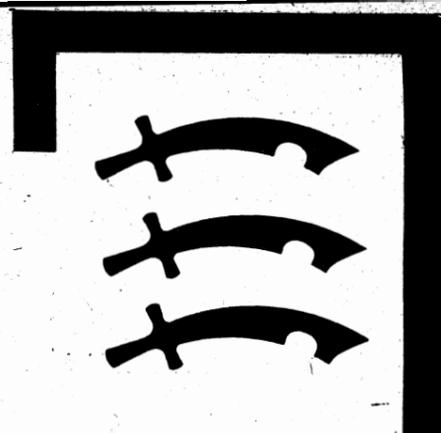




THE LAW



No. 72

MARCH 1975

The Newspaper of the Essex Police

Minimum age reduced

Certificates for Maldon policemen

Constables at 18½



IN AUGUST of last year Police were called to a smoke-filled house in Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, after a newspaper boy had raised the alarm.

When the three officers, P.s. Dave Hull, P.c. Peter Clark and P.c. Bob Mills, arrived at the house they found that the first floor was engulfed in black smoke.

The lady of the house, Mrs. Hilda Butcher, aged 72 years, had managed to escape and she told the officers that her husband Arthur was trapped upstairs.

They made repeated attempts to reach him and eventually Bob Mills, crawling on his hands and knees,

found Mr. Butcher unconscious in the bathroom. Bob pulled Mr. Butcher out of the bathroom and, taking it in turns, because of the dense, suffocating smoke, the officers pulled Mr. Butcher downstairs to safety.

Their bravery has been acknowledged with the award of framed certificates by the Society for the Protection of Life in Fire, presented by the chairman of Maldon Magistrates, Mr. George Barber.

Pictured, left to right, are P.c. Mills, P.c. Clark, P.s. Hull and Mr. Barber.

REPLYING to a question in the House on February 6, Mr Roy Jenkins, Home Secretary, announced the reduction of the minimum age for entry into the Police from 19 to 18½ years of age. This will take effect on July 1, 1975.

Police training would be arranged, he continued, to make sure that young people recruited at the new minimum age would not be on duty in contact with the public until they were over 19. The Home Secretary said he hoped all forces would comply with this.

This proviso has been included to placate critics of the age reduction who were of the opinion that 19 is too young to carry out police duty let alone 18½.

Included among these opponents is the Police Federation who have not been too happy about the change. It had been confidently predicted among divisional personnel in Essex that no change would come about as "the Federation would never stand for it."

The immediate effect is likely to be limited to a larger than usual transfer of cadets into the Force. Compared with the usual monthly entry of four or five cadets into the Force, no fewer than 15 males and nine girls will be aged 18½ or over on July 1.

But of course, thereafter, cadet entry goes back to the normal half dozen or so each month.

The reduced entry age is therefore likely to give Essex Police a tangible advantage of no more than 20 recruits plus the possibility of others in the same age group from school or other jobs.

Balanced against this must be the problem posed by two-tier training arrangements designed to keep 18½-year-old entrants off the street for the first six months of their service.

Already Home Office have called for an estimate of numbers of cadets available for attestation in July. Whether police training centres will be able to cope all at once with the large numbers involved is doubtful.



ONCE AGAIN the wheels of the recruiting machine have turned and stamped out another 13 Essex officers. This time, however, to help the machine the Specials have contributed two of their members and the Cadet Corps three. Also included was material straight from the College of Knowledge with a Graduate entry and the old Gateshead Borough Constabulary with a re-entry into the Police Service.

Pictured from left to right are:— Alan Booth (Basildon); Wendy Harvey (Basildon); John Hill (Basildon); Paul Bennie (Harlow); Karen Hobbs (Southend Western); Peter French (Harlow); Valerie Goldsmith (Brentwood); Brian Waugh (Chelmsford); Peter Sheldrake (Chelmsford); Mark Thornton (Braintree); Ian Ellison (Basildon); Clive Skingley

(Southend Eastern) and Tony Phoenix (Benfleet).

The ex-Specials are Paul Bennie and Peter French, the Graduate entry is Peter Sheldrake and the ex-Cadets are Mark Thornton, Ian Ellison and Clive Skingley.

Brian Waugh served with the Gateshead-Borough Constabulary for eight years, has had a break from the Police Service for six years whilst recharging his batteries and is now re-entering the arena, raring to go.

However, looking at our photograph, one could wonder what relationships have built up in the tow-week local procedure course. Is instruction on the pursing of lips given at Ryton nowadays or is the young lady in question just saying "prunes"?

Back in harness



IN OCTOBER of last year we featured the story of P.C. Malcolm Pace who less than a year ago was at death's door with very severe injuries following a road accident.

Our reporter just happened to be in Harlow Police Station this month where he found Malcolm back in harness, albeit on light duties in the Station Office, where he has been for the past month.

And this picture proves that it was him — without his stick — making a good recovery.

Trouble for nothing?

SO HOME OFFICE has finally plucked up courage to alter the minimum age for entry into the police. But the change when it came amounted to a compromise the new minimum being 18½ years. And like most compromises this one seems to have the worst of all worlds.

This is because part of the compromise was to lay down that constables recruited at the new minimum age should not perform duty in contact with the public until they are nineteen years old. This means that younger recruits have to be occupied on some sort of inoperational work for about 3 months. In fact this probably means setting up some sort of elaborate training arrangements which, presumably over-nineteens will not undergo, thus setting up two classes of trainee.

And in return for all this trouble what advantage will the police get? Is the Service to be free of manpower deficiencies in future?

Taking Essex as an example, the immediate advantage will be an influx of 24 cadets in July when this begins. Thereafter cadet entry goes back to the normal four or five per month.

Any advantage which may accrue from entry from outside the service is difficult to assess. But since the proportion of nineteen-year-olds among recruits is now small, presumably the proportion of 18½-year-olds will not be large in future. If this is so the Essex Police will have been put to considerable trouble for the sake of 24 recruits. We can only wait and see.

Not quite so equal

THE FEDERATION must be slipping, or be mesmerised by all this talk of integration of women into ordinary police duty. It is now several days since the Greater London Council granted to all male

employees the right to paternity leave of up to 5 days — when the infant is born we hasten to add and not for another purpose at an earlier stage. And yet no move has yet been made by the Federation to secure this benefit for their male members to bring them into line with policewomen who have always had the right to maternity leave. But perhaps the ladies would argue that in such matters men are not their equals.

Vive la difference

THE EXPERTS believe that this advertisement could be very successful. The heading asks, "What's the difference between a policeman and a policewoman?" The small print before going on to mundane matters, answers, "Basically about four inches."



We wonder if the Home Office co-opted the services of radio script writers or more likely, in view of the anatomical understatement, those from a television medical series.

The Head of Publicity, Mr. Julian Bradley, is quoted as saying, "Our principal need is to get men and women to sit up and take notice . . ." We believe most men, remembering primary school days when they furtively asked each other the difference between bulls and bullocks, will notice the advertisement and smile. Alas most, having read the small print will also give the classical playground answer.

By any other name

AT A RECENT meeting of the Informal Consultative Committee, a body set up as a platform for civilian employees, the matter of certain civilians being allowed to leave HQ early while others had to work the full day on Christmas Eve came up.

We suspect the subject was raised because everyone wanted to go early on such days in the future but the committee decided that everyone should work a full day and "that letting civilian staff go early not only indicated a degree of paternalism but could also lead to difficulties with regard to Police Officers who are not permitted to leave work early." Did the committee think the police might strike?

We do not know much about paternalism in The Law office, where the Shops, Offices and Factories provisions have yet to penetrate, not being given to such excesses. Indeed, as far as we can remember, on Christmas Eve, and various other festivals like Thanksgiving, Bastille Day and the Feast of the Passover, none of the Police Officers show up at all, leaving the civilians to answer the telephone — all day.

We rather thought that the more fortunate civilians who went home early had received a small kindness, not paternalism, but nothing gets its real name these days, not even envy.

Better to stay away ?

THE PIECE written by Chief Inspector Harmer raises, somewhat courageously it may be thought, an issue of some importance. In just the same way as the writer accuses senior officers of sensitivity to criticism, he may himself be accused of sensitivity to supervision.

The right of senior officers to supervise what goes on within their jurisdiction is, of course, entrenched and unarguable. In this sense supervision does not in any way mean spying upon with a view to interference so much as watching over with the object of advising if necessary.

