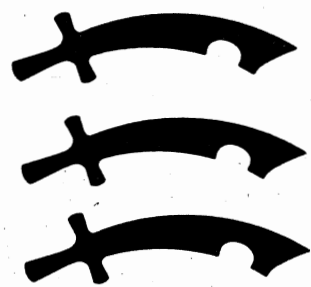




THE LAW

September 1977 No. 98



The Newspaper of the Essex Police

Contestant catches fire in Seaxes Grand Prix



WITH a Le Mans style start the Great Seaxes Auto Club Pram Race, 1977, gets under way. The course circled the Training School and sports field and included a water crossing. Despite this one of the contestants' vehicles caught fire.

BEST PRAM

Winners were the John Hart, Brian Jaggs, and Dave Grimshaw outfit, while S & H Motors, Boreham, were 2nd. The prize for the best pram went to the "Works Team" of HQ Garage, who appeared in drag. Picture by Essex Chronicle.

Recruit classes smaller



THREE ready-made policemen were among this intake whose local procedure course took place at HQ in early August. These are dressed in civvies only because The Law beat the stores to the ball, as it were.

Pc Britcher has re-joined the Force, his previous service, nine years, being spent at Maldon; Pc O'Hara transferred from BTC; and Pc Stevens from Humberside.

Front row from left: S. Osborne, Basildon; G. Sherlock, Clacton; J. Beretta, Benfleet; K. Mackman, Rayleigh.

Centre: N. Britcher, Walden; S. O'Hara, Braintree; M. Fraser, Basildon; K. Street, Tilbury. Rear: A. Stevens, Westcliff; D. Martin, Epping; S. Lowe, Colchester; I. East, Basildon; and S. Taylor, Corringham.



THE SMALLEST intake for some time left HQ to begin duty on Divisions last week. They are, front from left, A. Brown, Saffron Walden; J. Benjamin, Basildon; J. Reeves, Billericay; P. Boulton, Basildon.

Rear from left, K. Foster, Billericay; S. Smith, Epping; D. Ware, Braintree; F. McAdam, Halstead; D. Stevens, Leigh.

Pay claim goes to Home Secretary

THE POLICE FEDERATION has submitted what amounts to a pay claim to the Home Secretary for salary increases of between 78 and 104 per cent.

These amounts are based on the principle of "getting back to Willink." In 1960 a Royal Commission under the Chairmanship of Sir Henry Willink, made a full investigation of the police and brought out an interim report on police pay. This set policemen's pay at a certain point in the "league table" of various occupations and professions.

The Federation now argue that to get back to that position, from which the police slipped down within a very short time after 1960, would entail pay rises of the order of 78-104 per cent if certain other circumstances, not in existence in 1960, are taken into consideration.

Among these additional circumstances are the greater productivity of policemen in 1977, both the greater workload they are carrying, and their enhanced efficiency through the use of mechanical aids, and the huge rise in violence, terrorism and so on, which makes the work of the police more difficult and dangerous.

With the Government apparently firmly pledged to holding pay rises to 10 per cent is there any likelihood of this claim succeeding? Sgt. Jim Rodgers sees the process taking two or three years. He writes, "Don't imagine we are going to hold out for between 78 and 104 per cent with the Government insisting on a maximum of 10 per cent."

The Home Secretary's remarks at the Scarborough conference last May give some hope. He said, "What matters to me is the next round. I repeat the Prime Minister's words that a police constable has to be

put in the position that he once held. I accept that."

But Jim Rodgers' hope that 78-104 per cent might be achieved in two or three years has to be weighed against the fact that in this period inflation will have made the necessary adjustment nearer to 150 per cent. And this is getting very close to Cloud Cuckoo Land.

New DCC



MR. ROBERT BUNYARD, currently A.C.C. in Leicester, is to be the new D.C.C. of Essex after being interviewed earlier this month with other short-listed applicants.

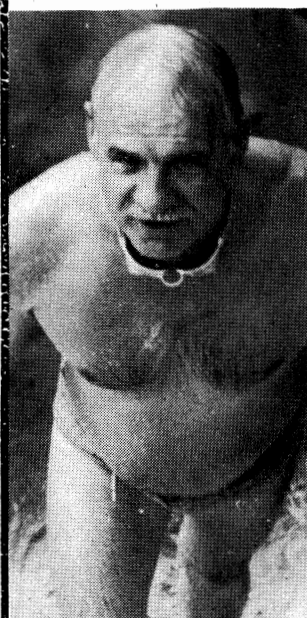
He previously served for 20 years in the Metropolitan Police

As he is now attending a course at the Imperial Defence College, he will not take up his duties until December.

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The Chief writes on Police Council work



CENTRE PAGES:

Long Distance swim — Sid Sadler's last

BACK PAGE:

Why is the Convalescent Home under-used

Teenage dolly Force

WHAT THIS COLUMN says today the world says tomorrow. Nor did we entirely believe this until ten days ago.

Readers will recall that in the last issue this column looked at the question whether there were too many women in the Force. Then, earlier this month, splashed all over the front of a county daily paper, were comments by the Chief along the same lines.

Not precisely the same lines mind you because what he seemed to be saying was that there were too few men but it comes to the same thing. "Women of 19 may have to police Essex troublespots warns Chief Constable", shouted the heading, explaining that there

is an exodus of experienced officers who are being replaced in some cases, by female teenagers.

We feel a slight glow of pleasure at being right before the event but none at the situation itself. The old saying that society gets the police force it deserves has come true with a vengeance if the force it gets is a dolly one.

Myth laid to rest

CRIME DOES PAY! The old myth that it does not was finally laid to rest recently when the Police Authority distributed cash from the Police Property Act Fund accumulated by the sale of property recovered after crimes but not claimed.

While £500 went to the Police Dependents' Trust, £700 was donated to the Friends of Essex Prisoners. So

no matter how much gear they steal and leave lying about, they still get a share of it in the end.

Valuable insight

DISCERNING READERS of Force Orders, and who is not, will have read that this journal is shortly to be produced under new arrangements. Not entirely under new management, alas, but we are soon to be reinforced. And meticulous students of Orders will have seen too that the public relations outfit is to have a sergeant. To be true the closing date for applications fell two days before the publication of the Order describing what the sergeant would actually have to do, but never mind.

This minor oversight, by a happy accident, gives the lucky applicant full warning of the way we work.

Though Police Federation continue to boycott the Police Council its work goes on writes

THE CHIEF

IN JULY last year the Police Council, as well as dealing with formal matters, considered and acted upon representations from the Staff Side on income tax, on car allowance, rent allowance (senior officers' differentials) and conciliation machinery. The business of the Council is normally dealt with by Standing Committees. Committees A and B, which deal with matters (other than pensions) concerning officers of and above the rank of superintendent, have continued to meet and do business: Committee E which deals with pensions has considered the new State pension scheme which is of the greatest importance to all who originally had an entitlement to pension at 25 years' service but having

resigned, rejoined to find their entitlement was not now before the age of 50. Progress has been made in this matter.

This work can and must go on: it would of course be better if all components of the Service were taking part.

In addition the Council set up a working group to consider the future of police pay on this body, which included on the Staff Side representatives of the Chief Officers. The Superintendents and the

prepared a joint factual report on the present state of police pay, a report which was similar in structure, though not in detail, to that of the Police Federations of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It dealt with the relative position of police pay since 1960, the additional workload incurred since that date, and recent movements in pay. No con-


clusions were reached in the reports as it is the opinion of the Police Council that these should be reached in appropriate negotiations between the parties concerned. The official side has offered to meet the Police Federations to negotiate under an independent Chairman, but this offer has been rejected.

It is hoped that the Home Secretary will find some way of bringing the two sides together so that negotiations on the award, which was due on the 1st September can take place.

Meanwhile, the body set up under Lord Edmund Davies to review the negotiating machinery has commenced its work but will not, however, be able to produce recommendations for some time. These will have to be accepted by the parties concerned before negotiations in any new body can take place.

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.



Special thanks

Dear Sir,

After reading last month's issue of The Law, I was surprised to see my letter to the Chief Constable printed in it, because I would like to express a sincere thank you to everyone in the force who has helped and given their support whilst Colin was in hospital and since he died. I would also like to thank everyone who attended the funeral and for the lovely floral tributes and for the cards and letters I have received. I would also like to say a special thank you to all the police in the Grays division for all the help and kindness shown to Colin, myself and the children since Christmas.

Another special thank you goes to the organisers of the social held for Colin. I know a lot of hard work went into this, and thank you to all those people who attended.

Yours sincerely,

JUNE HAYTER

Sorry to have printed the wrong letter. — Ed.

Not the first

Dear Sir,

Page 4 of the current issue of The Law refers to a war time incident at Chelmsford as being the first bomber crash in Essex. During the war I was Police War Duties Officer at Clacton — and at the risk of being proved wrong — beg

to disagree.

At 11 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 1940, a German Heinkel plane carrying two mines crashed at Victoria Road, Clacton. It burst into flames and shortly afterwards one of the mines exploded, killing two people and injuring approximately 100 others. The second mine was subsequently defused by R.N. personnel and safely exploded off St. Osyth beach. Wide publicity was given to this incident, which was undoubtedly passed on to enemy hands and resulted in them ultimately dropping mines by parachute to ensure maximum destruction.

