



C.S.B. 1 STRANGERS 0



David gets the feel of a Traffic Patrol Vehicle . . .

SOME REWARD for their efforts might be felt by the members of the Harlow Community Service Branch in the story behind the pictures of young David Selby having an insight into the workings of a Traffic Division vehicle.

David, nine years, attends a school in Harlow and had dutifully last year been spoken to by the school's CSB officer and shown the film "Never Go With Strangers". And the lesson must have struck home, because last month when he left school in the afternoon David saw an even smaller lad being grabbed by a man and bundled into a car. This didn't look right, so he ran home and told his parents who promptly reported the matter to the police at Harlow.

David's description of the man, the boy, and the car were extremely good, and after several hours of exhaustive enquiries by both uniformed and CID Officers they were traced. It all turned out all right because they were father



. . . and has the equipment explained to him.

and son and the situation had been made to look more suspicious because the boy had run across the road without looking and his father was rather annoyed.

However, false alarm with good intent, and

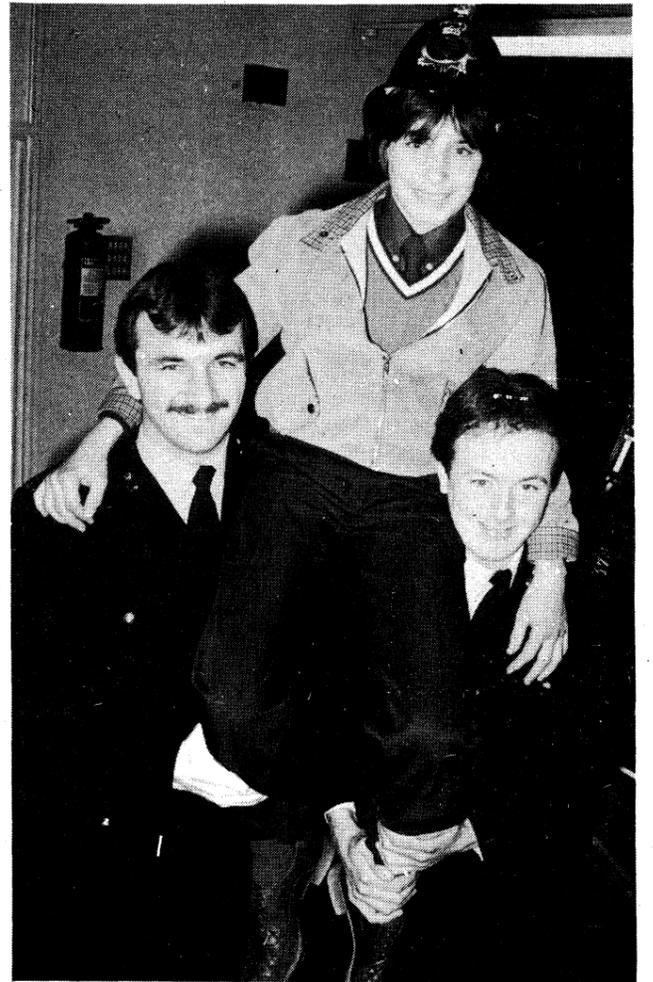
David's actions were most creditable. He was rewarded with a guided tour of Harlow Police Station where he was given detailed talks by members of Traffic, Dogs and Scenes of Crime, which he enjoyed immensely — so did his Mum and Dad!

CORONER COMMENDS PAPER BOY AND POLICE OFFICERS

HIGH PRAISE from H.M. Coroner for a 15-year-old paper boy and two police officers stationed at Tilbury. Mark Rogers was on his round early one morning when he saw smoke coming from a flat and he alerted the emergency services.

First on the scene were Constables Ian Stephenson and John Lane who made an entry but were beaten back by dense smoke. Undeterred, they again forced their way in, and this time found the occupant lying in the bathroom. They dragged him out, but resuscitation failed to bring any response and the subsequent inquest was told that he died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Coroner, Dr Charles Clark commented: "We expect great things from our police officers, but I think this is something you did beyond the call of duty", and asked for his remarks to be passed to the Chief Constable. He also praised Mark's quick action and said this undoubtedly averted an even greater tragedy.



The three heroes of a Tilbury fire tragedy.

Ted goes mobile

THE Essex Police Benevolent Fund has recently taken delivery of a battery powered invalid car which has been donated to the fund by a lady whose husband used it until he unfortunately died last year.

The vehicle, known as a "Batricar" is valued at about £1,000 and is to be maintained and insured by the Benevolent Fund. It has a range of 18 miles on a fully charged battery and is capable of being used on either roads or footpath and has the ability of being able to climb over a four inch kerb.

The first Essex Police pensioner to benefit from the use of the "Batricar" is ex-PS Ted Hasler who now lives in Brentwood. Ted, who is now 81 years young and served for 30 years, had the misfortune to have to have his right leg amputated three years ago and is very grateful for the small measure of independence which the vehicle will give him (see letters column, page 7).



Force Welfare Officer Charles Howlett gives Ted a few hints on the controls.

National Association of Retired Police Officers by Bert Brinkley

Pensioners' Garden Party, 1981

The date for the Party this year has been fixed for Friday, 3 July, 3 p.m. in the same surroundings as last year. Invitations will be sent out in due course in the hope that the weather is favourable to us once again.

Obituary

Pensioners and certain serving Officers will regret the death of ex Insp. Albert A. Ashby on 25 January last. 'Albert' succeeded me as Finance Officer upon my retirement in 1959. He died suddenly whilst visiting his son at Colchester. He was 67 years old. Our sympathy goes out to his widow, Doris, and her two sons at their sudden bereavement.

It is learned from a third party that our General Secretary and Treasurer — Alex Faragher of Liverpool has had a spell of hospitalisation and his wife is carrying on the business in his absence. I have no doubt she has been well groomed and will be able to cope. Pensioners who knew 'Alex' will wish him a speedy return to normal health. He took over the Secretaryship in September 1979 upon the retirement of Philip Smith of Yeovil.

Force Magazine

At the last Committee meeting in January it was reported that as the result of increased postal charges the cost of posting one Magazine would be 35 pence. It was therefore obvious that the present charge of 60 pence per two issues had to be revised. The Committee therefore decided to increase the charge to £1 for two issues which are posted and hoped that the increase would not result in a reduction in sales. The next issue which should be out in July should be available at the Garden Party.

P.P.H.A. Lottery

Members of the branch are certainly having their share of spoils in the current Lottery No. 11. Within the last six weeks three members have won the 1st prize of £100 each and one member had a second £20. With 14 more weeks yet to run who knows, many more can be potential winners.