The writer alleges that not all of those who attend major, or quite minor in some cases, incidents do so out of such lofty motives and to his credit steers clear of any cynical remarks about "mileage." But can it be said for certain that every senior officer who turns up at an incident does so motivated in no way by idle curiosity? Alas, although all those characteristics, like self-discipline, which go to make up the ideal constable, do not entirely disappear as policemen are promoted, they do tend to become overshadowed by other considerations.

D. HARMER

INCIDENTS—Attendance and Control

THE PRACTICAL control of incidents has not been an area in which much study appears to have taken place; indeed, there is very little emphasis on training in this aspect of work. Most practical exercises are stage managed to such a degree that any benefit which might accrue from them is lost on the planning stage, and the event becomes simply a matter of going through the motions and preparing a report to indicate that the exercise, planning and execution were efficient and appropriate to the circumstances of the incident.

The normal effect of such exercises is simply to deprive the areas involved of a number of constables who might be employed on other duties, without necessarily teaching either officers or the Incident Controller very much about the conduct of a real emergency. If anyone considers that the foregoing is an unnecessarily harsh view of what happens, when was there a totally unexpected exercise in which the Controller had to make do with what he could find in the way of manpower and equipment?

It is not, therefore, very surprising that the conduct of real emergencies and major incidents leaves something to be desired. Men with little training in what might be termed 'unit discipline' are directed by sergeants who know very little more than they do, and who are not fully trained in this aspect of work, but by far the worst picture is in the control and management.

One presumes that the most effective level of control of any incident or operation is the lowest at which efficiency can be achieved. It is obvious that any unnecessary rise in that level will lengthen the chain of command and reduce the efficiency. Also apparent is the need for the control to be quickly established, rapidly operational, and easily identified. What, in fact, happens is that the first officer present, usually a constable, gathers some information and reports back to his Local or Force Control. Reinforcements soon arrive, but no decisive action is likely to be taken until, in the case of serious crime, a Divisional Detective Chief Inspector or Inspector, or in other serious event, the Duty Inspector arrives. One would expect that at that stage matters would progress, but the Inspector will normally be superseded by Chief Inspector, followed by one of more

THIS article was conceived in disappointment and written in anger, writes Chief Inspector Don Harmer, after recent weeks showed that the original thoughts are no less valid today than when they arose nearly 18 months ago. I am conscious that some will consider the language intemperate and the sentiments discordant at a time when we need unity. The article is intended to provoke thought on incident management and control and if it does this it will have served its purpose.

Superintendents, Chief Superintendents, and Assistant Chief Constables, though not necessarily in that order.

The effect of the arrival, or apprehended arrival, of these senior officers is to delay the establishment or proper control and operational decisions until it is clear who is going to assume command. This appears to be done by an assumption on the part of one person and acquiescence on the part of the others, rather than by any clear decision or instruction.

Some senior officers who attend appear to do so, not in order to perform any useful function, but so that they may not be in the position of having to explain their failure to arrive. There are also those who, because they are on duty, feel it necessary to attend any event within range, and on occasions the 'tourists' outnumber those gainfully employed.

It is difficult to instil discipline in men when so little self-discipline is exercised by those in what might be called positions of responsibility. One recalls incidents, one in which 16 officers were present in a room in which a body had been found long before any examination of the room had been made and another where there was a suspected bomb which was continually approached by senior officers, either singly or in groups, each one as he arrived feeling it incumbent upon him to have a look.

In each case, instructions had been given to prevent this happening, and in each case countermanded or ignored by more senior officers. Behaviour of this sort does nothing to instil discipline, confidence, or respect in juniors. Further, when the captains and kings depart, they invariably take with them information which they have received during their attendance, not all of which they have passed on to the residual controller, who usually finds himself elected subsequent to the departure of most, if not all, of them, and in the unhappy position of having to pick up the pieces.

Not too many years ago, before the advent of good communications, it may have been necessary for those who felt

concern or responsibility to dash off before the full picture was revealed, but strangely enough it didn't happen. Now, when it is not necessary, it happens continually, which is indicative of lack of confidence in subordinates, under employment, or a complete failure to grasp the essentials of management.

The unnecessary attendance of any police officer, whatever rank, at an incident is a misuse of the most valuable commodity we have. Now that almost everyone has transport and can reach the scene of an incident quickly, it is imperative that a more disciplined attitude to attendance is encouraged and this has got to come from the top, there are still lessons to be learned by example.

Dealing with organised rather than incidental happenings, one regularly sees events which before the advent of paid overtime would have attracted a small number of officers and now require much larger numbers in order to obviate some slight risk of disorder, which earlier would have received no consideration whatsoever. The extra availability of manpower created by paid overtime has made apparent the latent timidity of some officers in that they now use 10 men where once they used 5.

This timidity and sensitivity to criticism has been fostered by past years' 'stable door' philosophy of police leadership, which encourages inquests into past events more for the determination of blame than in the hope of creating any improvement. It is this style of leadership which is so destructive of confidence in the intermediate supervisory ranks.

One anticipates the hot denials of this, but those who sit like piggy in the middle know where the muck lands, and are continually lectured about the responsibilities of management and leadership mainly by those who show no inclination to either.

It requires courage for senior officers to stay away from incidents at which they are not required and if we can acquire this together with the good sense to recognise such situations more will be done towards creating confidence, responsibility and

goodwill in subordinates and less of the personal shortcomings will be revealed. The possession of rank is no guarantee of ability, incident situations are very, very revealing, and the prolonged exposure of personal inadequacies can lead to lasting and very nasty attitudes among juniors.

What we require is a controller or incident commander appointed quickly where all refer and defer to him whatever their rank, where only one set of instructions are issued and all amendments come from the same source and all involved are aware of who is in charge. Where people don't keep walking on the evidence and 'Keep Out' applies to all.

D. HARMER

postbag

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.

Ear-rings

Dear Sir,
I see from today's national daily that the Home Secretary has reduced the age of entry to our service to 18½ years, and in the very same edition is an article concerning two Met. probationers who have had their ears pierced in order that they may wear David Bowie-style ear-rings.
Is this not the writing on the wall?
What a clever ruse on the

part of the Home Secretary in order to fulfill his promise to increase our recruitment figures by so many thousands this year.
I was silly enough to think at one stage that he would have performed this miracle by giving us a pay rise which would have lulled us into thinking that we were keeping pace with the cost of living.

As I recall the last time such a policy was used was on the Western Front in 1916 when Haig had prematurely used up his annual issue of cannon fodder. The solution was simple, call up now the men due for conscription next year.

Continued on page 3

Geneology

Dear Sir,
It is appreciated that most of the members of the Force spend a considerable amount of their time on 'detection' work of one sort or another, but how many have ever considered taking it on as a hobby as well?

Geneology, or to give it its less mysterious name, Family History, is indeed a pastime which really tests ones powers of detection and endurance to the full. It is now getting to be such a popular hobby that a new Essex society has been formed recently — The Essex Society for Family History — to enable us to pick one another's brains. Although the Inaugural Meeting was held only last September the Society already has a membership approaching 200.

If any members of the Force, or retired members, fancy digging up a few family skeletons (metaphorically speaking!) and would like to join in this fascinating game of research and detection, I shall be very happy to let them have further particulars.

Hon. Secretary,
John W. Peters,
6 Windsor Way,
Rayleigh, Essex.

Letters

This attitude is typical of Governments' short-term cure for the Police Service. D. BURRELL, P.c. 1108 Traffic Division Chelmsford

AH, but politicians (like editors perhaps) do everything in the short term. Tomorrow, after all, is another day. We think Messrs Burrell and Jenkins may be wrong in their estimate of an increase of recruits by thousands. See editorial note.

Unsocial

Dear Sir,

Your recent issues have published some very sensible letters advocating the payment of an operational duty allowance for those who regularly work unsocial hours. Far from being a cry in the wilderness this view represents the majority of readers.

I am aware that our last pay increase included a sum in respect of unsocial hours worked but what a pittance it was! Nobody works more unsocial hours than a policeman and I feel that our Federation makes nowhere near enough capital from

this fact when it comes to negotiating salary increases.

Be that as it may what really annoys practical policemen is the sharing of this small unsocial hours payment with the 9-5 brigade. I am a uniformed officer and do not expect to be paid detective allowance, plain clothes allowance, any specialists allowance or for overtime not worked. Why, I wonder, should anyone be paid an unsocial hours allowance for working 9-5? The logic and justice of the situation escapes me and a lot of others.