This was, I believe and understand, to be the first incident in Britain during the 1939-40 war involving enemy action and resulting in damage and casualties.

The night in question was extremely misty and dark and it was generally thought that the plane was off course or had lost contact with its beaming device and crashed whilst circling low over the town. Strangely there was no enemy action warning in operation at the time.

However, I do know of a claim that the plane was fired at and hit by a frigate patrolling off shore. This to my knowledge was never confirmed.

SIDNEY E. SMY
Ex Inspector

31 Oxford Road,
Clacton-on-Sea,
Essex.

Hadleigh

Dear Sir,

Your photograph of the closure of Hadleigh Police Office (Law —

August 1977) brings back many memories. When completed and opened in April 1937 the eight police houses were occupied by the following officers: No. 1, Pc 131 Bernard Camp; No. 2, Pc 214 John Loft; No. 3, Pc 252 Frank Fredgett; No. 4, Ps 11 Charles Austin; No. 5, Pc 555 Andrew Niven; No. 6, Pc 260 Ronald Howe; No. 7, Pc 371 Arthur Lillyman; No. 8, Pc 442 Norman Cressey.

No.s 7 and 8 were situated on the opposite side of the road to the office.

Just before the outbreak of the 39/45 war, Pc Fredgett moved into a private house and No. 4 Police house became Police ARP Office. The Chief Warden was a Mr. Haynes.

At that time there was no lamp, electric or gas as shown in your photograph outside the station, just a circular "blue lamp" outside the entry of No. 4.

R. S. HOWE (Ex Ps1)
8 Sauls Avenue,
Witham, Essex.

P.S. Any ideas of what became of the lawn outside the station which took so long to mow?

If you can't take a joke

SIR, — I recently looked at an Essex Police advert for recruits in the local paper. I nearly choked when I read "The pay rates are now the highest ever and with free housing you can be sure that you and your family will enjoy a good living standard."

I trust that this extract was copied from one of our pre-war posters (Boer, Crime, Waterloo take your pick). Of course our wages are higher than ever before, so are prices and the general cost of living, but it doesn't alter the fact that our wages are well below most other workers.

In all fairness I seriously suggest that small print (if you want to be crafty) be added to the advert stating

that married Probationers with children will be entitled to free school meals and supplementary benefits. Single Probationers can have a whale of a time on the sports gear provided they travel by public transport and live the life of a monk.

I think the advert also slips up by not mentioning the generous boot allowance (provided you don't buy anything manufactured outside Hong Kong) ... or the lamp allowance, which is ample if you are on permanent 9 - 5 in the front office.

I think at the moment a Probationer's first pay cheque is a true test of his sense of humour, i.e. ... If you can't take a joke, you shouldn't have joined. (The sad part is, his wife, and kids won't find much to laugh about).

ALLAN GILFILLAN,
Dog Section,
Sandon.

Just a routine check

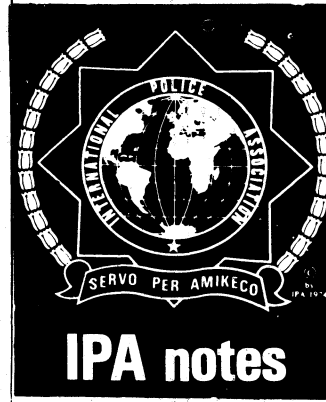
Dear Sir,

"It's twenty past three." The 3 a.m. conference point opposite Grove House at Howe Green had been well and truly made. A few minutes later the two constables parted. P.C. Sydney James Taylor stationed at Lambourne, End arrived home about 4.20 a.m. Just before 6 a.m. the body of the second constable was found at the side of the road less than half a mile from the "point". He had been shot twice in the cheek and once through each eye. The date was Tuesday, September 27, 1927, and the deceased was P.C. George William Gutteridge, stationed at Stapleford Abbots.

Now on the fiftieth anniversary of his death, it is fitting that we should pay tribute to our colleague, who, in the execution of his duty, met his death bravely and alone.

BILL BORLEY
Ex. P.S. 4
Epping.

N.B. See also story on another page. — Ed.



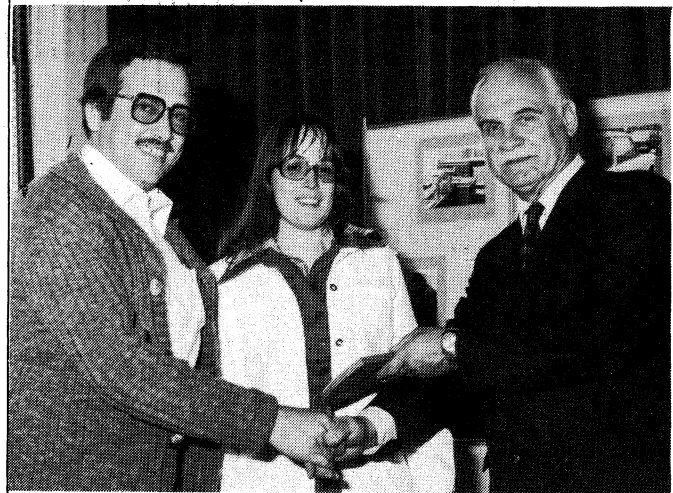
IPA notes

THIS month was highlighted by the visit of the German party to Headquarters where they spent a very enjoyable day, visiting the Training School, Information

Room, Driving School, Scenes of Crime, who put on an exhibition in the assembly room, being presented with a plaque by our Chairman, Sir John Nightingale.

The Training School Staff under the leadership of Mrs. Hehn provided an excellent lunch of ample proportions, and the day was finally ended by a social at Harlow.

Only one forthcoming event has reached my ears, and that is a barn dance being run by the Grays section on October 7 at the Tilbury Community Centre, tickets available from Pete Spensley or Arthur Brymer priced at £2.75 each. A prize will be given for the best Western dress. Dusty Miller and yours truly hope to run a trip to a London theatre during the winter months, for the HQ and Chelmsford sections, but more about that later.



The Chief presents Herr Wolfgang Schoeller, in charge of the German party, with a plaque. The party was made up of students who are taken into the police but continue their studies for 3 years — at £300 per month! When they graduate, directly into the CID as Inspectors, their salary goes up to £600 per month.

More about dear old Tilbury

SIR, — I am prompted to write you, after reading your June 1977 issue, received today, letters in yours "Postbag" headed "Where are they now?" by Ralph Jones and "About the old days" by W. J. Rose, ex P.C. 491.

I must admit to being a little remiss in not writing before, if only to thank you, especially as I have received it regularly since its inaugural despatch to me here in

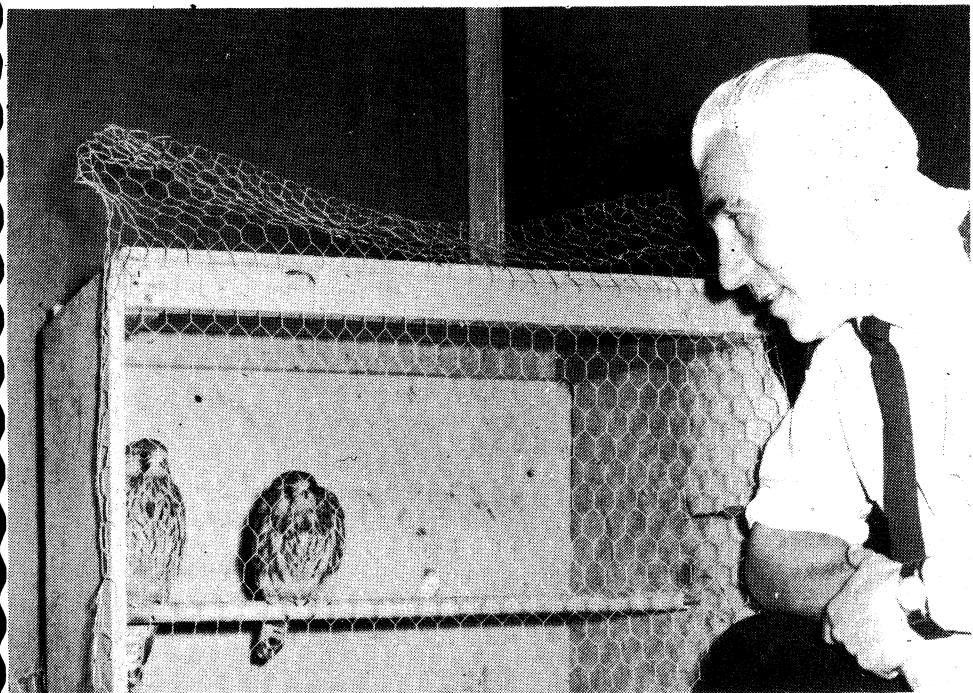
MORE LETTERS: P6

More pictures from Rayleigh



ONE PLACE where you just can't avoid work is the switchboard control area — but at least they keep you supplied with cups of tea.

Telephonist Kim McKay is the lady behind the voice which says "Rayleigh Police" and in the background Pc Norman Oats grapples with "control."