Celebration cake



Arthur Simpson cutting the cake

ON FRIDAY, 9th January, 1981, Colchester Branch of NARPO held their 100th recorded meeting. To show their appreciation for the hard work done by the officers of the branch, and Secretary ex Chief Supt A. W. Simpson in particular, the younger members presented an iced cake to celebrate the occasion. The cake was made by Mrs Agnes Skillen.

Force lottery



It's better if you are there, lucky winner Maureen Chaplin receives her prize from Ch/Supt Bill Gray.

RESULT: of the draw held at Southend on 25th January 1981.

1st prize Pc D. Elam, Stanway Traffic, £1,065.24p; 2nd prize Wpc M. Chaplin, Traffic £532.62p; 3rd prize D. Insp R. Connell, Braintree, £266.31p; 4th prize Wdc G. Hawkins, Leigh £133.15p. Consolation prizes at £26.23p each — Pc C. Hovells, Rayleigh Marine, Ps J. Rose CSB (HQ) Pc, D. Lay, Traffic (HQ), Pc N. Redmond CSB (Brentwood, Ps P. Colbert, Traffic (HQ).

The next draw will take place at Colchester on 28th February.

DIVERS TAKE THE PLUNGE

IN JANUARY this year the Essex Police Diving Unit took part in a Gala Fun Night which was held at Harlow swimming pool. Before a large crowd of spectators, the unit gave a display which involved the fictitious rescue of people trapped in a sunken boat. The display included two fully dressed frogmen jumping from the top board, as though from a helicopter, into the swirling torrent and the careful raising of the boat to the surface. The crowd obviously enjoyed the efforts of our intrepid divers but the evening had been spoiled for our team to some extent when they learned that the units inflatable craft had been vandalised beyond repair prior to their arrival at the pool.



Taking the plunge — from a great height.

Bill leads from the front (office)

IN SEPTEMBER 1953 a new recruit was signed up by the then Southend Borough Police, who went by the name of William (Bill) Lapage and he was posted to Westcliff Police Station. In January 1981, it came to notice that in the front office of Westcliff Police Station was a person who closely resembled the PB Bill Lapage of 1953 and an investigation was launched to discover whether or not they were one and the same.

Having done his share of pounding the beat and the usual attachments that are a feature of early service in the Police, an opportunity arose in 1958 for Bill to take over front office duties for his shift. He accepted and he has for 22 years been the front man, telephone and teleprinter operator and shift tea-boy at Westcliff. It is emphasised that the duties involve the full 24 hour shift system and always have done.

Twenty-two years front office man at the same station. Is this a record?



Bill Lapage at his familiar place of work

We ain't seen nothin' yet!

ANY FEARS that we might have regarding the increase in crime in the County pale into insignificance with the cutting from a South African newspaper sent in this office by Det Ch Insp Derek Wyatt of Colchester:—

"Soweto experienced a relatively quiet weekend with 11 murders being committed in the black city and thirty-two armed robberies and 11 rapes were also reported to police."

What happens on a busy weekend then?



GIDEONS International (a body of Christian business men who place Bibles in hotels, universities, training schools, etc) recently made a presentation of Bibles to senior officers at Grays Police Station, with some additional copies for use in the Station and cells.

Following the presentation, I have been approached by the local Gideons secretary who has offered to present a copy of the Bible to any police

officer desiring one for his personal use, and I shall be pleased to pass on all requests. I can be contacted at Grays Police Station or at my home — 27 Tennyson Avenue, Grays (phone Grays Thurrock 76794).

Our February/March programme is as follows: Friday, 27 February: Branch Meeting at 24 Tabrams Way, Upminster (speaker: Rev Kenneth Sunday). 7.30pm.

Sunday, 15 March: 6.30pm Team Witness at Brentwood Baptist Church.

Friday, 27 March: 7.30pm Branch Meeting at 67 Blenheim Chase, Leigh-on-Sea.

Watch out for details of the Annual Meetings in April, which will appear in the next issue of "The Law".

PASSPORT TO PARADISE

—a report from the South Seas

Bob Miller—on secondment to Vanuatu sends a report of his first impressions

THE vacancy appeared in the "Police Review" in October 1979, and it took the Overseas Development Administration seven months to get my family and myself to Vanuatu (formerly called the New Hebrides). I had been selected for the post of Superintendent in charge CID in February 1980 and didn't arrive until the August. The waiting, needless to say, was frustrating.

I left my Force in July 1980, on a secondment under the Overseas Service Act, for one year. Prior to my departure from the UK I had to undertake for one month, a full-time French language course in London.

On August 11, my wife, two children and myself left England and travelled to Los Angeles, Hawaii, then on to Fiji to be royally entertained by Supt Malcolm Moore and his wife who are currently on secondment from Essex to the Royal Fiji Police.

On August 20 we arrived in Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu, which is situated on the Island of Efate. We were greeted by the Immigration Officer there, a Metropolitan Police Officer, John Carley, whom I quote, said, "Welcome to Paradise". So far so good!

The Republic of Vanuatu gained its Independence on July 31, 1980, and is a group of 80 islands (65 inhabited), stretching for 500 miles in the Pacific Ocean. It has a population of 112,000 people.

Location

The New Hebrides had been governed jointly by Britain and France since 1906 and it would appear that we do have our differences! The Police especially suffered because there were two separate Police Forces with different methods. Any incident reported to the Police had to be attended by an Officer from both Forces and a lot depended on who was involved in the incident, the nationality and so forth, as to which Police officer dealt with it.

The cool season is from May to November. It remains dry and the weather is beautiful. December until April is the Summer season. It can rain continuously for weeks on end, or it is very hot and humid. Temperatures can reach the 90s and flies and mosquitoes are in abundance. Your clothing when left in a wardrobe and your furniture can gather mildew and everywhere feels damp.

I must admit, here we were expecting accommodation a little worse than we had enjoyed in England but this was not to be. After spending the first 10 days in two adjoining rooms in the best hotel in Vanuatu we were shown a three-bedroomed



Investigating a Murder, Bob Miller is accompanied by a Woman Detective Sergeant and an Detective Inspector (hands on knees).

bungalow in a "desirable part of Vila". The house was filthy, needed re-decorating throughout and required fumigating. There was also the additional hazards of mosquito bites, which do not look very nice when they form a pattern on your legs and arms, coupled with the possibility that you could contract malaria, if bitten by the "right type" of mosquito. All of a sudden Paradise did not seem like paradise any more!