To the predictable broadside from expected quarters I would suggest that convenient hours and all that goes with it should be rewards enough in themselves for anyone.

P.s. 348
M. G. JOLLY

Thanks

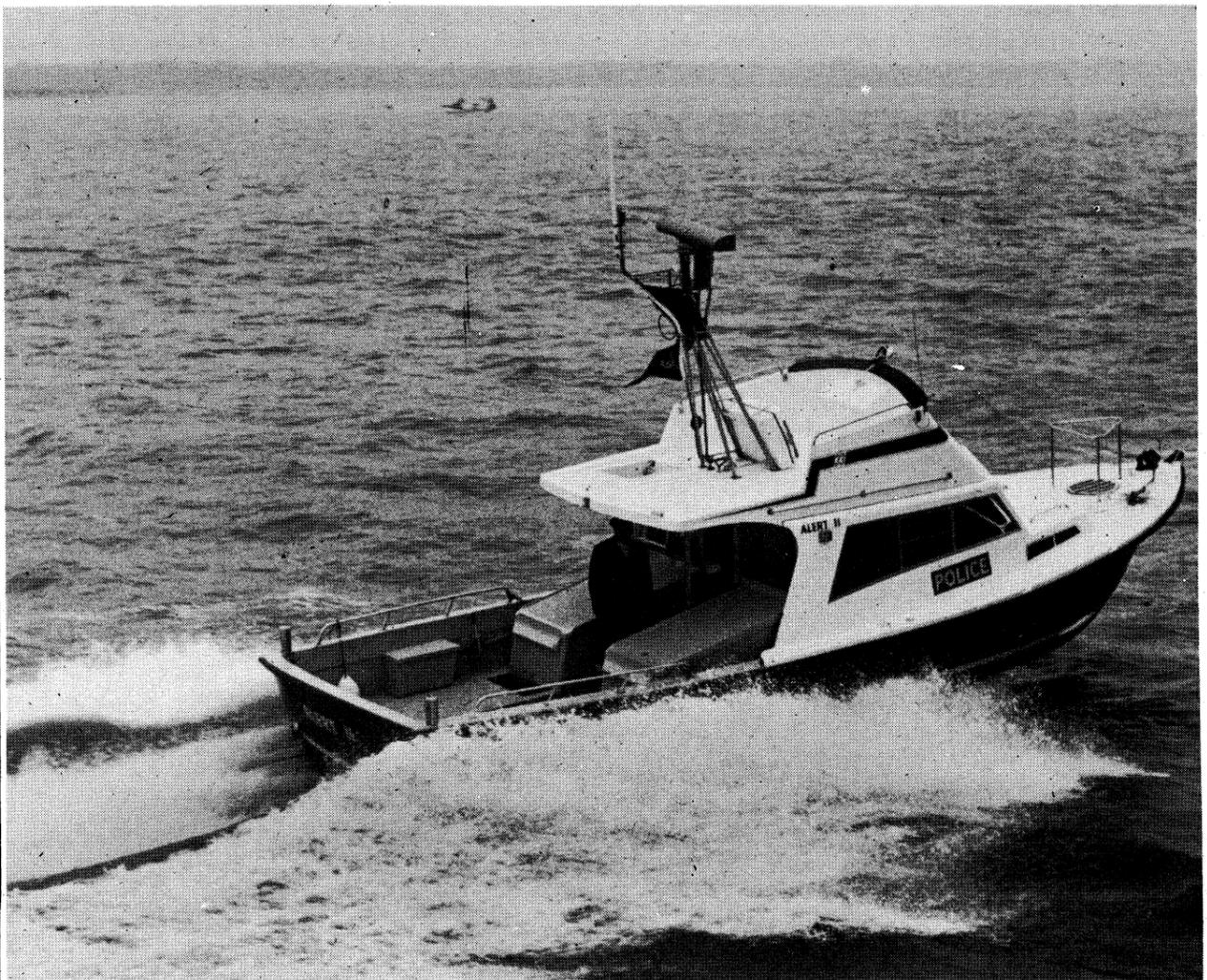
Dear Sir,

Would you please convey to members of the Essex Police Comrades Association my very sincere thanks for the floral tribute and sympathy on the death of Herman.

In the last few years of ill-health he was always pleased if he was able to attend the Association meetings and Dinner.

Yours sincerely,
PHYLLIS F. FOSTER

Alert II begins her patrol



THE ESSEX SUPERBOAT is shipshape and seaborne, so beware the 'Pirates' of the Essex seaboard. No longer will they defiantly shrug off the long arm of the law, for this month the Alert II arrived in Bradwell Marina to begin patrolling the coastline from Harwich to the River Crouch.

As previously reported the 33ft. launch, which cost £18,000, is equipped with all manner of space-age technological equipment, such as radar and echo sounders, in fact everything which the perfectly equipped fishing vessel should need. Her 180 hp twin engines are capable of powering her three-man crew through the open sea at 28

knots — 14 knots faster than her predecessor. Hopefully fast enough not to be left in the wake of those evasive speed merchants. (NB: It is not however fitted with VASCAR.)

Alert II will work in the River Blackwater, leaving Watchful to patrol the River Crouch and Vigilant on the River Thames.

'Admiral' Robert George of the Marine Section said of her duties: "She will always be available to work with the other launches. All the time we are carrying out support duties and we are on constant call to back up the coastguard services."

Picture by courtesy of Maldon & Burnham Standard.

National Association of Retired Police Officers by Bert Brinkley

AT LAST I have succeeded in sorting out the income tax query referred to in the December issue. The personal allowance for husband and wife for 1974/75 is £865, but the allowance of £1,170 referred to is an exemption level. Once you go over it then it is not operative as an allowance — only for calculating tax over it at 55 per cent until you become level with people who do not enjoy this privilege of being over 65.

This Exemption applied since the April budget and effectively it was of some benefit up to £1,170, the marginal 55 per cent tax rate being applied to this point.

Most people will have received the new coding notice for 1975/76

from which it is clear that all married pensioners over 65 will receive the new allowance of £1,425 if their total income does not exceed £3,000. This seems very involved but from the literature being supplied it is expected that the position will be made even clearer.

One thing which is very clear is the Interest received from a Building Society will be included in the earnings, etc., up to £3,000, whichever way you try to reckon it out you simply cannot win. The obvious answer is to watch one's Interest and when approaching the £3,000 limit to re-invest in other Securities, e.g. National Savings, which are free of tax.

It is interesting to note the retirement pension (Old Age) is being increased by £1.60 per week for single persons and £2.50 for married couple as from 7 April, 1975. This increase, will of course, be aggregated with any other pension and the full rate of tax applied.

We read in the last Bulletin that a deputation from the Public Service Pensioners' Council waited on Lord Shepherd (Lord Privy Seal) on 11 December. The case for improvement in pensions was again raised and the reaction though sympathetic was not particularly hopeful, apart from the agreement that there should be discussion with the Civil Service Department on possible alternatives to the rise of the retail prices index. It was emphasised by the Lord Privy seal that whilst he realised that in periods of rapid inflation pensioners were in a vulnerable position and that some would suffer, he could hold out no hope of

more frequent pension upratings or of interim adjustment, particularly at the present time. But he would welcome the opportunity to meet representatives of the P.S.P.C. at a later date.

A deputation from the N.E.C. visited the Home Office on 6 December when five points which have been uppermost in the minds of Association members was put forward. But it was not reasonable to expect the Minister (Lord Harris) to respond immediately and positively on the issues though he promised his attention and a detailed reaction would be given in due course. He did, however, say that he would see facilities were made available for representatives to meet officials of the Home Office when necessary to discuss problems peculiar to police pensioners. It will thus be seen that at last the perseverance of the N.E.C. is being rewarded and members will now await the reaction with interest, especially on the matter of the preserved rate police widows' pensions, an issue of the greatest concern in these times of runaway inflation.

Reference was made in the last bulletin of a Life Certificate issued in Kent which included a note which implied that a police pensioner who obtains employment with a Local Authority might have his pension reduced or suspended for the duration of that employment. I would remind members that this form has been in use in Essex for a number of years and the question of a pension being interfered with does NOT apply to police pensioners who undertake employment with a Local Authority.

Association ties are still awaited. The General Secretary advises me that he expected delivery in 14 days.

There are still a number of subscriptions outstanding and the Treasurer would appreciate attention in order to obviate reminders. The Committee (Chelmsford Branch) met on 22 February when the position was very fully reported. Amongst other items discussed will be the date of the Annual General Meeting (usually held mid-May), but details

OBITUARY

IT IS WITH deep regret that we announce the death of ex-Det. Sgt. Herman Foster, at the age of 68 years.