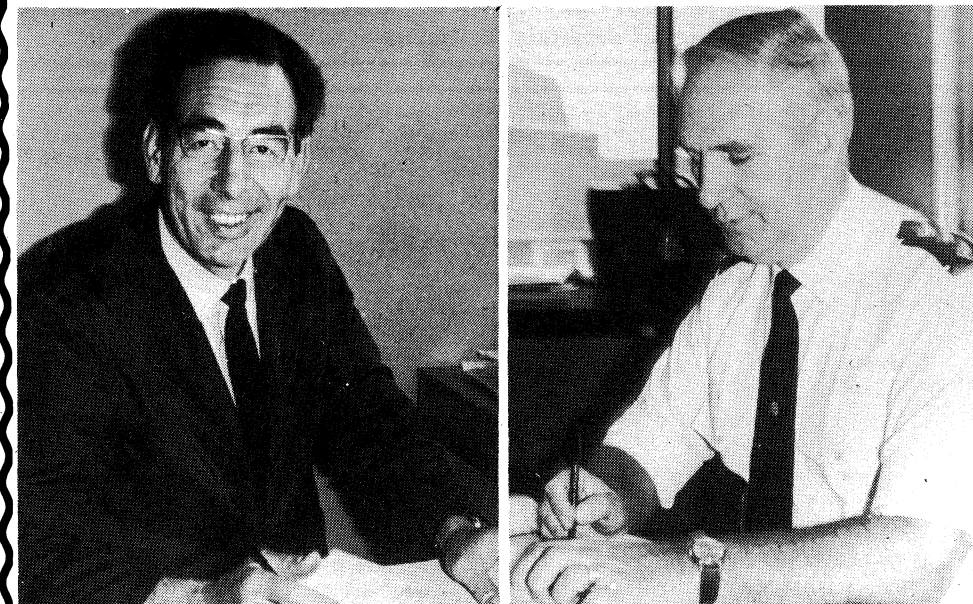
RAYLEIGH'S first prisoners. Luckily with the cells still not approved by Home Office, these jail birds came with a ready-made cell.

Sgt. Jack Faulkner checks on the two young kestrels which were taken into police custody after being found in the unlawful possession of a young lad.

Upon the opening of Rayleigh Jack Faulkner transferred from Hadleigh which then closed down.



CONTROL staff Dave Peters, left, and Malcolm Briggs, keep things moving.



THE LAW penetrated into the deepest recesses of the Rayleigh station to find Admin Constable Ron Price looking happy in his work, and Ch Insp Joe Gazzard (Acting-Supt) signing papers and talking rugby.

Mr Punch is looking



MR. PUNCH with his mouthpiece, Nigel Harbour.

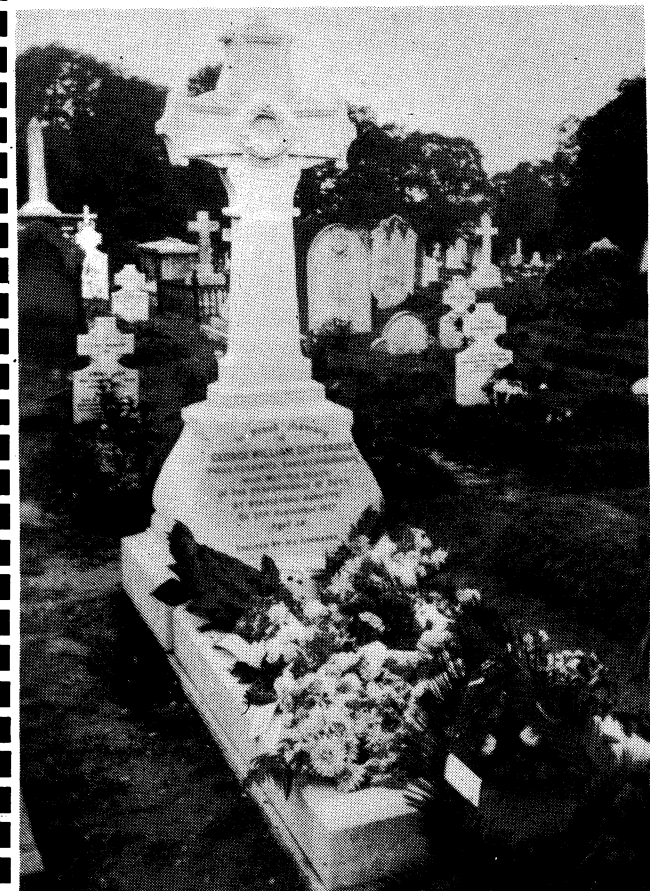
—for work

strings of sausages and Mr. Punch's fingers.

Now, to reveal any more of the plot would

spoil the show. Nigel Harbour can be contacted at South Benfleet Police Station or via The Law.

Policeman's murder was 50 years ago



FIFTY years ago this month the country was rocked by the brutal murder of an Essex constable as he went about his night patrol in the lanes at Stapleford Abbots, between Havering and Ongar.

He was found shot and it appeared that after he had fallen he had been shot again through each eye.

In those days cars driving about at night were a rarity and a car stolen from Billericay, some 12 miles from the murder scene, was traced to Stapleford Abbots because it was the local doctor's car and people recognised the sound of its engine.

It was later found abandoned in Clapham and a nationwide manhunt for the murderers ensued. When eventually caught,

Kennedy and Browne were found to have a veritable arsenal of pistols and ammunition.

The case was one of the first in which Mr. Robert Churchill, the later celebrated ballistics expert, was involved. A search of the abandoned car which was put at the murder scene by a tyre mark in the grass bank, revealed a cartridge case and this matched a pistol found in Browne's possession, fully loaded, when he was arrested in January 1928.

Kennedy and Browne were brought to trial, found guilty and hanged in May 1928.

The pistols with which Pc Gutteridge was murdered and other ballistics exhibits from the trial are on display at Force HQ.

The picture shows the Constable's grave in Warley Cemetery.

IN NO TIME at all Veronica Harbour's neat front room was littered with balloon dogs, Punch and Judy puppets, scissors that won't cut, a collapsible stool — and Nigel Harbour's press cuttings book.

When he's not Ps 340 N Harbour of South Benfleet, Uncle Nigel the Punch and Judy man is giving hour-long charity shows to children's groups, handicapped or deprived organisations and even adults. Pensioners especially take a nostalgic delight in Mr. Punch.

And Nigel is a real Punch and Judy man, using the swazzle, a device held in the throat, to make Mr. P's funny voice.

"But they say you're not a real Punch and Judy man until you've swallowed a swazzle," says Nigel, "and I haven't — yet."

Shortly after joining the Force from the cadets in 1969 Nigel Harbour achieved notoriety for swallowing — and retrieving — razor blades. Because he's always been a bit of a showman, since the age of 10 anyway.

His hour-long act is made up of half Punch and Judy and the rest a magic show. "Twisting balloons and coloured scarves — visual stuff for kids. Card tricks I never bother with, they just lose a young audience," he told The Law.

Nigel is a member of the Society of International Magicians and a new Club called the Southend Sorcerers.

He will put his show on for the price of his petrol, anywhere for anyone. Police parties, of course, but anyone else who cares to ask, can have Uncle Nigel for a 60-minute show.

"I'll go if anyone asks but I prefer not to do more than 2 in a week. My wife puts up with a lot as it is with all this," he said surveying the assembled litter in the front room.

In the garden was his "tent", the canvas booth where Mr. Punch, Judy, the baby, the Beadle, Sambo and the hangman appear — not forgetting the crocodile of the traditional bright green hue, fed exclusively on



SID SADLER announces the result of his twentieth, and last, long distance swim.

Swim was Sid S

ACTUALLY Sid Sadler never broke into song and one should really describe the event as his swan-swim. But this has a peculiar ring about it. For all that, after a good many years of organising first the Borough and then the Essex Police long-distance swim, Sid was running his last event.

And not only this, but Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths who have taken the times and recorded finishing order since 1954 were also at their last swim. They leave for Australia in December. Again, it was the Chief's last swim and Mr. Duke's last time, too, before leaving for Hampshire — so he made the presentations.

Yet everything conspired to disconcert Sid. For a start he was obliged to charge an entrance fee which probably put off a few, though not the real swimmers, one must add. And it was rather cold in the water — not that Sid actually got wet. Then the impossible happened and more finished the race than started.

DODGY

Well, yes, but what was counted as 26 starters was really 27. Then two late-comers dived in and set off in pursuit 15 minutes later. "This is very dodgy," said Sid, afterwards, "because if they get in a spot of bother the safety boats wouldn't know anything about them."

After a flurry of excitement when Andrew Wright, son of John Wright, swimming as a guest, broke the course record, the race went predictably and the first five home were all regulars.

Kevin Nowell won again but the margin seemed narrower this year with Ted Travers and Alan King close together and right on his tail. Then after a gap came Ian Wright followed by brother John the leading veteran, to put three Wrights in the first six home — a family affair.

ONLY ONCE

First lady of the event, alas the only one this year, was again Terry Skinner, who swam in 7th. Leading

cadet — again the only one — was Paul Watson who also secured the award for 2nd Novice.

NOVICE

Winning novice, that is a competitor in the event for the first time, was Clacton's Phil Dodd.

The first-ever team contest, for a trophy presented by Leigh Yacht Club — Commodore Pc Peter Whatling — was won by HQ, whose team was Ted Travers, Gary Skull, Eric Scott and the Chief.