We learnt very quickly that the only way to get things done was to do it yourself, and making my own enquiries I discovered that the house opposite was shortly to become vacant. I refused the offer of the first house and jumped into this other "desirable residence" when the people left. My wife and I, together with our newly engaged house maid, were appointed for the next week on our hands and knees scrubbing the floor and walls and having additional furniture moved in by the Public Works Dept, and insisting that all the mattresses on the beds be replaced.

Cockroaches, lizards and many other insects are always evident and you have to continually "spray" yourself and the house to keep their presence down to a minimum.

Our household effects did not arrive for two months after our arrival and it was for about this period of time that we were unsettled, not very happy and getting very quickly "fed up" with the place. Upon arrival of our goods, things gradually appeared better and we were

becoming more settled into a completely different way of life.

But I then found that instead of being in charge of CID, I had, since Independence, been reverted to a non-executive position of a Police Adviser.

My arrival coincided with the first "batch" of Santo rebellion prisoners being arraigned before the Public Prosecutor for preliminary enquiry.

Sporting

The next week saw me travelling to the island of Espiritu Santo by aircraft where a massive military operation was underway, and great co-ordination was required between the Military and the Police as there were literally hundreds of persons being arrested, and similar numbers of exhibits that needed indexing and safe storing. This was a mammoth task for a small, select number of detectives and other officers at my disposal (the Force strength is 300 officers). Between August 19 and November 22, 1980, some 2,200 persons were interviewed by Police. The "ring leader" Jimmy Moli Stevens was on November 21, sentenced to 14½ years' imprisonment for offences involving training a quasi military force; incitement to riot; kidnapping police officers and other offences.

I have never met a more dedicated group of sometimes working 16 hours a day, every day for months, away from their families who live on other islands, and working in

unenviable conditions.

The Police Mobile Unit comprises approximately half the Force strength and are a kind of Force Support Unit, but are continually armed with rifles and are trained like soldiers in jungle warfare. They worked alongside the military in making most of the arrests in the early stages of the enquiry and



Jimmy Stevens is escorted by Bob Miller and an unusual looking Captain of Detectives on his way to imprisonment.

searching for suspect rebels hiding in the bush. The members of this unit wear jungle green and blue berets whereas the ordinary shorts and socks.

Since being here the rebellion prisoners have taken up a lot of my time. However, in between times there have been cases of murder and rape which have required me to visit other islands with a senior detective and scenes of

crime officer and the methods of travelling are as diverse as you can imagine.

The crime rate would appear to have increased since Independence. In the capital, Vila, there are on average about 150 offences committed per month, which are investigated by six detectives. The most common offence is theft, but burglaries are increasing in number and there is the occasional homicide. Armed robberies are virtually unheard of, but sexual offences of varying types are frequently reported as are frauds committed by employees in local business. It can be safely said that in this part of the world alcohol plays a large part in the reasons why crime is committed. Generally speaking people here tend to be very truthful and if apprehended confess the crime.

Improvisation is the key word and men have to work on their own initiative most of the time. There is not the scientific facilities available here as in the UK, and all samples for forensic analysis are sent to Australia.

Australians and culture are still retained on islands in the Group. Custom chiefs in the villages play a major role and are considered very important people in their community. They deal with offenders themselves and only when a situation develops to such an extent that they can no longer handle it, they will then call in the Police to investigate.

or wife when the child was very young, even paying in advance. Today, people generally choose their own spouses.

Differences

There is no television service here and only a limited radio service. With little to do in the way of entertainment, people play a great deal of sport. The whole spectrum is covered from golf to snorkelling and deep sea diving. A lot are still in the early days of organisation but without doubt there is a lot of untapped talent here. Football, for example, where a team produced here has well beaten German and French visiting sides.

The Boxing Club has about 40 members of varying ages and they have produced the first professional South Seas champion. Athletics, too, when you watch some of the Melanesians run it is like watching a gazelle in action.

Operation

Probably the most popular of all sports are snorkelling, scuba diving and sailing. The coral reefs with their different shades of blue are something to be seen either from ground level or even better from an aerial position where the reefs are highlighted even more. It was scenes like this that led to the island of Espiritu Santo being used for the film "South Pacific".

There are a host of small beaches in and around the main island of the Group where it is safe for children to swim and play. The setting is quite idyllic where you can have a length of beach on a red hot day with a clear blue sea and not a soul around. It makes you wonder where everyone goes to at weekends!

Having spoken to many people since being here, most of them "seasoned colonials", they all agree that an article such as this has to be written at my stage of service, viz six months. This is when the things and people are still novel and you are still able to make comparisons with the life you have recently left. After one year or so these things begin to become common-place and are accepted as the way of life here. These islands have not yet been subjected to the technology and pace of living that exists in the western world.

Living in a place like this, I feel sure, can have an effect and does have a disorientating effect. It makes one not want to leave it and certainly not want to exchange it for the "hubub" existence of a place like London, or any other main town in England for that matter.

The Force Band —

In the beginning . . .



Early days and brand new uniforms

ESSEX POLICE Headquarters has for a number of years housed some form of musical band. "The Peelers" dance band was one, and another group formed in 1954 gave a tremendous amount of pleasure at dances all over the county. This latter group comprised Driving School Instructors, Harry Smith, Freddie Covington, Laurie Yallop, Ken Watson and Charles Wood, with Stan Webb, Les Howman, Bert Samuels and Rossie Rossington from other parts of Headquarters. After a dozen or so years this group eventually disbanded due to postings and retirements.

The Traffic Department for many years had an annual social of a "stag" nature and, looking for something new, a "Buskers" group took to the stage in 1965, comprising Alan Cook (trumpet), Charlie Wood and Dick Giggins (piano accordion), Mick Brangham and Gerry Barrell (percussion), and Colin Dawdry (string tea chest bass).

First meeting

The idea of live musicians prompted Ken Baker, then an Inspector at the Driving School, and others to suggest that players throughout the county be circulated to form a group. February 1966 saw a meeting take place and was attended by a number of brass musicians, many of whom are pictured in the photo of the early days of the Band.

A few of these individuals were connected with established brass bands but one of the problems was that there were no instruments, music or equipment. George White and Gerry Barrell of

the garage had their ears to the ground and a variety of instruments and music was eventually borrowed from the British Legion at Witham and the Royal Eastern Counties Hospital management at Colchester. Other instruments were loaned from the Chelmsford Silver Band along with their bandmaster Bill Hymers. On the 4th April 1966 twenty or so persons started rehearsing and formed the nucleus of the band that exists today.