Herman joined the Essex County Constabulary in 1931 and after a short period in uniform he transferred to the C.I.D., serving at Clacton, Epping, Chelmsford, Saffron Walden and Colchester.

It was on the move from Saffron Walden to Colchester that he was promoted to Detective Sergeant.

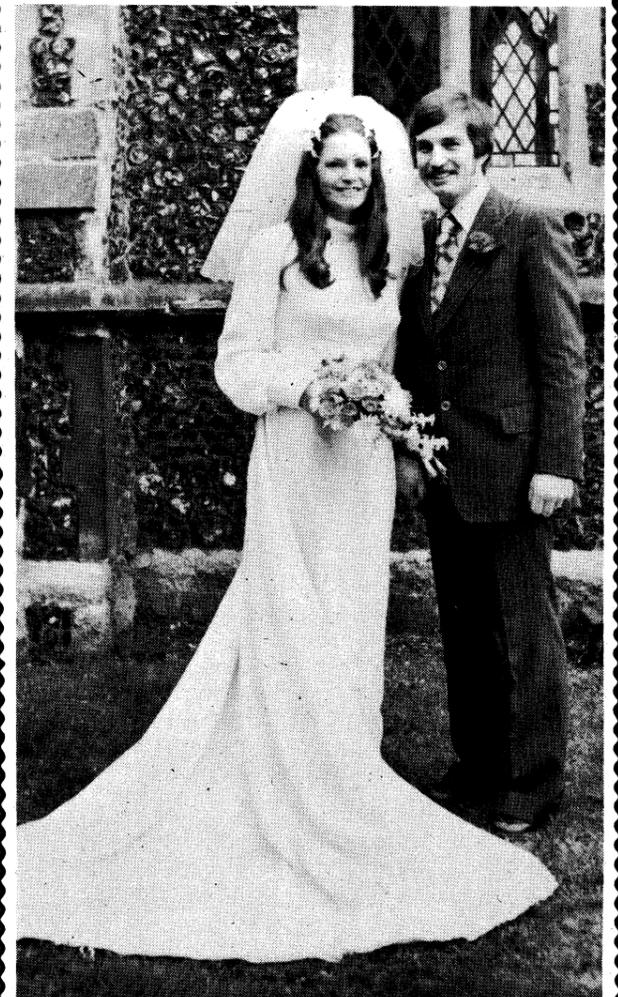
He retired in 1961 and took up employment as a Welfare Officer for the Royal Eastern Counties Hospital Group, a job he was well suited for because Herman always showed a great deal of compassion for those less well off than himself.

Whilst at the Hospital Group he suffered a severe stroke and unfortunately the effects of this remained with him for the rest of his life.

A much liked and respected man, Herman was always scrupulously fair and went out of his way to explain the intricate workings of the C.I.D. to any youngster willing to listen.

Herman leaves a widow, one daughter and a son.

will be circulated later. Also, the question of a Branch get-together hitherto held in September will be discussed. Last year 50 members attended, but with a total membership of over 500 it is hoped, and expected, that at least 100 members and wives will at least make an effort to support the Social.



PART OF THE Community Involvement Scheme at Basildon has undergone an amalgamation with Basildon Beat with the wedding of Julie Hales to Bob Neale.

The wedding took place at St. Mary Magdalen Church, Colchester, recently where Julie was attended by her sister as a bridesmaid.

The reception was held at the Embassy Rooms, Colchester and the couple then left for an "unknown destination" on honeymoon. Photo by Douglas Studios, Colchester.



IPA notes

The A.G.M. of the I.P.A. 6(3) Sub Region will be held at 7.30 p.m. Monday March 10, at the Police Club Room, P.L.A., West India Dock.

There will be 44 Germans from I.P.A. Bad Kreuznach staying at Southend from May 25 to May 31. There will be further details issued later about the socials to be held during this week.

There will be a Grand Dance held by K Division, Met., I.P.A. on Wednesday March 26 at the Robin Hood Public House, Dagenham, on Wednesday March 26. Dancing will be to Billy Collins Trio from 8

p.m. to Midnight. Tickets are available, price 70 pence, from Chico Bates, or Cliff Dashfield, Admin Unit, Romford Police Station.

K Division, Metro, I.P.A. are visiting Freiburg from May 7 to 11. They have extended an invitation to I.P.A. members in Essex who wish to attend; cost is £21.50 which includes coach, meals on boat, but there will be a charge for the hotel of 4 nights at £5.70. For further details contact Chico Bates at Southend.

There will be a Seminar at Schloss Gimborn from June 14 to 21. There are two places reserved for Essex members. Contact Chico Bates for further information.

A Wuppertal, West German, member of the I.P.A., Freidhelm Buttner, wishes to arrange an exchange visit from July 20 for two or three weeks between his 15 year-old son and a friend and an Essex member's family and friend. Any member interested is requested to contact Sgt. Wright at Hawlow.

Does anyone know the present location of the Essex Branch I.P.A. Banner? The Banner has gone missing. Information to its whereabouts to Chico Bates. Remember to renew your membership to the I.P.A. This is the third month!!!

Harlow's new Traffic Sub opens



Front view of main office building.



Recreation room showing — left — canteen

Ready for Motorway patrol



READY FOR THE opening of the new M11 Motorway at Harlow later this year the first Range Rover on the fleet.

However a little bird told The Law: "This will be the only one we will have. It's already cost over £3,000 before it's been fitted out!"

And the fitting out included the latest type of radio being used in the Force.



AT LONG LAST the new Harlow Traffic Garage is open for business.

Built on the site which originally housed the Old Harlow Police Station which was then situated on what was the old A.11 London to Newmarket Road, opposite the long driveway leading to Mark Hall, the mansion home of the Gilby family, famed for their connections with various types of alcoholic beverage, it is now the home of 34 police officers involved in traffic work and "an unknown

number of cloak and dagger types" from the Regional Crime Squad.

In May, 1973, the demolition workers moved in and razed the old station to the ground, making way for the builders to erect the new palace which now stands in its place.

North Weald

Whilst building took place the Traffic Section moved to temporary quarters at North Weald, and in February,

1975, the offices and workshop were completed and ready for occupation.

The building is based on a two-block system with an adjoining corridor. First there is a two-storey block housing the administrative offices, canteen, recreation room and the Regional Crime Squad offices, whilst the second building consists of the workshop and rooms housing equipment for the servicing and maintenance of vehicles.

The workshop is capable



Rear view of office building with Land Rover and Range Rover.



Land Rover and equipment. Left Pc Charles Bentley, right Pc Leo Spong.



Front view of garage block with — left to right — car wash, stores,

Colchester blew up the lady's car



IF EVER a meal was destined to produce indigestion it was that which Mr. David Jewell and Mrs. Teresa Dixon consumed in Colchester on Wednesday, 12th February. They had travelled from Harlow to the library on business in Mrs. Dixon's car and having concluded their affairs they chose to dine. Unfortunately for Mrs. Dixon, her car was registered in Ireland and she incautiously left a "suspicious looking" briefcase on the back seat.