Having paid for their lunch through an entry fee, competitors and officials sat down to a substantial meal, served in the more spacious surroundings on the Benbridge, recent replacement for the old Lady Saville.

PRESENTATION

Another good event and a fitting send-off for Sid Sadler who was handed a commemorative tankard by Essex Yacht Club Commodore "Bonny" Bonnett, as a mark of everyone's appreciation.

Afterwards Sid Sadler said, "I should like to convey my sincere thanks to all officers who have supported the event over the past 20 years. I have over the years had many compliments regarding the facilities, food, trophies, etc., but all of this is of little avail if there is no interest shown in the event."



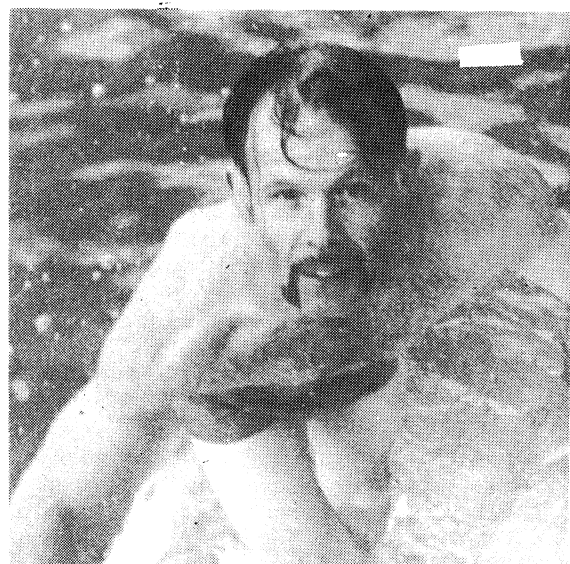
A SHORT breather on the steps for the goggled 2nd placed man, Ted Travis of H.Q., and Alan King of Harwich who pressed him to a close finish.



FIRST cadet to finish, Paul Watson, centre, flanked by Ken Wright of H.Q. (right) and Harlow's Ian Brown.



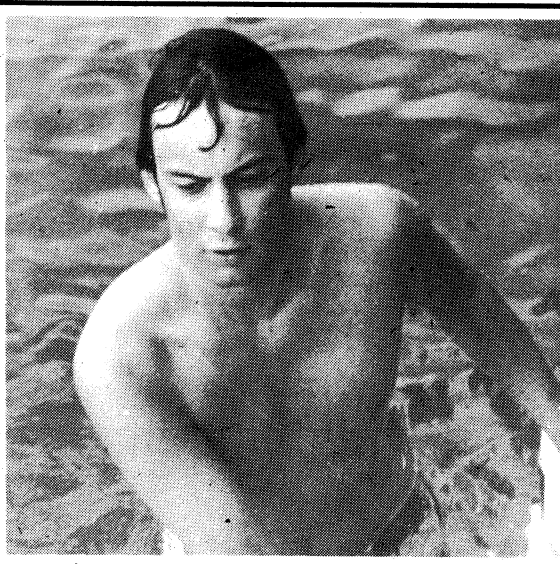
POSITIVELY their last appearance in tandem. The Chief after his last swim receives a veteran of veterans award from Mr. J. Duke, D.C.C., whose last ceremony this was before his departure for Hampshire.



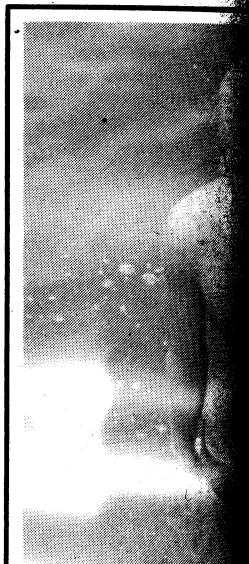
BOB BEAGLEY of H.Q. Marine Section, failed this year to finish last.



CHRIS DAVIS of Southend looks cheerful.



TALLEST man in the race, Roger Simmonds, but the same size as all the others in the water.



GUEST Andrew Wright of Clacton.

Vale is fastest police cadet

THE VENUE being close at hand, at Hendon, a sizeable Essex party travelled to the PAA athletics championships on 11th August.

And once again it was Cadet Chris Vale who stole the show, proving that he is the fastest cadet in Britain by winning the national "steady" 100 mts title.

After his usual "steady" start — 2 yards down in the first 5, one witness put it — he surged up lane 1 with his nearest rival in lane 6, always a difficult situation. But at the tape he had it by a yard.

Andy Hayman had hopes of a medal in the cadet 1500 mts. At halfway he was 6th and although still only 5th at the bell there were two just ahead. At 200 mts to go he surged but had to be content with 4th as a Leicester cadet came back at him. But his time was a personal best and would have taken 5th place in the senior race.

Siobhan McAuley moved into the 200 mts final but, lacking speed training, was pushed back to 6th. Graham Butler, after a fast first half finished 8th in the 5,000 mts.

Tim Mildenhall finished 4th in both high jump and javelin.

The walkers were most impressive for Essex finishing 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 7th in the 3000 mts, quite their best ever.

JUST how heavily the athletics team have relied on cadets to fill the ranks was shown in the two final Southern League fixtures, both of which fell after the Cadet School had dispersed for summer leave.

On 30th July a team of only 10 contested the match at Hayes, but the final match, at Ilford on 20th August, was tackled by only eight athletes. And yet in both cases 2nd place was captured — a tribute to the dedication — and toughness — of those who did attend.

In each case the home teams, Hillingdon and Ilford, were able to turn out enough men to win. In the Hayes match Police were always struggling for points and only eased into 2nd place late in the afternoon, mainly through the efforts of Chris Vale, 23pts., Chris Odell, 22pts., Bert Wallace, 18pts., and Gary Barrett, 14pts.

For the final fixture at Ilford on the other hand Police actually took an early lead, and only lost it through a lack of recognised throwers, the track squad actually winning in their department.

In fact there were really only seven athletes but team manager John Hedgethorpe did the decent thing and took on all four throws himself. Throws, of course, can be conducted at a walking pace, and he was able to finish as high as 2nd in the 'B' hammer indicating the ineptitude of the opposition.

C. Vale and C. Odell were in tremendous form, winning between them seven events and securing four 2nd places. And they were both concerned in both relays. Odell set a force record for 400m hurdles in his first event.

Andy Hayman took on 'A' string races at 400m, 800m and 1500m and then ran in both relays as did Andy Odell. In fact the relay squad "volunteered" to run both 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 — they follow on, one after the other — and secured 2nd and 3rd places.

Andy Down made a welcome return to win the 'B' races at 5000m and 3000m steeplechase, the two longest events of the day.

Graham Butler was even busier. He started with 400m hurdles, passed through 800m, 1500m and 5000m, and late in the afternoon, getting better all the time, won the 3000m steeplechase.

Having taken 2nd places in the 'B' shot and discus Fred Orman had the satisfaction of winning his main event, the hammer at the end of the afternoon, to give the team a lift and secure 2nd place.

Both fixtures were hard but satisfying for those who took part. Indeed, it is heartening to know that a small, dedicated team can hold their own in league competition because with no cadet scheme to bring athletes on, athletics recruiting will have to be done by other means.

League competition now switches to cross country running where the first event of the South East Police League takes place in early October.

Essex runners-up in 6-a-sides

AS HOSTS for the Regional 6-side cricket contest on 13th September Essex were blessed by the best day's cricket weather for weeks. All 9 teams from the Region's forces battled away all day under warm sunshine. The only problem was the late start which meant the final had to played in failing light.

And Essex had a good day. Not only was their organisation, under the watchful eye of Supt. Geof Markham, excellent, but those actually playing cricket did quite well too.

The 9 teams were drawn into 2 pools where everyone played everyone else. The runners up from Pool 1 then played the winners of Pool 2 and vice versa to give the finalists.

Essex drew the harder pool together with Kent and City of London. But they were in good form, openers Dave Turner and Laurie Austin smacking the ball about well. They were backed by the swashbuckling Errol Greene, too seldom seen on the field these days, and John Rhymes to follow him.

Essex defeated Beds. 98-84; City 100-61; and Surrey 110-97. But they lost to Kent 110-100 to finish runners up in their pool.



THE ESSEX Police team from left, Laurie Austin, Dave Turner, half-hidden, Errol Greene, Fred Nichols, Capt. Bruce Brown, John Rhymes and John Stonehouse.

One should say that each game is of 5 overs, each player bowling one. A 6 counts as 10, a 4 counts as 6, a wide counts as 4, and so on. It is all very complicated — but fast moving.

For the final stages skipper Fred Nicholls opted out in favour of Bruce Brown with John Stonehouse

making up the six. Hampshire were easily disposed of in the semi.

Alas in the final Kent were always on top. After dismissing Essex for 70 they easily made the runs with an over to spare and without loss. "They were the best team here and thoroughly deserved to win", said Fred Nicholls, "and I was delighted that we got into the final."

The cricket season is now more or less wound up except, of course, for the inter-divisional contest. Southend have played through to the final but await the outcome of the semi-final between Colchester and Harlow to know who they will play. With the days shortening and pitches being, given over to winter games the final could be a problem.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING FOOTBALL FOR THE ESSEX POLICE FOOTBALL CLUB.