Soon the strains of 'Slaidburn', 'The Chieftain' and 'All in the April Evening' were heard in the

tragically killed on duty at Shepherds Bush by three gunmen.

Funds are forever a headache and during 1967, in an effort to build these up, waste paper was collected at HQ and secreted away. This scheme continued for some 18 months and over £100 was duly collected.

Uniform

In the same year the first band uniform took shape. Blue waiters jackets, black tie and uniform trousers. Concerts were given for the first time at the Special Constabulary annual muster parade, and during

senior officer of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers, they returned with 18 pieces and a receipt for £82!!

In 1969 a 'new look' uniform was evolved from cast police uniform, expertly altered by Mrs Val Earthy and faced with light blue material, capes, and caps for outside engagements.

Three years later the Band's new president, A.C.C. John Duke, appealed for funds to swell the new instrument fund, and at the H.Q. Christmas concert new instruments were presented by the Chief Constable to the Band. Expenditure on these instruments approached £1,300 and was met as a result of generous donations from Divisional Sports Clubs, the Magazine fund and other sources.

In 1974 the uniform was again replaced by Officers style jacket and trousers (supplied from cast), white shirts and silver epaulettes and egerlettes bought second hand from the Met. Police Band.

It was decided in 1976 that a Board of Trustees should be appointed to be responsible for control of the affairs of the Band. These Trustees were, the Chief Constable, the Chairman of the Police Authority, the County Treasurer, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Band.

In August of that year, having been inspired by the Band's rendering of Sundown at a concert in a Chelmsford church, Mr Jack Longley A.R.C.A. presented the Band with a painting of a sunset, which now hangs in the H.Q. main entrance hall.

The Band's biggest "captive" audience occurred in December 1976, where before an audience of over 33,000 they performed at Portman Road (thanks to Ken Baker), where the Band played and marched before the match and during the interval. It is just possible that some of the crowd went to watch Ipswich v Liverpool!

Two years later, however, they joined with the Police Bands from Kent, Hampshire and the Metropolitan Police to delight nearly 100,000 people at the League Cup Final at Wembley.

These are, of course, merely milestones in the history of the Essex Police Band to indicate how it has evolved from the enthusiasm of a few stalwarts some 15 years ago and has been sustained through the injection of new blood at regular intervals. Retirements, postings and general movement have all taken their toll, and it would be virtually impossible to name all those

who, over the years, have given valuable service.

The records show literally hundreds of public performances all over the

country for a vast variety of causes, and a glance at some of the future engagements indicates the quality of venues to be visited.

THE BANDMASTER— GEOFFREY BROOM



THE BAND is pleased to play under the baton of its Bandmaster, Geoffrey Broom, who acquired his musical education through the Guildhall School of Music and the Salvation Army. In 1958 he joined the Regimental Band of the Irish Guards and in 1964 he was appointed Principal Cornet/Soloist of the Band and as such he has appeared virtually worldwide and broadcast frequently. In 1977 he was appointed to the rank of Band Sergeant Major. He retired from the Service in November 1980.

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GRAND CHARITY CONCERTS

THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY

MALE VOICE CHOIR

AND THE ESSEX POLICE BAND

1. At King Edward VI Grammar School,
Chelmsford 7.30pm. Friday 6th March 1981

Tickets, £1, available from — Dace & Sons, Exchange Way, Chelmsford; and Ps. Waddington, Driving School.

2. At Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road,
together with the Suffolk Police Choir
7.30pm. Saturday 7th March 1981

Tickets, £1, available from Ps Shelley, Colchester.

PROCEEDS TO ESSEX SCANNER FUND

Forthcoming events for 1981

6th and 7th Mar	Concerts with R.U.C. Male Voice Choir.
22nd April	Concert at Clacton Town Hall.
2nd May	Concert at Grays with Sussex Police Choir
10th May	Special Constabulary Parade at HQ
20th & 21st May	Closing Ceremonial Parade, Eynsham Hall.
6th June	Trueloves Fete, Ingatestone.
28th June	Band Concert, Victoria Park, London E.3.
3rd September	Concert in Westminster Abbey Gardens.
3rd October	Band Concert at Brightlingsea.
20th December	Marconi Club Bingo Night.
22nd December	Band Christmas Concert, Marconi Club,

vicinity of several venues in the Headquarters complex. On succeeding Wednesdays (the town band meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays and requires its bandmaster and instruments back), the band gradually grew as new members joined. In the course of many weeks the old Training School classroom became the unofficial bandroom, later to move to the old billiard room above the Chief's garage (now demolished).

In August 1966 at Chelmsford Cathedral the band played together for the first time, supported by a few players from the Chelmsford band. The sad occasion was a memorial service to three Metropolitan Police Officers who had been

the summer and autumn at such venues as the High Sheriff's Garden Party, Mayor of Chelmsford's Party at Highlands House, the Force swimming gala at Clacton and the RAF Debden officers mess for the 50th anniversary of the Royal Air Force.

In September of that year application was made for affiliation to the Force Sports Club, but was turned down as apparently the Band was neither a sporting or competitive activity!

In 1968 the Band was commissioned to spend £100 and purchase 8 instruments of their very own. Three stalwart members travelled to Scotland, where by dint of some shrewd haggling, and the co-operation of a very

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MALE VOICE CHOIR

AND THE ESSEX POLICE BAND

1. At King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford 7.30pm. Friday 6th March 1981

Tickets, £1, available from — Dace & Sons, Exchange Way, Chelmsford; and Ps. Waddington, Driving School.

2. At Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, together with the Suffolk Police Choir 7.30pm. Saturday 7th March 1981

Tickets, £1, available from Ps Shelley, Colchester.

PROCEEDS TO ESSEX SCANNER FUND

A Profile In Brass

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE writes:—

AS the Chief Constable, I have a keen interest in any activity which takes place under the banner of the Essex Police and I am delighted that the Essex Police Band reflects such credit on the force which it so proudly represents.

It seems to be going from strength to strength, developing on the way a commendable professionalism, an ever increasing musically challenging repertoire and a reputation for consistency and melodic tonality which ensures a good following. It has been extremely pleasant to receive so many expressions of commendation and appreciation from widely dispersed sources, certainly not confined to the County.

In giving my full support to the Band, therefore, I would like to thank each member for his or her contribution and wish them all a musically successful 1981. May the Band secure the new talent it requires to maintain its forward impetus!

Are you up to the Challenge?