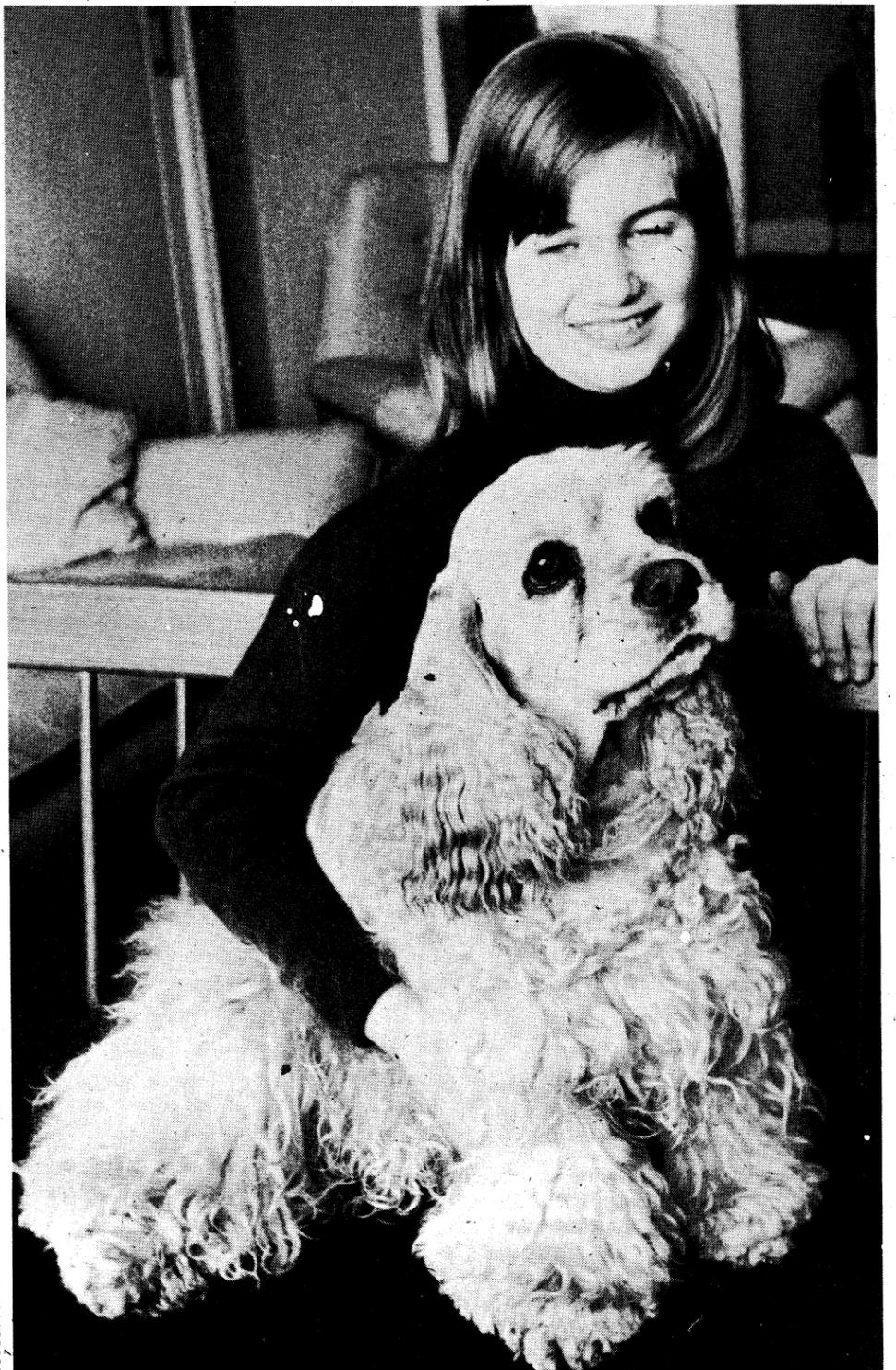
At 10 am the local Law began their fruitless attempt to trace the driver. They checked the library, but were only given the index number of Mr. Jewell's car. They toured the town centre, using loudspeakers, appealing to the driver to return, but to no avail.

By one o'clock with no sign of the driver, an RAOC bomb disposal team was called in and explosive charges were fixed to the door and boot locks. The road was duly cleared and cordoned off and nearby offices were evacuated. After two small explosions the briefcase was checked and found only to contain various papers.

Colchester Police's next manoeuvre was to introduce Pc Kennedy to the scene. Pictured here he was obviously at a loss as to what treatment to administer as the "fracture" had already been rendered immobile. He was, however, fully prepared to deal with a case of "shock" when Mrs. Dixon returned.

Photo by East Anglian Daily Times

Another winning canine



CONTINUING the saga of "police dogs" our picture, by courtesy of Southend Evening Echo shows Freeborn Bit O'Gossip, commonly known as Willow.

Willow is now a "top dog" after winning a major prize at Crufts. The young lady also pictured is Tracey, daughter of John Bennett of Southend Control room and his wife, Beryl.

This year has been a good one for Mrs. Bennett, the owner of Willow, for not only did she win the first prize in the special yearling class for American cocker spaniel, but also took a "reserve champion" with another of her spaniels — Kerry — in the open bitch class.

Mrs. Bennett said that although her dogs had previously won awards at Crufts this was her only first prize.

She added that she had had an offer in the three figure class for Willow after her success and told The Law: "I was very pleased. Willow had a good year last year. She won seven best puppy awards."

READERS who have had connections with the Cadet School in recent years will be sad to hear that Tostig, the Great Dane who has paraded with the Cadet Corps as mascot, was humanely "put to sleep" last week, an incurable condition having worsened.



EPPING-BASED P.c. Michael Bray returned to his old stamping ground at Clacton when he married Madeleine Cole at Trinity Methodist Church, Clacton, on Saturday 1st February.

Mike joined the job on 4th March last year and prior to that he was a member of the Clacton Inshore Rescue Lifeboat team.

The couple are spending their honeymoon in search of the sun in Majorca.

—Picture by CPA Clacton

handling at least five vehicles at a time with hydraulic lifts, a turntable and the latest equipment.

Mechanics

The mechanics working in the building have their own room and showers so you can expect them to turn in pinstripe suits and ties, change into overalls for the working day and then back into their City suits for work.

All in all the building is modern, light and airy, with sensible but pleasing decor and a worthy showpiece for the Force.

In fact, this station will serve the new M.11 motorway which will shortly be opening and to ensure that all officers have prior knowledge of motorway traffic each officer will have at least one week's trolloing on the Hertfordshire section of the M.1.



AT A PRE-RETIREMENT do held at Harlow recently P.c. John Ball was presented with a testimonial and a specially mounted and engraved piston, a small

token from his colleagues at the new Harlow Traffic Garage.

John, after 25 years' service, is joining the Essex County Highways Department.

NETBALL TEAM IN NATIONAL FINAL AGAIN

THREE years on the trot the Essex netball squad have won their way into the Police Athletic Association final. They got in this year by the narrow margin of three goals against Thames Valley on 21st February at Abingdon.

Two years ago they lost to Manchester, last year they beat Lincolnshire for the narrowest of victories. What will happen in 1975?

We must wait until 3rd April to find out.

Height advantage

In the semi-final the Essex girls found themselves against a very tall team. Indeed so big were the defenders that shooter Jill Smith had to pull out of the circle and leave Sue Youngs to go for goal by herself.

A first quarter score of 4-3 to Thames Valley showed that Essex had settled slowly but in the second quarter they came back with seven good goals to lead 10-5 at half-time.

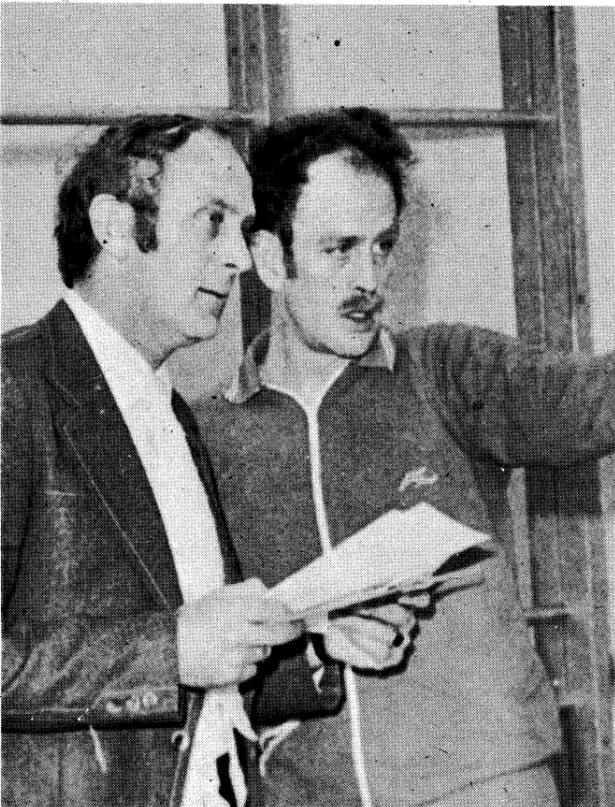
Even then they had to fight all the way as Thames Valley limited them to only five more goals while scoring seven themselves.

Sighs of relief all round at the end of a difficult game with the score at 15-12.

Supporters for the final should contact Chief Inspector Lorna Brooks for details.

Teams against Thames Valley — Jill Smith, Susan Youngs, Barbara Ruby, Lesley Robinson, Ginny Granville, Mo Chaplin and Jeanette Bailey.

Dutch visitor surprised



VISITING the only gymnasium in the Force which is used regularly as a gym is Mr. Dik Obbes, Chief Physical Training Instructor of the Dutch Police Cadet College at Apeldoorn, Netherlands.