The team plays every Saturday in the Essex Olympian League.

ANYONE interested in playing for the Force, contact one of:

Insp. Rhymes, Chelmsford Sgt. Clark, Harlow
Pc. Taylor, Spt. Unit Pc. Carpenter, Grays
Dc. Moyes, Southend Pc. Hunt, Colchester

Pistol team win

A GREAT DAY for the Force Pistol shooting team at Purfleet last month when they swept the board in the Neville D.11 Trophy meeting.

Not only did John Sutton and Dave Brooks capture 1st and 2nd individual places, but the two teams finished

1st and 4th with Met. Police A and B sandwiched between them. In all 23 teams shot.

A Team: John Sutton, Graham Harvey, Phil Webb, John Page. B Team: Mick Brangham, Dave Brooks, Gerry French and Dave Perry.

Walking

IN TWO important team contests during September the Police walking team achieved 2nd place against stiff opposition. The first of these followed an invitation to compete in Koblenz, Germany, in a 10,000 metres event against the local club, following their visit to Chelmsford earlier in the year.

On arrival the team were confronted with a list of high powered opponents who included five of the current German international team. Fortunately these were divided into various club teams and Essex Police were able to finish 2nd despite the heat detracting considerably from their performance.

A week later, nearer home at Southend, came the final race in the 1977 Essex Walking League programme. Here it was essential to do well as Police stood in 2nd place in the league table but only by a small margin ahead of the 3rd team. Despite having speed-men Dunion and Sheppard absent the remainder walked strongly enough to tie for 2nd place on the day and retained 2nd place overall, their highest position for several seasons.

The week before the match in Germany a full turnout for the new event at Mildenhall, Suffolk ensured the morale-boosting team victory over two strong clubs, Ilford and Leicester.

Perhaps the greatest impact in Police walking circles was made at Hendon in the PAA Championships when Essex walkers took 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 7th place in the 3,000 metres.

Bowling

POLICE bowlers have been showing their class recently in winning Essex County titles.

Representing Southend B.C., Jim Armour and Denis Anderson won the county fours — assisted of course by two civilian members. This club has 700 members and this year's President is Denis Anderson while Jim Armour is club secretary.

Witham B.C. member, Supt. Ron Shayshutt, recently moved to Colchester but still residing at Witham, coupled with a non-police member, carried off the county pairs title.

Essex hosted for the Regional triples and fours bowls finals at Southend BC on September 1, when the arrangements were handled by Constable D. Anderson, this year's President.

A fine day gave the chance for some pleasant ends. Surrey ran away with the fours after Kent took an early lead, to win 24-7. Kent were last year's triples winners.

Herts were, perhaps, unlucky to lose the triples. They won on one rink 16-12, drew another 18-18, but crashed on the 3rd by 22-4 to Thames Valley.

RESULTS

PAA 3000 mts: Hendon: 11.8.77
2nd M. Dunion 13:29.2; 3rd P. Ryan 13:52.2; 4th D. Sheppard 14:07.6; 7th J. Hedgethorpe 14:52.2.
Coetbridge Mile: 21.8.77
1st M. Dunion 6:47.6.
Woodford 3000 mts: 24.8.77
2nd P. Ryan 14:06.4; 5th J. Hedgethorpe 15:04.

Boxing

THE LAW looked in on the members of the Boxing Club committee planning for the future when they met at HQ last week and learned that they are intending to box at a gym show in Essex in the near future.

The Club, like everyone else, has met problems over the Training School gym floor, the boards of which rise up every now and then rendering it unusable, but training sessions are held every Wednesday evening and in addition on Sunday mornings, 10.30-12 mid-day.

The Club is cordially inviting Officers, especially retired officers, who are interested in boxing, to become vice-presidents of the Club. Anyone interested is asked to contact Det. Sgt. Bob Miller at Brentwood Police Station, telephone 0277-220202, extn. 207.

Sailing

THE PAA National Sailing Championships were held at Herne Bay, Kent on the 2nd and 3rd August 1977. The weather was very hot and sunny with very light winds which did not favour the three helmsmen representing the Essex Police. Racing over the two days was a test of patience and a good start was essential in every race or there was very little chance to make up lost places. 62 boats entered the championships and the Essex boats were finally placed as follows: Graham Richmond, sailing his Hornet, 12th; Ian Wright with his Laser, 15th; Peter York-Wade in his Phantom, 35th.

The championship was deservedly won by Dan Glen, Metro Police, sailing an Alboune, who showed such skill that the result was never really in doubt.

running to his highest placing yet in national competition. His time, 55m. 23s. was a little meaningless as the course was afterwards remeasured at 10.3 miles.

Cadet Andy Hayman took 25th place which must also rank as one of his better runs. Without the extra distance, he clocked 61.08, he would have undoubtedly beaten the hour and scored a personal best.

PAA 10M RUN

A BEST EVER run by Graham Butler gained 7th place in the PAA 10 miles in Northumberland on 10th September.

Despite the long journey Graham was on excellent form,

Enfield 20 kms: 27.8.77

13th P. Ryan 98.57.

Mildenhall 10,000 mts: 23.8.77

4th M. Dunion 47.59; 6th P. Ryan 48.13; 7th D. Sheppard 49.06; 10th J. Hedgethorpe 51.01. Team placed 1st.
Koblenz, Germany, 10,000 mts: 4.9.77
7th M. Dunion 49:07.4; 10th P. Ryan 49:40.1; 15th J. Hedgethorpe 51:38.3; 17th D. Sheppard 52.45. Team placed 2nd.

Southend 5m: 11.9.77

6th P. Ryan 39.05; 13th J. Hedgethorpe 42.27; 23rd L. Berry. Team placed equal 2nd.
Essex Walking League, 1977
3rd J. Hedgethorpe 361 pts; 6th D. Sheppard 234 pts; 19th P. Ryan 143 pts; 22nd T. Hinds 132 pts; 38th P. Rice 76 pts; 42nd L. Berry 58 pts; 43rd B. Daymond 56 pts; 46th M. Spellman 46 pts; 48th K. Skingley 44 pts;

LETTERS from page 2

Australia. But at long last nostalgia has caught up with me, the monthly publication continually activating my memory of ex colleagues. Needless to say these memories have been very pleasant bringing forth thoughts of those whom it was my privilege and pleasure to both know and serve with. I joined the Essex County Constabulary in 1936 so you will realise that the bulk of my colleagues of those days are now retired. I am very happy to say that quite a number of ex-Essex officers are resident in Australia, some of whom I am in infrequent contact, due to the vastness of this country.

I point out that Victoria, the State in which I live, and one of the smallest in the Commonwealth, is in itself larger than the whole of the United Kingdom. One ex-officer with whom I am frequently in contact will be well known to ex-serving officers of the Grays Division and Halstead Sub Division, is ex P.S. Chris George. In conclusion I would like to express my grateful thanks for sending me this excellent publication.

JOHN FLORY Ex P.C. 405, 5 Garnett Street, East Oakleigh, Melbourne, Victoria. 3166 Australia. 31st Aug., 1977.

This vastness will be realised when I point out that Victoria, the State in which I live, and one of the smallest in the Commonwealth, is in itself larger than the whole of the United Kingdom. One ex-officer with whom I am frequently in contact will be well known to ex-serving officers of the Grays Division and Halstead Sub Division, is ex P.S. Chris George. In conclusion I would like to express my grateful thanks for sending me this excellent publication.

JOHN FLORY Ex P.C. 405, 5 Garnett Street, East Oakleigh, Melbourne, Victoria. 3166 Australia. 31st Aug., 1977.

TILBURY cont

Dear Sir,

The latest news and views from the dockside made fascinating reading. It would be pleasant to share other memories of the days before Tilbury graduated to spa status with coloured brochures.

Compliments to my old china Vic Andrews and "568", whose identity escapes me. Mrs. Andrews was the prettiest girl around — if she'll pardon the presumption — with baby Jeff a matching accessory. Vic himself was consistently kindly to mavericks with hammer hooves and fallen fetlocks. The typewriter that he

flogged for a derisory tenner long ago is still serving.

Gentler readers, to whom Tilbury remains a seven-letter word, will shudder to hear that it once knocked out a slice of low life under a nom-de-guerre, diluted for delicate stomachs, to please a publisher. (These last are a somewhat despatched, joyless breed.) This one despatched an emissary to say that they simply couldn't credit the yarn. But they did, later. So there . . .

Sorry, 568, you've lost your wager. I was aware of the blood tie 'twixt Smokey Joe and a prominent high-ranker. But the latter is a friend of mine and I seldom splits

on me mates. Like the man sez: we're given our relations — thank God we can choose our chins.

One's sentence at the Tilbury galley, with or without the statutory remission for good conduct, had curious psychological consequences. Some "went mad and beat their wives, etc." Others went inside, became property developers or were decorated for services to Bingo, according to taste. Some, like the cautionary reformation of the village reprobate, "came to scoff and stayed to pray." I produced a son a priest. So over to you, old-timers. And speak up! The justices can't hear you.

Ralph Jones

National Association of Retired Police Officers

Every PNC not the same

INFORMATION Room say that they recently had a phone call from Harlesden Police (Metro) saying, "Can you check a car for us please. There's no trace on our PNC, can you try yours."