TO ESTABLISH the origin of the Brass Band, which is a distinctly "British" organisation, one has to look back over a hundred years to the heart of the north Country and the desire of the average working man to indulge in a rewarding and comparatively simple hobby. The churches and church music being still very active in people's day to day life, the opportunity to make music became a

world of music by playing a brass instrument, having previously been unable to play the more delicate and finicky orchestral instruments, was prepared to devote a huge amount of his limited spare time to improve.

Over the years brass bands such as Brighthouse and Rastrick, Fairey Aviation, Black Dyke Mills and GUS Manchester have given the sound of brass a tone and quality accepted by most people. If you enjoy the sound of those bands, consider the pleasure that contributing to such a sound gives to those of us who play.

Before such a remark is

escape for one reason or another, why not try again: to those who can read music and perhaps play other instruments have you considered changing to brass: somewhere out there perhaps is an accomplished player who may think that we as yet don't come up to his or her standard, well to that I must reply: "It's the easiest thing to knock something but if you joined and helped we may come up to your standard."

Consider the benefits of seeing physically and mentally disabled people thoroughly enjoying the band every Christmas at various hospitals in the Colchester area. It is an



Geoff Broom plays the Post Horn

passionate hobby for many people, mainly it must be said among the male section of the community.

Various organisations took it upon themselves to organise bands, and the works bands started to become a major feature of the larger business concerns. The expertise of the working man grew as people with a wider knowledge of music entered the field and contests were a feature of the area, with a tremendous spirit of competition prevailing.

There is little doubt that the man who worked in factory and pit during his shift and who then was able to release himself into the

disregarded, remember that the majority of those persons playing in the Essex Police Band are self taught, practising over many weeks, picking the brains of the more accomplished exponents, and learning by mistake. In addition to learning the mechanics of the instrument many had to learn the rudiments of reading music and its interpretation, which many would say is by far the most difficult part of the exercise. To accurately interpret what the composer intended is no small feat.

To those of you who have previously played brass instruments and let it

accepted fact that the less fortunate people respond to music where normal speech registers little. Consider four days at Brighton playing for the International Conference of Police Federations. From these eyes of engagements and the less spectacular concert, maybe in your town, a tremendous band of comradeship amongst members develops.

As in any organisation, we have our differences, to some of which some people have been unable to be reconciled, but in the main we try to set a middle of the road policy to secure the best interest of the Band.

Des McGarr.

They perform in pavilions, under palms, and on parade



Playing at Brighton for the International Conference of Police Federations.

It takes all kinds of talent to make a tuneful team!

IN THIS very abridged "Who's Who" of a small proportion of the members of the Band, it will be seen that many are self taught after joining the band, and others have joined as percussion or woodwind players and have then converted to "brass."

Membership varies from a Chief Inspector to a Cadet, from police officers' wives and children to civilian employees of the Police Authority.

Cornet

WPc Heather Eames — Five years in the Essex Youth Orchestra playing flute and piccolo, joined five years ago and skilfully converted to E flat soprano.

Ex-WPc Wendy Norton — Eleven years experience with Basildon and Billericay silver bands before joining the Police band in 1975. Accomplished singer with Essex Youth Choir. Has been the Band's principle cornet for almost two years.

Mrs Jill Ford — schoolmistress and wife of band member Martin Ford. Started with Nettleswell youth Band and plays flugel horn with the Police Band.

Sgt Des McGarr — joined the band in 1974 with rather more enthusiasm than musical skill. With hard work made the 'front row' in four years. Is the present Treasurer of the Band.

Ch Insp John Poston — interest in military music prompted him to join Police band late in 1966. Self taught in both playing and reading music. Has served on the committee as Secretary and Vice

Chairman for about 12 years.

Baritone and Euphonium

Pc Paul Webb — started playing when 12 on trombone, graduated to Saffron Walden High School Band and played euphonium, two years with Hadstock Silver, and joined Police Band in 1969. Property steward.

Ex-Sgt Dick Giggins — One of the "originals," played baritone since 1966.

Trombone

Sgt John Waddington — Began playing violin, piano and trombone as a schoolboy, played with A.T.C. Youth Band, Friendly Silver Band at Sowerby Bridge and Hednesford R.A.F. Station Band. "Retired" for 14 years before involvement with Police Band in 1966. Committee member since 1967 and is currently Band librarian.

Pc Mick Spalding — Started when 11 years of age with Kirkby Colliery Junior Band, played as a Bevin boy with the Senior Band, and Cresswell Colliery Championship Band before moving south in 1966, joining the Police Band later that year.

Insp. Graham Dossett — played trombone when 11 years old with school band until joining Police Cadets and Band in 1968.

Pc Andy Norton — started playing trumpet when 11 years old then progressed to trombone with Southend Youth Band and Southend Festival Orchestra. Has played in the Royal Albert Hall. Joined the Police Band in 1975 with his wife Wendy.

Tenor Horn

Pc Wilf Kennedy — Hard-working Secretary and founder-member of the

Band in 1966. Started blowing with the Belfast Temple Band when aged six years, progressed to the Old Boys Championship Band, and came over the water in 1961 to join the Police Service.

Pc Ken Bailey — press ganged (like many others) when on a Driving Course. Got the bug and learned from scratch. Plays on the 1st desk and hits the bass drum when on the march.

WPc Joy Edwards — joined the band five years ago. Self taught.

Bass

Ex-Sgt Charles Wood — Accomplished pianist with different styles of playing. Played at Headquarters with the five-piece dance band for 11 years, helped form the Police Band in 1966 and has played BB flat bass ever since.

Pc John Woodcock — Started playing when aged 12 with Tooting Sea Cadets, played cornet for many years with Fulham, Croydon and the Middlesex Yeomanry Bands. Had four years service with the Metropolitan Police Band, joined Essex Police band in 1979 and is currently deputy conductor.

Percussion

Pc Bob Giles — introduced at 15 years by his father to dance band, largely self-taught, has played professionally in dance bands, the R.A.F. and various groups, joined the Police Band in 1970.

Sgt Malcolm Hasler — Ex-drum major of the King Edward VI Grammar School, leads from the front whenever the Band is on the march, and still manages to beg, borrow or steal the same school mace that he used years ago.

LAW SPORT—LAW SPORT—LAW SPORT—LAW SPORT

Athletics

IN THE period under review Police have staged two excellent events at Chelmsford, the Force 10 miles walking championship and this season's final race in the S.E. Region cross country league.

In the walking event Colchester confirmed their supremacy — they won the cross country narrowly in December — by winning by a big margin from Rayleigh.

