, and Epping Chief Inspector, Mr. Newnham.

Mrs. Borley was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Mrs. Ann Reed, one of Epping's Traffic Wardens. (Photo by West Essex Gazette.)

domestic dispute blew up between a senior officer on the ship (the captain) and his good wife over the dismissal of a Thailand member of the crew because of his too-friendly relationship with the lady.

The Asiatic crewman joined the motley crowd from Africa already standing on the jetty.

Discuss any offences committed and any action to be taken.

This in fact did happen at Grays recently, and, although they don't say how, the matters resolved with the ship leaving port with crewmen, stowaway, officers, captain, captain's wife, old Uncle Tom Cobby and all.

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Chief for Interpol

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE has accepted an invitation to join the U.K. delegation to the annual assembly of the International Criminal Police Commission (Interpol) representing the provincial forces of the U.K.