He recently made a tour of various forces in England studying physical and mental training methods used.

Dik told The Law: "I'm afraid the British Police have let me down. In Holland it is compulsory for every officer under 45 years of age to take one and a half hours physical training every fortnight and to be proficient in Judo, Jujitsu and boxing. I thought that the magnificent British Police, being unarmed, would do more physical training than us and that I would be able to learn something to include and improve our self defence programme but I find that not only do they not do as much as us but physical training after initial training is not compulsory."

Pictured with P.s. Tony Armstrong, Dik is watching a group of Cadets going through their early morning P.T. session.

POLICE REVIEW is going glossy — but not just yet, these things take time.

The editor wants cover pictures for the coming year; glossy black and white, with captions giving full details and names of those shown from left to right. A square format is best, to fit the space on the cover and pictures (not negatives) should be postcard size or larger.

Any subject connected with police work may be suitable and prints can be returned if requested.

Send them, not to The Law, but to the Editor, Police Review, 14 St. Cross St., London EC1N 8FE.

Cadets in last four

THE BIG MATCH! The best home draw of the season in Essex Police football when Cadets play Manchester Cadets in the semi-final of the National Cadet Cup.

Super-fitness, good football, fierce competitive spirit, and good sportsmanship! all of these will be on display at 2.30 pm on Friday, 7th March on the Headquarters sports field; spectators will be welcome.



CAUGHT off his line the Metro goalkeeper can only stand and watch this lob by Gamman (out of picture) put Essex in front.

CADETS took one step further than ever before early last month when they progressed into the last four in the national cadet soccer competition. And they had the satisfaction of achieving this by beating Metropolitan Cadets on their own ground at Imber Court.

Their 2-1 victory was achieved by all round superiority but nearly thrown away near the end when slack marking allowed Metro to equalise, only for the goal disallowed for off-side.

After intense early Essex pressure Metro went ahead with a scrambled goal. Not until after half time, two shots against the crossbar and three Gamman near-misses did Essex draw level and then take the lead. Gamman netted both, one from the spot after Carpenter was laid low in the area.

Cadets have been revitalised recently by the injection of Alan King, transferred (wait for it) from the walking team. His midfield play combined with Still and O'Sullivan has added strength and allowed the strikers to move forward.

The team's added success this year may also be attributed to their presence in the Southend Wednesday League where they were luckily put into Division I where strong adult opposition every week has improved their play.

The Force XI scored five against Stortford Swifts in mid-February, conceding only two in reply, which took them into second spot in the Olympian League. But both Chadwell Heath and Collier Row, members one and three, have no less than 10 games in hand over Police and they can't lose 'em all. So this position may slump.

Against Norfolk Police on February 18 the team were all over the place and lost 4-2 to depart from the South-East Region knock-out competition.

Internally, force champions, Basildon, came up against Cadets on February 19. Despite more than half the Divisional team being ex-cadets, sentiment was set aside for the afternoon and cadets scored eight without conceding a goal in reply.

Spellman, particularly, was on good form in Battersea Park to miss the 50 minute target by only one second. Barry Schulz also moved well and M. Todd, D. Murray and J. Roche achieved their 6 miles in the hour badges.

Results

Biggin Hill 7 miles: 29.1.75
2nd M. Dunion 57.05; 3rd D. Sheppard 58.10; 20th A. Mason 64.21; 24th B. Schulz and M. Spellman 65.25; 34th A. Trebilcock 70.21; 36th M. Todd 72.10; 38th D. Murray 72.16; 45th R. Simmons 74.03; 77th J. Roche 75.33.

Garnet Cup 10m: Slough: 1.2.75
7th D. Sheppard 82.30; 38th A. Mason 91.23.

Henlow 10m v. RAF: 12.2.75
4th D. Sheppard 85.55; 9th J. Hedgethorne 87.31; 12th A. King 88.34; 15th A. Trebilcock 90.36; 17th A. Masson 91.15; 18th W. Stephen 92.34; 20th B. Daymond 93.24; 26th J. Roche 100.19.

Crystal Palace 5000mts: 12.2.75
10th M. Dunion 23.56.4; 23rd M. Spellman 26.20; 24th B. Schulz 26.21; 28th J. Hedgethorne 27.19; 30th D. Murray 29.31.

Croydon 20 kilos: 15.2.75
9th D. Sheppard 108.28; 15th J. Hedgethorne 117.58.

Chelmsford 10 kilos: 19.2.75: v. Hendon

4th D. Sheppard 51.22; 6th M. Spellman 52.07; 7th B. Schulz 53.39; 10th W. Stephen 56.17; 11th A. Masson 57.30; 17th J. Roche 61.27; 18th A. Trebilcock 61.35; 25th R. Simmons 65.23. Teams; Met 30, Essex 48.

Essex 10m: Southend: 22.2.75
14th D. Sheppard 85.56; 15th J. Hedgethorne 87.30; 18th A. Masson 89.21; 20th A. King 90.57; 26th A. Trebilcock 93.39; 28th B. Daymond 96.15; 29th W. Stephen 97.27; Team placed 4th.

Battersea Park 6m: 26.2.75
7th M. Spellman 50.01; 14th A. Trebilcock 51.52; 15th B. Schulz 51.54; 21st W. Stephen and J. Hedgethorne 53.16; 23rd A. Masson 53.50; 29th M. Todd 56.49; 30th D. Murray 56.50; 31st J. Roche 56.52.

Narrow defeat for cross country team

THE CROSS-COUNTRY squad, back at full strength, made a determined bid to win their first SE League race of the season at Welwyn on 5 February.

Although Andy Down, 6th and Graham Butler, 7th, gave them a great start, ably backed up by Lindsay Reeve, Vaughan Mullender and Dave Dutton, together at 12th, 13th and 14th, Thames Valley were just too good, getting home by five points 299-294.

But with 6th counter Alex Vowles finishing in 20th position Essex had its best day for a long time and the team seem to be running into good form just at the right time with the national championships for police and cadets coming soon.

Andy Down, newly recovered from Achilles injury had a tremendous uphill finishing sprint with Kitson of Thames Valley just losing on the line and this set the pattern for a tight team race between the two forces.

Thames Valley head the season's overall list with Essex second.

Absentees

Without Hicks and Oldall the women's team

had a depleted air but no-one need have worried.

Miss Robertson of Bedford got away to win easily but such is the strength in depth of the Essex team that the next three to finish were Shirley Keeble, Alison Marshall and Julia Foster, and with Brenda Burgin 7th and Anne Dempsey 9th that was that.

Essex now stand well clear at the top of the season's table, despite having completely missed one race through arriving late.

Revenge was sweet on a couple of occasions last month when the team overcame opposition to which they had previously lost.

The 1st Light Infantry were beaten 61-81 in Friday Woods, Colchester, Andy Down having a comfortable win with Butler, Dutton and Mullender together not far behind. Reeve, Skingley, Neville and Bales completed the scoring.

After conceding a Friday match to Metro Cadets, Essex travelled to Wanstead for the return and soundly beat them.

In a triangular match at Essex University against the home side and Hermes, the London Post Office team, Police finished in second place. Scores were Hermes 19, Police 56, University 67: Police scorers were, Butler 5th, Dutton 10th, Reeve 12th, Mullender 14th and Neville 15th.

Walking

HAVING given the RAF a reasonably close contest at 10 kilometers before Christmas Police took them on over 10 miles at Henlow on 12th February.

Alas, RAF did not intend to be beaten and fielded a team strong enough to exclude all but three police walkers from the first 10 home. But they very sportingly split their team into A and B without reference to ability so the team result, at six to score, appeared quite close: RAF 'A' 52, RAF 'B' 56, Police 65.

Showing some versatility the squad also contested a 5000 mts. race at Crystal Palace in the evening, those taking part being the juniors, too young for 10 miles races. A couple of personal best times were achieved here by Schulz and Murray to add to the three gained by Trebilcock, Masson and Stephen in the afternoon at Henlow.

In the first Essex championship of 1975 Police had the misfortune to miss bronze medals by only 3 points. In fact with a mile to go Police were 3rd team though by only one point. Sheppard and King who are normally such a tower of strength each lost a place to a Newham A.C. walker which just tipped the scales.

A feature of this race was Andy Masson's breakthrough the 90 minutes barrier, a strong performance.

At the end of the month races over 6 miles gave the juniors a chance to shine and several personal best times resulted. Mark

SOUTHEND BRANCH NARPO

Dates to note in 1975

The Branch AGM will be held at Southend Police Station at 8 p.m. on March 26.