Race winner was Roy Sheppard, younger brother of Denis, in a steady 74.58. Police winner was Peter Ryan of Basildon whose time of 77.20 was something of a disappointment after a faster 77.09 on a harder course at Basildon the week before.



Typical action shot of Denis Sheppard.

After a slow start and a visit to the area known as Behind the Hedge, during which he also fell behind Hedgethorne, Mike Dunion got it together and overtook Denis Sheppard on the last lap to clinch 2nd Police position.

Colchester had turned out a big squad expecting stiff resistance from Chelmsford but it didn't materialise. So Colchester made it two wins in a row in this event.

At Danbury Park on 4th February some of the old Essex glory returned especially in the women's race where the Lamb twins were joint winners, well ahead.

Further back Moira Owers, Chelmsford, won the sprint on the uphill finish to take 4th place with Siobhan Mullender, a veteran of these races by now, just behind 5th. Their score was high enough to lift Essex into 3rd place over the season.

In the men's event Chris

Turner was always in charge. After a mile he was leading with only one other hanging on but a mile from the end the Colchester man was out alone and he won easily.

This lifted him into 2nd place overall.

The team was unlikely to get into the medal frame having left themselves too much to do after earlier failures, and in any case one or two key runners were missing. So 4th on the day and over the season was all they could manage, despite a strong run from team captain Andy Down finishing 9th.

Both Regional and National championships are scheduled for the next month or so and with a full squad out the cross country outfit should do well.

Back to the walkers who began their year-long Essex walking league campaign with a 10 miles at Basildon in January. Best placed was Peter Ryan who finished 3rd but both Sheppard, 14th, and Hedgethorne, 17th, were off form. But in a race at Cuxhaven, Germany, on 8th February, Sheppard clocked his best result for some time covering 10,000mts (6½ miles) in 47m 03secs.

RESULTS

Force 10 miles: Men: 1. P. Ryan (Bas) 77.20; 2. M. Dunion (Chelms) 83.33; 3. D. Sheppard (Clacton) 83.43; 4. J. Hedgethorne (Colch) 85.40.

Women: 1. S. Brown (Chelms) 37.03; 2. R. Warriner (Colch) 38.28; 3. A. Golding (Colch) 39.24.

Regional Cross Country: men: 1. C. Turner; 9. A. Down; 22. S. Pearman.

Women: 1. J. and W. Lamb; 4. M. Owers; 5. S. Mullender.



Close finishing in the ladies race

Badminton

IN THE SOUTH EAST Region P.A.A. championships held at Ashford, Kent, last month the Essex pair of Ch Insp Bob Cameron of Rayleigh and Pc Geoff Bendall, Headquarters, were successful in the Men's Veterans Doubles event, winning the Tony Armfield trophy for the first time. This cup was donated by Mrs Armfield in memory of her late husband, who was Sports Secretary of the City of London Police for many years.

Det Sgt Martin Reed, Chelmsford and Wpc Andrea Blake of Rochford were unfortunate having won through to the Final to be beaten by a pair from Thames Valley.

Congratulations to all four of you for sterling performances.

Football

A VALIANT effort by our football team was crushed in the third minute of injury time at a floodlit Imbercourt earlier this month.

FIFA referee Clive White, who officiated at last year's FA Cup Final at Wembley, took charge of this game which had everything one could wish for bar a victory for Essex.

This was the regional final of the PAA National Competition against the full Met side who play senior football in the Isthmian League.

The Met were firm favourites but found they were forced to defend against an Essex side determined to avenge a single goal defeat by the same opposition in last season's competition.

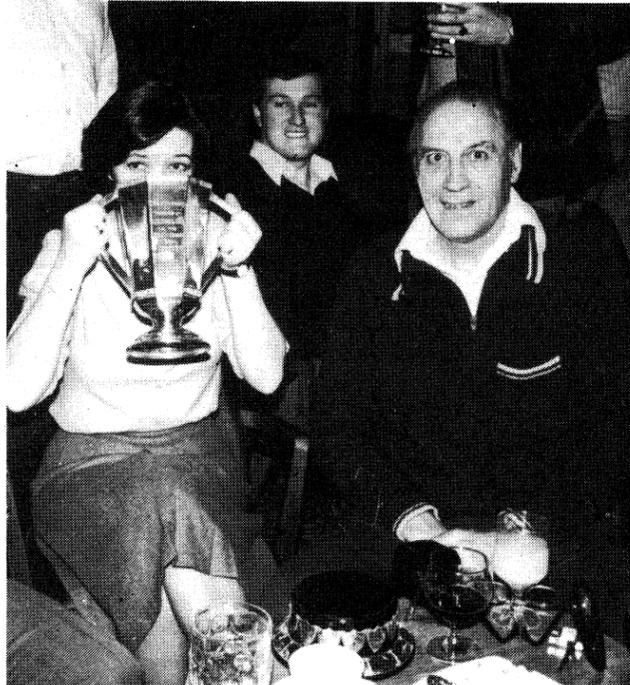
Essex did have their chances, but failed to take them as when Clarke shot over the bar from a half chance and sub Oakley just failed to reach a loose ball on their goal line.

The furious pace of the match took its toll on the fitness of the Essex players in the closing stages and allowed the Met to snatch the only goal of the match in the 48th minute of the second half.

No better tribute to the team can be given than that offered by Essex ACC Mr M. Comrie who said after having seen the match: "Not only did they work hard but they played an excellent, clean, sporting match. Whilst naturally a little disappointed with the final result, they can hold their heads high. Well done."

Team: R. Scott, V. Mullender, M. Slade, C. Clark, S. Shoesmith, G. Evans, P. Pratt, K. Street, S. Lowe, P. Gammon, M. Allen. Subs: M. Oakley, J. Scott, J. Weatherly, P. Taylor.

INDOOR GAMES FINALS



Some of the Basildon darts team know what a cup is for.

MOTOR CYCLE CLUB RE-FORMED

After a break of several years the above club has been re-formed. The club has an exclusive membership in as much as it is only open to serving members of the Traffic Division who hold motor-cycle permits.

The aims of the club are threefold. Firstly, to promote and forward the ideas of the members as to equipment of both rider and machine and to ensure the awareness of the problems encountered by motor-cyclists. Secondly, for all members to keep in touch with the goings on in each sub-division by exchange of information and thirdly, as a social club to arrange outings and events.

Elections

The first meeting was held at "The George", Witham, on 19th January. Twenty motorcyclists arrived from all over the County. Firstly, an election of officers took place. Supt Humberston has accepted Presidency of the club. The following other club officers were elected:

Chairman: Frank Mascall (HQ)
Vice Chairman: George Lambeth (HQ)
Secretary: Ian Sparks (Stanway).