Now wait, that's not all. "The funny thing is," say Info Room, "that we've got it on 'ours' so what they tried on 'theirs' goodness knows."

Band notes

by Heather Wenborne

BANDNOTES are back again after a short break with a change of author as you may see from the heading. Harry Rossiter my predecessor has now retired from the force, and best wishes go with him.

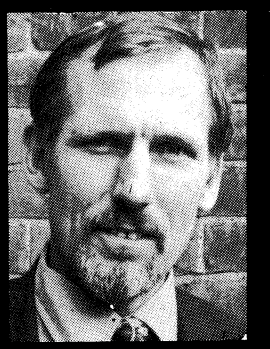
At last a chance to air a female voice from the band, we are 5 in number and not to be overlooked!

On Sunday 21st August, 1977, the band was at Maldon again, supposedly for two engagements, but unfortunately rain stopped play, as it were, for our afternoon in the park. Hopefully we sat looking out from cars and minibus, but the rain still came down. The day was not a total disaster, as the band played in a service at Maldon Parish Church in the evening. We played a few short pieces between hymns, including a Mozart Hallelujah with a cornet solo by Brian Tyrrell of Support Unit fame!

After band rehearsals on Wednesday, 24th August 1977, a small celebration was held in Headquarters Bar to mark the retirement of Dick Jiggins from the force: to commemorate the occasion Dick was presented with a plaque from the band. Fortunately for the band, September 3rd saw once again the Orsett Show. It hardly seems a year since the band was there last. A pleasant afternoon, in which the band was well received by many of the throng at the show. Among the listeners was the Grays Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Bird, who sat perched on shootingstick listening for some time. Later Mr. Bird spoke a few words of encouragement to the band which were appreciated, especially by me, being the only representative of the Grays division in the band — who says we are a rough lot down here!

The band is nearly at the end of its busy season this year, but we still have engagements in the near future. On Sunday 18th September 1977, the band will be playing at Great Leighs for the 400th rally of the Caravan Club, and on Saturday 8th October 1977, the band will be at Brightlingsea playing for Brightlingsea Lions Club in aid of local charities. Hope to see you there. Good listening.

Federation Notes



by Jim Rodgers

POLICE Act 1976

SOME difficulty has been experienced since my last month's notes were published, in so far as officers about whom complaints have been made have asked for copies of the complaint before the investigation has in fact commenced. In this Force we are fortunate that we have an early warning notice served at the outset informing the officer that an investigation into the complaint is to be made. At this stage statements could well not have been obtained, and so it is not possible for a decision to be made whether or not a copy can be made available to the officer. For the time being and until the Executive Committee have met with the Chief Constable in Joint Consultation, officers who receive the early warning notice are advised to contact the Federation Office — HQ ext. 248 — for advice.

New State Pension Scheme

Details of the above scheme have been circulated to the Force vide Force Order 'A' 549 of 30 August 1977, and each officer should by now have received a memorandum informing him of the Home Secretary's decision to 'contract out' all Police Officers.

This new scheme is earnings related, and maximum benefits are achieved by contributing for 20 years or more. The new pension is payable in two parts, **Basic Pension** which is equal to the present flat rate retirement pension from National Insurance — £15.30 per week. And, **Additional Pension** — up to a quarter of the remainder of your pay, that is 1 1/4 per cent for each of your best 20 years earnings from the 1st April 1978.

To obtain these benefits you must be a contributor to the scheme. All of us have, since April 1975, when National Insurance stamps were discontinued, been paying contributions based on a percentage of pay, up to a maximum of £105 per week. These contributions entitle us to sickness benefit, unemployment and other national insurance benefits.

From April 1978 the system of contribution will continue but the percentage of pay which you contribute depends on whether you are contracted out of the scheme, or not. As contracted out employees, our contributions will be slightly less than the contributions we are currently paying, according to our wages, for instance, if your weekly pay is £50 you are now paying a contribution of £2.87. If you were in the new scheme you would pay £3.25 and if contracted out, £2.37.

But, whilst contributing to the Police Pension Scheme, as contracted out members we will only be earning entitlements under the **Basic Pension**, we shall have no entitlement under the Additional Pension at all.

The decision concerning 'contracting out' is with the employer alone, and the Home Secretary has assumed the role of Employer in relation to the Police Service; and to obviate the 43 separate applications for each force to contract out — he has done it already for all forces. In spite of the system for representations it seems to be a 'fait accompli'.

Motor Insurance Scheme

I will shortly be forwarding to each member an introductory letter concerning a scheme for Police Officer's private motor car insurance which I have been negotiating with Paul Childs Ltd. of Station Road, Marlow, Bucks. Their representative — Rod Harvey, phone Marlow 71525 — will be pleased to give quotations either by phone or reply form which will be enclosed with the letter. Quotations given to date have shown a good saving in premiums for the officers concerned.

Tax Relief on Mortgage Interest

As a result of representations made by various bodies — the Police Federation included — a clause has been added to the Finance Act 1977, viz Section 36 which deals with income tax relief on mortgage interest where a member has purchased or is purchasing a property for eventual occupation whilst at the same time is required to reside in police provided accommodation. Such a member will, from 6th April 1977, be able to claim tax relief on the interest paid on a loan used to purchase such property.

In order to be eligible for the tax relief certain conditions must be met, and these are divided into two parts:

- (1) at the time the interest is paid the member uses the property as a residence OR will do so within 12 months, or
- (2) it is intended at the time the property will be used in due course as his residence, AND at that time he resides in living accommodation which is job-related.

Living accommodation is job-related if it is provided by reason of the employment under any of the following cases:

- (a) where it is necessary for the purpose of proper performance of the duties that the employee should reside in that accommodation;
- (b) where the accommodation is provided for the better performance of the duties of the employment and it is one of the kinds of employment where it is customary for the employers to provide living accommodation for employees;
- (c) where there being a special threat to the employee's security, special security arrangements are in force and the employee resides in the accommodation as part of these arrangements.

Members who can satisfy the above conditions will be able to obtain tax relief on interest paid after 6th April 1977.

Apart from houses, tax relief can be obtained where a large caravan or houseboat is purchased for eventual occupation on retirement from the service — or when no longer required to reside in Police provided accommodation.

If anyone is interested I have a specimen letter to the Inspector of Taxes to initiate the claim, I will be only too pleased to provide a copy on request.

Rent Allowance

On Monday 12th September 1977, the Police Committee met for the first time since they agreed to the Joint Branch Board's selection of the New Force Selected house. This means that three months has elapsed. The District Valuer still has not indicated the new Force Maximum Limit Rent Allowance, in spite of the fact that the review was due from 1st April this year. A request is being made to the Chief Constable to seek pressure from the Police Authority to obtain an early settlement of this matter. When given the assessment still has to be agreed by the Police Authority and the Home Office before it can be implemented, and the way things are progressing, it could be near Christmas before we see the matter finalised.

Pay Review 1977

Full details of the claim laid before the Home Secretary by the combined Police Federations on 25th August 1977, have been circulated throughout the Force. The figures involved seem to be astronomical — but this is only because of the low base level of your present pay. The claim is a realistic one — but it would be unrealistic to expect it to be met in one fell swoop. I personally would consider that a negotiated phased raising of Police Pay, by 78 to 104 per cent, (plus any movement in cost of living) over the next two — certainly no more than three years would be realistic. The means of persuading the Government to agree and implement the increase has yet to be found, especially in the present situation where they and the TUC seem prepared for an average increase of only 10 per cent. Surely at this time, more than any before, the Police Service must be considered to be a special case.

Garden Party

Nearly 600 pensioners, wives and widows attended the party, which was an outstanding success. This could not have been possible without hard work and financed by the Regular Police, for which pensioners are indeed grateful. One learns via the "grape-vine" that a party on these lines costs in the region of £700, and this sum is not easily come by. Individual donations were received, as were donations from the three branches of NARPO, but it still leaves a large amount to be found from other sources. I happen to know that it is not the wish of the Committee to ask for donations from pensioners, but there is nothing to prevent anyone wishing to subscribe something to forward the amount to the Chief Constable, or if so desired, to send it on to me and I will see it reaches the appropriate quarter. We can at least add a little weight to our verbal expression of gratitude.

The Law Shop

FOR SALE, Mirror Sailing Dinghy 26940 and Wick Steed Fleet trailer. Both in superb condition, many extras on the Dinghy, £300. Apply to Sgt. Hicks, at Clacton.

FOR SALE: Vauxhall Viva, 2 door, P Reg., £1,200, will give 1 years guarantee. Finance can be arranged. Peter Colbert, HQ Traffic.

CAMERA REPAIRS: If your camera is worn out, just tired, or broken, contact Peter Colbert, HQ Traffic for quote.

10MINS EARLY

AT 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 24th August, 1977, the new Nevendon Flyover on the A127 at Basildon was opened three months ahead of schedule. Unfortunately the Queen was unable to attend the opening so this was carried out by Inspector John Clarke, Pc Gordon Hunnab, Pc Roy Bates, Pc Terry Deavelle and Pc Dennis Swan. Everything went very well apart from the fact that Pc Swan opened the London-bound track ten minutes ahead of everyone else, much to the amazement of all the workers still standing in the roadway!