Garons will be the venue for the annual dinner on October 23, 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m.

Social evenings will be held at the police station club room at 8 p.m. on April 29, October 7 and December 9.

No excuse now for members not knowing dates.

10 week course lasts a year

STRETCHING A POINT is a fond habit of D/c Terry Gardiner, stationed at Harwich, this time however he has gone too far.

In the second week of January 1974, Terry commenced a 10 week C.I.D. Course at Wakefield, Yorks. On Monday, December 16, 1974, he finally completed the course, much to the relief of his wife, children and fellow officers; not to mention himself.

The 10 week course that lasted almost an entire year must go in history as being one of the longest drawn-out affairs ever. All started well until the threatened nation-wide miners strike caused an annoying and unforeseen postponement. With the industrial dispute resolved Terry prepared to return to Wakefield. However the day before returning he arrested seven prisoners (not bad for a days work) and this in

addition to the necessary court appearance caused still further delay.

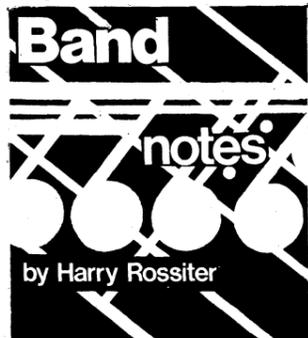
As if that wasn't enough on returning from Wakefield on weekend leave Terry was involved in a road accident on the A1 as a result of which he suffered whip-lash injuries and was off sick.

The final chapter of this seemingly never-ending saga was written on October 2 1974 when Terry

attended the scene of an aggravated burglary in Harwich and was violently assaulted, resulting in a short stay in hospital and then recuperation at home.

On recovering he returned to Wakefield and eventually completed his course. Terry told The Law: "I got a good report and a Wakefield tie in the bargain — I don't want a course to last that long again."

No doubt his instructors felt the same way!



THE BAND gave two performances during February. The first was on the 5th at St. Luke's Church at Tiptree, our annual visit there and we were well received. There was a fairly good attendance despite a rather cold evening and they enjoyed our efforts and once again we are asked to do the 'same again' next year. Alan Cook and Harold Hull played their solos in fine style, cornet and euphonium respectively. The acoustics in this fine church building are very good and the echoes of such items as the 'Lustspiel' Overture, and Sibelious' 'Finlandia' caused the timbers to resound. A good concert.

Our other engagement at the Archer Hall, Billericay on the 18th was even better and to a capacity audience everything went as it should have. We had the support of our friends from the Guards, including a fine trombone solo from Keith Duxberry (now Warrant Officer) of the Scots Guards. Alan Cook also played a fine solo and we had the audience 'singing along' in the Black and White Minstrels selection. An addition to the programme was enthusiastically received. This was the 'Two Jocks' resplendent in Highland dress playing the pipes in the forms of Chief Inspectors Ian Watson and Hugh Brown. Something about bagpipes that stirs the blood.

The concert which was promoted by the Inner Wheel Club of Billericay was in aid of a guide dog for the blind and in the front row was a lady who was accompanied by her guide dog and she addressed the audience in a very cheerful fashion, stating how her guide dog afforded her much freedom of movement and how the splendid animal had on more than one occasion prevented her from serious injury. There is nothing like the gift of sight and we are fortunate who have normal

CHRISTIAN POLICE ASSOCIATION

A branch meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Fenton, No. 32 Heathfield Road, Broomfield, Chelmsford, at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 28th March 1975. Anyone who wishes to come will be most welcome.

vision. On both these occasions our Chairman, Supt. Bob Palmer, was not able to be present being away on a marking panel.

So we have had a successful month and are rehearsing hard for our next public engagement which will be at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, no less. This will be on Wednesday, 5th March at 7.30 p.m. and is in aid of the Chelmsford Samaritans. A worthy cause this and needing every support (as well as us) Geoff Broome will be playing a solo at this concert and this brilliant musician will be worth hearing. Geoff who is principal cornetist to the Irish Guards is a much accomplished artist and musical producer and we are indeed fortunate to have his expertise from time to time. However, I always believe in the maxim 'Charity begins at home' and not forgetting our own Brian Tyrrell and Alan Cook without whose support we would have been in dire straits at

various times and I ain't kidding.

At the Shire Hall concert 'The pipes' will again be in full support.

On Friday, 7th March 1975, we are due to give a concert at All Saints' Church Hall, Maldon at 7.30 p.m. This is another concert for a worthy cause. This time in aid of deaf children. This follows two days after our attendance at the Shire Hall so it's a busy week for us.

Now a word or two about the band's appearance. As you probably know our band attire is mostly made up of cast uniform and we are trying to get the Inspectors type jackets for the band so if there are any inspectors who are casting their uniform the donation of same to the Band would be much appreciated. We can arrange any dry cleaning (if this is necessary) and no doubt if parcelled up and addressed to me, they can come through the Divisional Mail.

Their secret's out



"WE REALLY DIDN'T WANT our picture in The Law", said P.c. Ken Bailey, after his marriage to Adriene Wade, at Colchester recently.

But surely the capture of another prisoner, this time for life, should have the necessary publicity, especially when your prisoner is a member of the Women Police of this Force.

Ken, stationed at Witham, met his bride when they were at school together some six years ago.

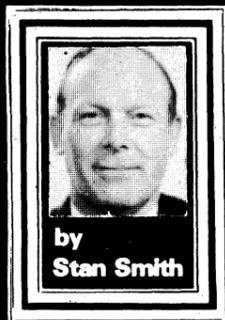
The wedding was held at All Saints Church, Shrub End, when Adriene was accompanied by her sister, acting as bridesmaid. Keeping the flavour of the event very much in Police style, the best man was P.c. John Bailey, Ken's brother.

It was touch and go as to whether the marriage would be legal for Adriene was suffering from laryngitis at the time and her responses during the service caused her some difficulty.

The couple are now living at Witham. Very sensible on Ken's behalf as he does not have to do the travelling to work, leaving Adriene to commute between home and Colchester.

Photo by Tony Nichols, Colchester.

Federation Notes



by Stan Smith

The burning question of the month is that of the review of the Force maximum limit rent allowance. I must apologise to those officers who are not owner/occupiers if it appears that a great deal of attention is being given to this matter, but to those of us who have committed ourselves to a heavy financial outlay in order to live in our own homes, the result of the two-yearly review of rent allowance is a matter of great importance, especially when the expenses of running a house have escalated so alarmingly over the past few years. The two-yearly review of rent allowance is designed so that any increase in running costs incurred by higher mortgage repayments; rates, and the cost of repairs should be reflected in the 'rentable value' placed upon houses by the District Valuer.

The Force maximum limit was set as at 1 April 1973 and is due for revision effective from 1 April 1975. A preliminary assessment obtained appears to set the Force limit at approximately the same level as in 1973, with a small adjustment to take account of the increase in rates payable.

How anyone can assert that there has been no increase in rentable values within the past two years, when one considers the increases in the cost of living, higher mortgage repayments; costs of labour and materials, is beyond my comprehension, and I can almost hear members saying, "What are you going to do about it?" Let me assure you that we, the Joint Branch Board, will do all that is humanly possible to rectify this error on the part of the District

Garden Party

AT THEIR meeting on 21st February the Police Pensioners' Garden Party Committee decided to repeat last years successful garden party in 1975.

The date is likely to be 10th July and the arrangements could follow last years when the Police Band played on the lawn and the Cadets gave displays. Pensioners will, be hearing the details from Welfare Officer Edgar Easlea in due course.

Valuer and we may well call upon you, the owner/occupiers of the Force, to help us. We shall certainly be calling upon the Joint Central Committee and the Essex Police Committee to use their big guns to get this matter sorted out, and if it takes a massive lobby of all our Members of Parliament to rectify this bureaucratic nonsense we know that our members will do all they can to assist us. Technically it is said that there is no appeal against the assessment given by the District Valuer, but I do not believe that the person in charge of this Department can fail to recognise the justice of our assertion that there should be a reflection of the rise in costs when assessing the rentable value of the Force selected house at the present time. This matter is not one just for the married officers with their own houses, it also significantly affects all the single officers of the Force, whose single man's allowance is directly related to the Force maximum limit. If the maximum limit does not rise, neither does their allowance for the purpose of assisting with the payment of their lodgings.