"Law" Correspondent: Chris Lay (Stanway).

In addition sub-div reps were elected, these are: HQ: George Lambeth. Stanway: Crhis Lay. Laindon: Tony Beaumont. Harlow: Mick Phillips. Rayleigh: Not yet decided. Driving School: Les Elkington.

It was decided that all future meetings should be held at HQ bar because it is central, and to hold meetings every two months. (Next meeting to be announced).

It is not my intention to report in these articles everything that is discussed at the meetings, unless of particular interest, as a copy of minutes will be circulated to all members after each meeting. Suffice to say that at this first meeting the following topics were discussed: Helmets, goggles, breeches, boots, motor-cycles, rear blue lamps, rear Police signs, radios, wailers and dual permits. Also discussed, was the possibility at some time in the future of arranging a trip to the BMW factory in Germany.

A regular feature of this article will be entitled AROUND THE SUBS. Can all members pass to their sub-div reps everything of interest involving motor-cycles or riders. Could the sub-div reps let me have articles as soon after every meeting as possible for inclusion in the next copy of the paper.

AROUND THE SUBS

Harlow: "News Flash". Dateline Friday, 23rd January, 1981. Location, the west of county near M11. Four motor-cyclists on escort duty for a lady of Conservative views. Frank, Dave and Mick leave a roundabout at Talbot PH in sole charge of ex-Laindon Olympic Flame. He spotted a puddle at the roundabout, thought of Sir Walter Raleigh but where was his cape? His jacket would do but no time to remove it. Gallantly he throws away his BMW and lays horizontally in road covering puddle. Fortunately the Lady has passed by. Only damage was a dented pride.

Recent arrivals as motor-cyclists are Keith Watson and Dave Ward. Both have been drivers here for some time.

Stanway: We now have eight full time motor-cyclists, the most for a long time. Recent arrival is Ian Sparks late of Harlow and

Police of Essex Golf Society



THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the Society was held after the Autumn Meeting and it was agreed that a more centrally situated venue for meetings and matches should be sought. Arrangements have now been made for all our home matches and the three Society Meetings to be played at The Warren, Woodham Walter next year.

This will save a great deal of travelling time and expense for the majority of members, and expenses will not be increased to any great extent.

A justifiable but nevertheless sizable increase in the budget has been obtained from the Force Sports Association Management Committee. However, green fees and meal prices continue to increase each year and it is only right that members defray part of this increase by their own contributions. Accordingly, it was agreed at the A.G.M. that subscriptions to P.E.G.S. next year will be £3.00 and players contributions at both home and away matches will be increased to £4.00 per head next year.

It is hoped that these measures will enable us to extend our fixture list in the future and avail each member more opportunities to represent the Force.

The Secretary thanked all members of P.E.G.S. for their support throughout the season, and reported that the Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Stone, had agreed to become Vice President of the Society.

even later of HQ. He's only got two subs left. Also Chris Woodward who defected from the other side. Unfortunately we have a lack of machines due to breakdowns and mishaps. The Force Lottery has decided that motor-cyclists deserve extra pay and so have arranged for each top prize to be awarded to Stanway motor-cyclists. Mick Spalding in December and Dave Elam in January, the rest of us are waiting our turn. Congrats to Mick and Dave.

Federation Notes



by Jim Rodgers

CAR ALLOWANCE CHEQUES

This seems to be a perennial problem. I have again received complaints of delays in receipt of cheques, each complainant insisting that he submitted his claim on the first day of the month, but still had to wait till the end of the month for payment. There are several reasons for the delays, some related to the complicated method by which the claim travels to arrive at County Hall, but the main problem at the moment is relative to the dates on which such claims are fed into the County Hall Computer. The computer is used on two days per month, each date being 14 days apart from the preceding one and the next one. For the remainder of this year claims must arrive at County Hall by the following dates to stand any chance of being paid out before the end of the month

11 March
8 April
6 May
3 June
1 July
12 August
9 September
7 October
6 November
4 December

It is obvious that no-one will have their claims to County Hall before the 1st July or 3rd June, but they should arrive there for the 15th or 18th of the month, which will still ensure the cheque is forwarded to you by the end of the month. If all officers submit their claims as soon as possible after the end of the month, AND all the intermediate officers who forward on the claims are aware of these computer dates, the problem should be a long way towards being solved. There may still be the odd one or two which are delayed because of some "hiccup" in the system, but there is no guaranteed system that will work better.

Any officer who is short of cash with which to run his car whilst waiting for the cheque to come through is reminded that there are facilities for obtaining an advance on his expected

cheque, details of which were published in Force Orders.

TAXATION OF CAR ALLOWANCES

On this subject Ted Davidson has been getting the calls, which is a fair apportioning of labour. (I do most of it, he does the rest). Force Order A1166 sets out a table of amounts which have been considered by the Inland Revenue to be the "Profit Element" for officers who are in receipt of Essential or Casual User Allowances, IF they do not use their vehicles for certain total annual mileages. That is the figure on which the officer would be expected to pay Income Tax — i.e. a column figure of say £230 would attract an additional £80 in tax (approximately).

Where an officer is of the rank of Inspector or below, the cubic capacity allowance is restricted to that for a car 1000-1199 c.c., even though he may run a car of a much higher capacity. The cost of running the larger car obviously eats into the "Profit Element" he enjoys, and which the Inland Revenue wish to tax.

Because of these anomalies, Ted has written to Gateshead No 3 Tax Inspector, enclosing a copy of the above Force Order, a copy of the Standing Order and relevant regulation on Car Allowances, asking for their comments on the problems posed. This action has been taken to establish a ruling on the principles posed. This action has been taken to establish a ruling on the principles only, so that advice can be given. Each officer is individually taxed because of a set of circumstances which affect him personally; and any Tax Coding is made on a personal basis. It is therefore, necessary for any individual who wishes to do so, to challenge his tax coding personally by writing to Gateshead 3, indicating the grounds on which he challenges the coding.

BUT, before you all rush for your ballpoints and paper, give the Tax man an opportunity to answer Ted's queries. We will publish them as soon as we receive them, by way of Teleprinter or bulletin through Federation Representatives.

INSURANCE AND MORTGAGE FACILITIES

The Joint Branch Board Office seems to be bombarded at regular intervals with offers from Insurance Brokers and Building Societies offering "Special Facilities" for Police Officers. There is no way that I can prevent these people from making direct approaches to Police Officers, any more than I can prevent magazines and periodicals from enclosing advertising material on sundry services.