Subscriptions

There still remain 50 - 60 (Chelmsford Branch) members who have not yet paid subscriptions for the current year. Reminders will be sent with the next bulletin but these should not be necessary. Our annual precept to the N.E.C. this year is 50% of the subscriptions received for 1976, so with this thought in mind we hope for an early response.

Since the last bulletin it was stated in the daily press that the percentage increase to public service pensioners payable on 1 December, 1977, is 17.7%. This was later confirmed at the Annual Conference at Blackpool and the figures are given below: Pensions commencing before 1.7.76, up by 17.7%; those commencing between 2.7.76 - 1.1.77 up by 19.5% (to compensate for 5 months gap); those starting between 2.1.77 - 1.7.77 increase by 11.4%.

The increase for the pre-1956 widows was also announced. Weekly rates will be, lower than Inspector £6.78, Inspector £8.83, higher than Inspector £10.50.

Membership

From a list supplied me of recent retirements, it is obvious some pensioners are not joining the Association. Some may have opted for Colchester or Southend but for those who have not, I would seriously ask them to consider joining one of the branches at an early date.

Conference

Charlie Storrar and myself attended the Conference which was extremely interesting and well worth the effort. One had the chance of seeing our N.E.C. in action and indeed the Delegates, who greatly impressed us as being men devoted to the cause and endeavouring to do their best for the Association. It was obvious that our N.E.C. are alert and conversant with the numerous important measures dealt with by them and one cannot but admire them for the excellent work put in on behalf of pensioners and, in particular, the widows. They are deserving of our support and we will be failing in our duty if such support is not forthcoming. A full report will be included in the next bulletin.

We were invited to stay with ex-Det. Supt. Lew Minshall and Mrs. Continued on page 8

THE ESSEX POLICE BAND.

REQUIRES PLAYERS
Brass players including previous members are welcome.

For information ring:
CH INSP J. POSTON at STANWAY
SGT G. DOSSETT at TRAINING, HQ 356
or come to the Assembly Hall, HQ at 7.30 p.m. any Wednesday.

Paper Police Pounce

THE dreadful doings which lay behind this terse Force Order might boggle the mind, raise the hair or even cause mild surprise.

It was well known that paperwork had been expanding ever more quickly and had become

so important that mere human activity existed only to further administrative ends but when the rank files formed themselves into

the Document Gang, sworn to burgle bakeries, rob rockcakes, assault

sponges and batter buns, pessimists felt the end was nigh.

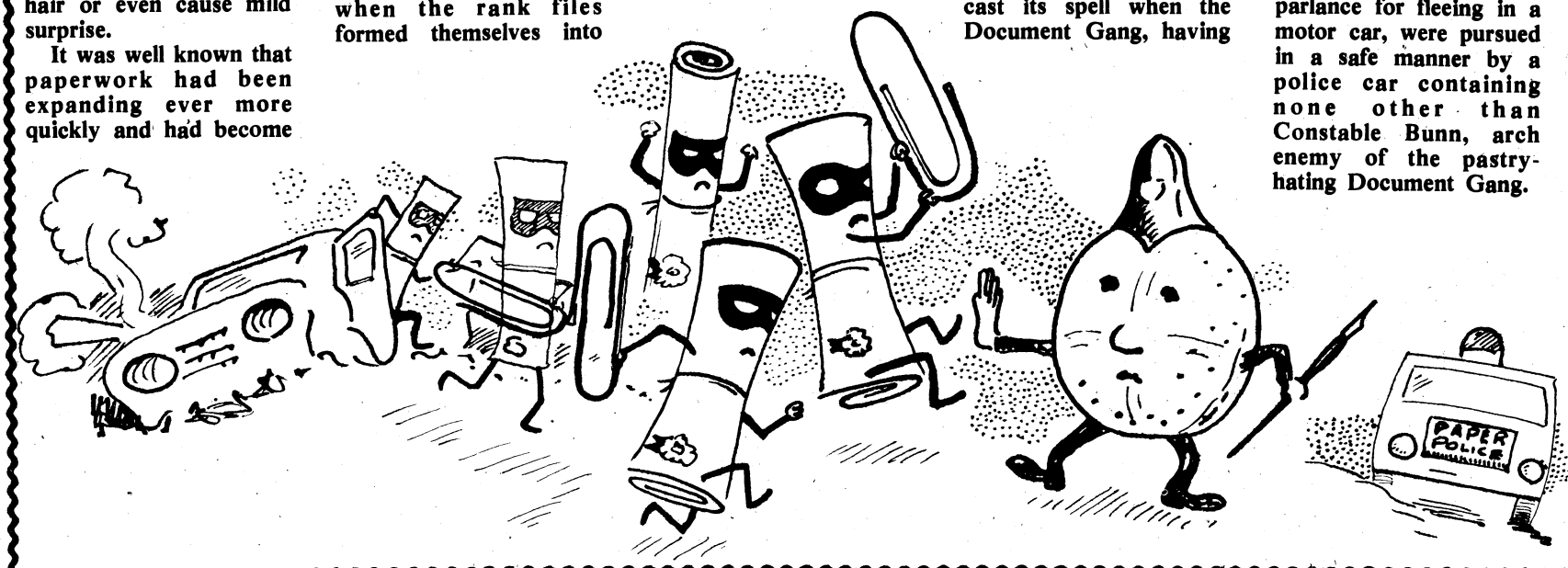
And cruel coincidence cast its spell when the Document Gang, having

pulled the Great Flour Bag robbery and made their getaway with the dough in a hot oven, their parlance for fleeing in a motor car, were pursued in a safe manner by a police car containing none other than Constable Bunn, arch enemy of the pastry-hating Document Gang.

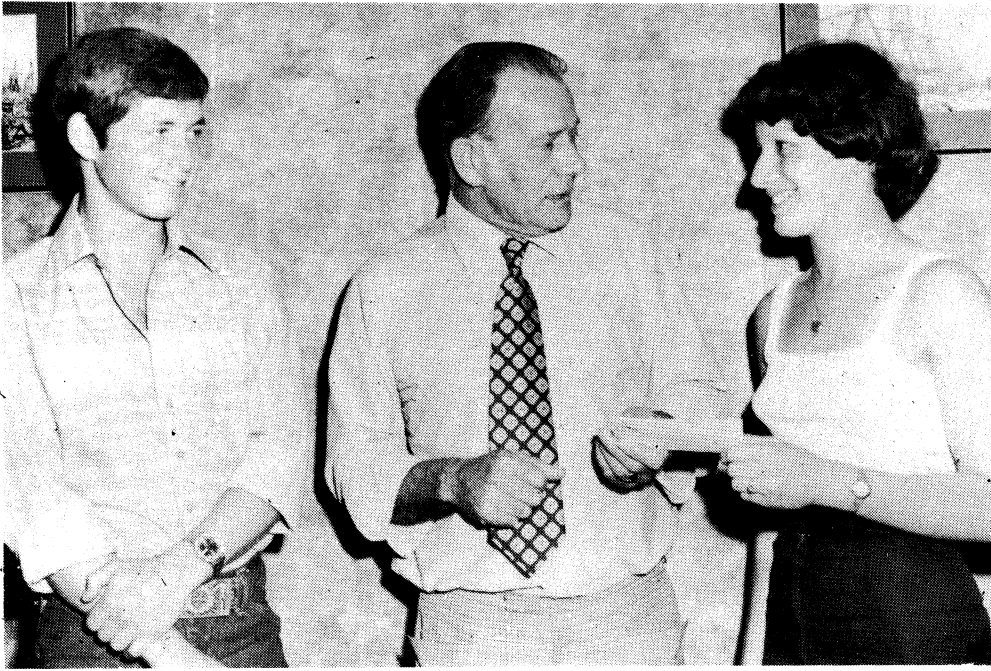
Does not everyone know about Bunn's and ovens? Was the Gang's goose not cooked from the start? Was it not the very safety of the police action which decided the Document Gang's fate?

In vain might the five Documents assault and beat the brave Bunn, delivering paperclips in the foolscap as they endeavoured to evade justice. In no longer than it takes to tell the dangerous Documents were bound in red tape, signed, sealed and delivered for judgement.

(With apologies to Constables Howell and Bunn who deserved better prose).



Why is Hove Convalescent home rarely full?



DON'T THINK that it's only the elderly who need a rest who think about the Home. When winding-up the financial affairs of the Cadet School Amenities Fund, the committee quite spontaneously suggested a donation of £100 to Hove.

And on 3rd August Cadets Chris Winstone and Margaret Whitley popped down to the Convalescent Home to hand over the cheque which Dennis Holmes, the Superintendent, was delighted to receive.



NEAREST the camera Essex man Geof Raggett suns himself on the beach. Stationed at Sible Hedingham, he has an interesting past including conscription into the US Army while living in the States. He returned this week for a second stay after an operation.

Continued from page 7 South Wales but, as the weather Minshall at Morecambe, and they was so bad, decided to come to gave us a very warm welcome, Lew Blackpool in search of something travelling with us to the Conference better. Both Lew and Mrs. Minshall at Blackpool, where we also met send their kind regards to all Edgar Easlea of Southend (former friends in the south whom they FWO) who was on holiday in miss very much. But I was glad to

see them settled in very comfortably. Lew has been exceptionally busy in his garden which does him credit. In what little time remains from his secretarial duties for NARPO and "Crown" bowls (we were unable to play him a few ends, altho' I fear we would have lost) Lew is fully occupied.