This matter will come to a head in another month when the official assessment is obtained by the Police Committee and if the assessment is not realistic then I can promise you that the sparks will fly. We shall be prepared to use Federation funds to the utmost to fight our case and enlist the aid of any professional person or body in the preparation of our arguments.

It does appear, however, that any question of this Force making use of the 'metropolitan formula' in the assessment of rent allowances is out of the question at this time, for, unless there is a dramatic increase in the assessment of rentable value of the Force selected house, the multiplier given will not be of any value to the majority of the owner/occupiers of this Force. And so, despite the anomalies within the present system it will be more

advantageous for us to continue until such time as the multiplier is favourable. It is likely to be at least two more years before a change can be contemplated.

STANSTED AIRPORT

On behalf of the Federated ranks of the Force I welcome to the fold the eleven officers of the former British Airports Constabulary who have opted to join the Essex Police upon the transfer of police responsibility for the Stansted Airport by this Force on 1 March 1975. This event has rather sneaked upon us as I for one did not consider that authority could move so fast. We bid you welcome, new colleagues and hope that the change will be to your benefit.

WAR SERVICE

It seems that at last we shall be resolving the question of the counting of War Service towards pension as the Official Side of the Police Council have promised an answer to our claim for such service to count some time in March. They must be quite worried that a fairly large number of police officers who joined the Service immediately after the war could qualify at once for a full pension if a reasonable amount of time for war service were to be counted, and the sudden retirement of a large number of experienced officers would be felt at a time when recruitment is not too healthy. The number of applicants for the Force is increasing, but it will be at least two years before they will have any impact upon the policing of the Force area, in the meantime over the next two years or so, the remainder of officers with war service to count will be coming up for retirement at an accelerated pace.

ALLOWANCES

The Clerk to the Police Committee has turned down our request for the payment of allowances already agreed at Police Council level to be paid with the

argument that the allowances are not law until the Regulations have been laid before Parliament and agreed. The argument that a great deal of administrative work will thus be saved has been shrugged off, apparently as being immaterial.

The Boot Allowance has been increased with effect from 1 January 1975 from 29p to 35p a week and the Plain Clothes Allowance has been increased as under:- Inspector from £72 pa to £93 pa; Sergeant from £64 pa to £83 pa and Constable from £60 pa to £77pa.

DEDUCTIONS FROM PAY

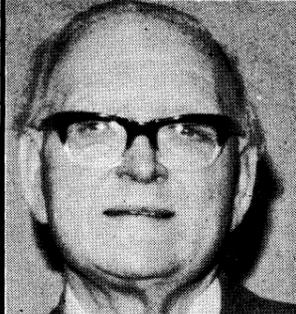
Over a hundred officers were affected when, during the last three months of last year, those officers who should have had an A.R.D. deducted because of sickness instead had an A.R.D. added to their salaries. In some cases the amount was considerable and although one could say that the officers concerned should have noticed that they were being

overpaid, it is not as easy as that when one considers the complicated manner in which such a payment is deducted because of the workings of the computer. The Treasurer will be asked in future that some consideration be given to the officers concerned when the next error is made in police pay so that the deduction is not automatically made in one month. There is a possibility that the Pay Slip will be easier to understand when certain alterations are made on the computer to cater for the change in National Insurance arrangements in April when we will no longer pay a fixed amount for a stamp but will pay a percentage of our gross pay instead, this change being made under the new National Health arrangements. It is also anticipated that the computer mechanics will be amended so as to be able to pay the whole of any large amount of overtime accrued in one month.



Off to Bermuda. P.c. Ian Kittle said farewell to friends and colleagues at Maldon Police Station before setting off to join the Bermudan Police. At a function held at Maldon "Nick" bar on 22nd January Ian was presented with a Parker pen and pencil and a wall plaque depicting the Maldon Borough Coat of Arms. (Picture by courtesy of D E King, Maldon).

Obituary



IT IS with regret that we have to record the death on Sunday, February 9th, 1975, of Clifford Podger, aged 61.

Cliff Podger was an ordained Minister of the Eilm Church, and in this capacity served in that church at Canvey Island, Ipswich and Hendon. He moved to Chelmsford about 15 years ago to take up a position as Deacon at the Eilm Church in the town.

He commenced employment at Essex Police Headquarters on May 25, 1963, as a Clerk in the Information Room. Although not a full time employee of the Church, he continued his activity in spiritual matters by preaching in the East of England area.

Cliff had two main hobbies — photography and miniature railways.

In 1973 Cliff was admitted to hospital in Chelmsford when he had a toe amputated on his right foot due to a diabetic condition. Following this Cliff returned to work, but had again to cease work on June 22, 1974 and later in the year was again admitted to hospital where surgeons were forced to amputate his left leg from just below the knee. He remained in hospital and had a heart attack on Tuesday, February 4, 1975.

The funeral took place on Thursday, February 13 at the Eilm Church, Chelmsford and was attended by Church dignitaries, members of the Essex Police, as well as his own family and friends.

Cliff Podger leaves a widow and three daughters, one of whom now lives in South Africa, and will be sent a tape of the funeral service.

JACK DRAPER'S RETIREMENT PARTY WELL ATTENDED



"THE VILLIANS CAN rest somewhat easier", was the remark made at the retirement party held in honour of Jack Draper of Basildon on Friday 14th February.

The function was very well attended by both past and present colleagues from both this Force and the Met from where many ex-Essex officers came out of hibernation to sing Jack's praises.

The Chief Constable when making a short speech said, "I have been to many retirement orgies but I don't think I have seen one as well attended as this."

"Young Draper has been one of the best officers this Force has ever had. He has been called 'a bloody nuisance' by many a night C.I.D. officer and has been an inspiration to young policemen."

He then presented Jack with a wristwatch, brief case, a Print, which the Chief said, "came straight from Le Bistro", and a plaque commemorating his service with the Force.

A representative of Laindon Traffic Garage with whom Jack has been closely associated then made a presentation and he was followed by Mr. Owen, Deputy Magistrates' Clerk for the Billericay area who made the comment that the villains can now rest a little easier.

Our picture shows the presentation with both in jocular mood: inset proves the force is not without a Draper still, son Nigel, currently a cadet at Chelmsford, also attended the festivities.

Well, you can't be expected to notice everything



"I DIDN'T KNOW it was a Police car," said the Traffic Warden on his first day of duty.

One wonders what sort of examination our Wardens sit when they apply to become one of the "Yellow Peril," and whether they are required to take an eyesight test!

These delightful photographs showing the ups and downs in the life of both Warden and Police car driver, by Les Brand, Chief Photographer for the Essex and Chelmsford Weekly News, show the devotion to duty of the Warden, the exasperation of the Police driver and the amusement, albeit ever so slight, of the passers-by, at a situation in Chelmsford this month.



JACK DRAPER poses with a selection of colleagues from Romford days some of whom had made the

pilgrimage into the sticks from the great Metropolis whence they defected in the bad old days of 1965.

Stamp Club news

THE next meeting of the Force Stamp Club will be at 8 pm on Tuesday, 18th March at Southend Police Bar TV Room, refreshments will be provided.

At this meeting it is hoped to finalise details of a trip to London.

Ray How, of Rayleigh Police, for his local stamp club has arranged a Stamp Day at Mill Hall, Rayleigh, between 11 am and 5 pm on Saturday, 8th March, when there will be displays, dealers, GPO exhibit, junior comp., raffles, refreshments provided — entry 5p.

The Law Shop

FOR SALE: Heraldic shields — Essex & Southend Joint Constabulary (1969-1974) — Southend-on-Sea County Borough Constabulary (1914-1969). Price £2.80, professionally hand painted on 7in. x 6in. wooden shields. Available immediately. Any other Police Force, club, regiment, ship, town or family name obtainable. From Sgt. F. Feather — Basildon.

Grays C.I.D. raise £75



OUR PICTURE SHOWS, conveniently near the exit ready for a quick getaway, The Chief being presented with a cheque for £75, destined for the Police Dependent's Trust, by Det. Chief Inspector Eric Smith, surrounded by other Grays C.I.D. officers.

The cheque was the proceeds from the inaugural annual dinner and dance held by Grays C.I.D. late last year.

The presentation was made at the Orsett Cock Public House where the Grays Divisional C.I.D. had invited the Chief for an informal gathering.

So informal was the gathering that Sgt. Bob Degavino was seen to be wearing his new home-knitted ski sweater.

On seeing it the Chief remarked that he would like one but would much prefer pansies on the front. Any suggestions for patterns please send to Bob, who is standing by with his knitting machine.