Branch Social

We have had a much better response this year, so far the number has risen to 74, we now hope for good weather.

P.P.H.A. Lottery

The lottery is making good progress and I would remind members and friends that applications with cash for lottery cards for the next cycle which commences 16 October, should reach me not later than 30 September. Those received after that date will not be entertained.

Memories

News has just reached me of one of our "old stagers," Walter Medley, aged 95 years, is still around and with his wife, Elizabeth, aged 96 years, has just celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1910 when Elizabeth was working as a children's nurse. Walter joined the Force on 7.12.1905 and served at Hornchurch, Dunmow and Stebbing, finally settling down at Witham in 1924. He retired on pension on 31.12.1930.

Walter has long memories, when as a lad of 15 he scaled the rigging of the old sailing ships in bare feet, those were the not-so-good old days, he transferred to more solid footwork in pounding the beat in rural Essex. I am not aware how many of his former colleagues are still around but I know both old and young will wish him good health for years of well earned retirement. He certainly has proved that the "old ones do not necessarily go first." Good luck, Walter and Elizabeth.

IT IS, to all intents and purposes, a comfortable hotel on the promenade of a well-known South Coast town. It offers what amount to free holidays to policemen and, in some cases, their wives, and in the case of Essex force members it even costs nothing to travel there and back.

You might expect there to be a waiting list but the Convalescent Police Home at Hove is rarely full and is sometimes half-empty.

"I don't know why it's under-used," says Welfare Officer Charlie Howlett, "but I think we should make better use of the facilities there."

This sentiment is echoed by the Superintendent of the Home, Dennis Holmes, who told The Law, "What we have to dispel is the idea that this is some sort of hospital with lots of irksome rules and regulations."

The Home is certainly not like this. To be sure, the prelude to a stay there is a bout of illness, or an operation, after which your doctor certifies that a period of convalescence would be beneficial. That done, Charlie Howlett takes over and may have you basking on the pebbles of Hove beach within a few days.

Of course there are rules, like not being late for meals, but the atmosphere is free and easy.

Between 1975 and last year the number of Essex patients almost doubled but the total is still low compared with the amount of sickness. The Home is open to pensioners and cadets over 18 are eligible as well as serving officers.

"I have asked Divisions to let me know who is off sick so that I can get in touch with them to see if they would like a couple of weeks at Hove," says Charlie Howlett.

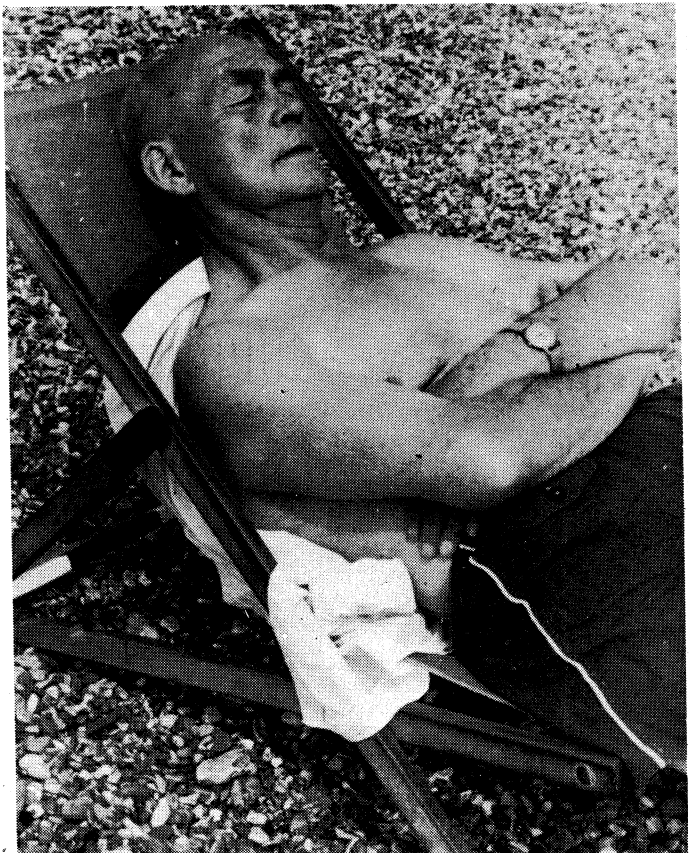
"But my office at H.Q. has all the details, so don't hesitate to phone," he adds. "And don't worry about the answering device if I'm out — just leave a short message and I'll phone back."

Coupled with the visit by The Law, Essex Cadets handed over a donation to the Home's funds. There had recently been a windfall of £10,000, given by the King of Saudi Arabia in recognition of his thanks to the Met Police motor cycle escort during his stay in London.

And the new lift, for which Essex was the first force to donate, has just come into use.

Cadets in 1979?

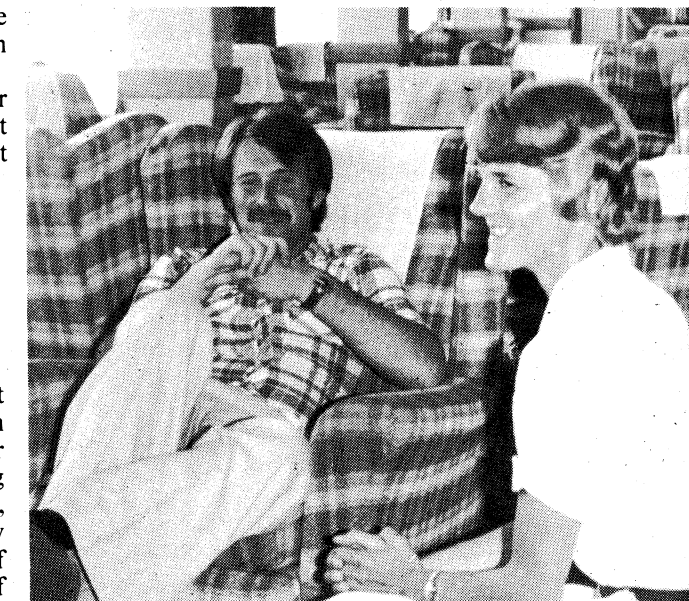
AT THEIR meeting last week the Police Authority, in considering staff numbers for 1979, instead of forecasting a nil total for police cadets, put in the figure 48. They also discussed enquiring of neighbouring forces to see if some arrangements could be agreed whereby cadet training could be combined.



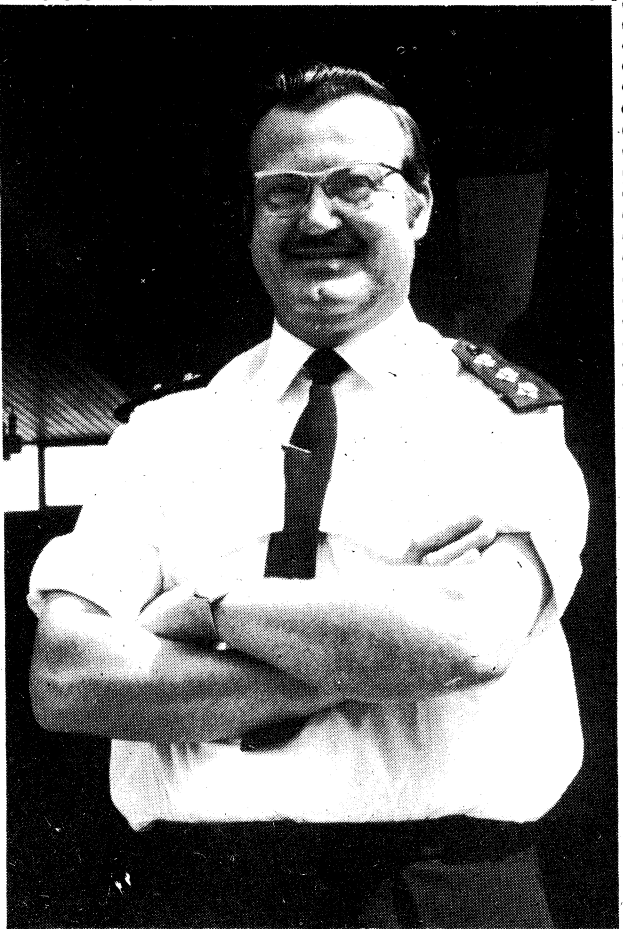
MET PENSIONER, Edwin Hall, has a bedridden invalid wife who has to be turned every hour day and night. So each year he gets away from his Earls Colne home for a rest at Hove. Apart from his hard work at home, Edwin does much for handicapped children, helping at their swimming classes.



AFTER a strangulated hernia and struggling on to the point where he had to stand up to type, Taffy Page ended up at Hove. "If I'd known they had all these washing machines I wouldn't have brought so much stuff with me," he said, demonstrating the machinery.



SISTER Joy Winter, one of two medical staff, one of whom is always available, chats to a patient in the lounge.



BACK to the Force after a lengthy stint at Eynsham Hall comes Ch Insp Ray Law. But he has really only changed offices because he is still in the training field having filled the vacancy as 2nd i.c. at the Force Training School.