Recently an offer of 100 per cent mortgages was cir-

LAST CHANCE TO ATTEND EYNHAM HALL CEREMONY

THIS ceremony will take place at 11.30am on Thursday, 21 May, 1981, and the Commandant extends an invitation to all ex-members of the Instructional Staff to attend.

Chief Inspector A. J. Allan (Headquarters Traffic - Ext 403) is acting as Liaison Officer for the Force and any former Staff members, serving or retired, who would like to attend should contact him before 1st March, 1981, for details.

Rayleigh Divisional Sports Club

SUPPER DANCE

at the 'J' Alehouse

Friday 1st May 1981

8pm - 12.30am £2

Tickets from Messrs. Feather and Seago

culated through the Force, with an inference that this had the approval of the J.B.B. — which implies that we had vetted the scheme and given it our blessing. I wish to state that the details of what have been offered were not made known to me prior to the circulation. I have in the past stressed the need for officers to establish some "financial credibility" by undertaking savings schemes in order to build up sufficient money for mortgage deposits and legal expenses incurred in buying houses, but each officer has to make his own mind up about what scheme he utilises. If I have recommended any person or scheme it is because I believe they or it to be worthwhile benefits for the membership.

The Joint Branch Board are involved in sponsoring the Force Group Insurance Scheme, The Police Federation Return of Premium Scheme, Save and Prosper Group Scheme for Essex Police. We have from time to time recommended the services of Derek Lidford, Insurance Broker; also Alan Barton of Abbey Life; and I have recently been impressed by certain aspects of insurance cover being offered by Brian Magrath of Imperial Life of Canada. We have been in touch with Abbey National Building Society of Southend and have contacts with Nationwide Building Society, both of which have offered special schemes for Police Officers. The Abbey Scheme has to be finalised, but the Nationwide Scheme has been operating through Derek Lidford for some two years now.

If you are approached by any other person who says he has a scheme which has the J.B.B. "blessing," will you please check with me first, before making any sort of commitment.



THE AGM of the Essex Branch was held at Headquarters last week and Craig Bailey took the Chair in the absence of the Chief Constable. He welcomed members, especially retired officers, and spoke of a successful year with the formation of the new 10 Region and the hosting of visitors showing an upsurge of enthusiasm. The secretary mentioned the new method of recording membership by computer. All officers were re-elected en bloc. It was reported that 52 people had used the facilities of the IPA house at Southend.

POSTBAG overflow from page 8

Dear Sir,

Through your column, may we please thank the Chief Constable, and everyone in the Force, who gave us support during our daughter's illness.

Also for the acts of kindness, floral tributes and expressions of sympathy on her death.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. M. Cook
6 Hindles Road,
Canvey Island.

Dear Sir

I wish to thank all concerned for help given to me with the use of the "Batricar."

It could not have come at a better time because at the moment both the wife and myself are "Housebound."

The wife is recovering from a severe heart attack and I am unable to walk because although I have an artificial leg my natural foot is giving me a lot of trouble.

We are very lucky because we are helped in many ways by friends and neighbours but one cannot depend on them always so the "Batricar" will give me some independence and enable me to do some shopping and other errands.

Yours sincerely,

Ted Hasler
(Ex Ps 39)

14 Rowan Green West,
Brentwood.

Dear Sir,

May I through the letters section of your Force Newspaper, extend the thanks of my family and myself to the many friends throughout Essex who sent

messages of sympathy on the death of my wife, Pauline. The kind words and offers of help were greatly appreciated and were of help in bearing our great loss.

Whilst it was our family wish not to have flowers, the Essex Police wreath and the Southend Divisional Club wreath were appreciated by us all.

In connection with our request that donations be made to the Essex CAT Scanner Fund, in place of floral tributes, a total of £500 was donated from many sources in Pauline's name, and as well as individuals receiving acknowledgments I have received from the fund organisers a list of persons and organisations who donated and I would like to add my thanks to those as well.

In conclusion can I mention the PPP Medical Insurance scheme, and commend its services to members of the Force who have not taken up membership. Over the last six months I have had an insight into the running of the National Health Service with the attendant restrictions due to lack of cash and can only be grateful for the wisdom of our representatives in arranging our entry into the scheme. It does not end simply with taking our money and paying our bills without delay but also the immediate response by the Force Liaison representative to queries, who seeks only to give helpful and satisfactory advice.

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely

Denys Flint
PS 310

Westcliff.

Seaxes

OUR COMPETITION season has started again, with Dave White and Pete Horsecroft from the Bow Bells (Met Police) Motor Club organising the First Twelve car rally, again being won by Roy Gravestock and Brian Jaggs, who are going to take some beating this year.

Marshals required on Sunday 8th March 1981 for a Forest Stage on a large rally at Woodbridge in Suffolk. Those interested please contact Tony Campen, H.Q. Garage.

Friday 6th March 1981 is our next club night at H.Q., when Hella (the well-known lamp and accessory manufacturers) will be presenting an evening of films, etc., 8.00pm start. Also, presentation of awards will be made on this night.

Monday 9th March 1981 — our trip to Rolls-Royce car factory is arranged. Those who moaned about not knowing about it have only themselves to blame, it was advertised. Watch the notice board.

If you are going abroad or on holiday in this country in the forthcoming months don't forget our holiday kits — very comprehensive for 50p a week for members (£1.00 for non-members). So book early this year.

Actually, arrangements have been made with the National Breakdown Service that members of Seaxes can join this organisation — no entrance fee — 7½ per cent discount off annual membership — which works out for a modern car at £9.25 per annum, for the same service for which you would pay £20.30 from other organisations. The offer is yours, so please contact us in the shop or see notice boards.

The Law Shop

FOR SALE: Caravan — Fisher Holivan, 1979, two berth, fridge, new condition, HP arranged — £1,795. Contact: Pc 225 Powell, Laindon Traffic.

FOR SALE: Set of 26 volumes in Time-Life series, "The Old West". As new, £80 or near offer. Contact: Ps Sones, HQ ext 363.

FOR SALE: Orkney "Longliner" 16 foot glassfibre boat with cuddly, windows and forehatch. Mahogany lockers throughout, wheel steering, remote engine controls, fitted cover. Comes complete with oars, compass and echo sounder. 12V lighting installed. Fitted with Yamaha 9.5hp outboard (30 hours use from new) and road trailer with winch. This boat takes six adults in comfort. £1,350 (finance arranged if required). Contact: Ds Seal, HQ Fraud Squad (extn 518).

In defence of the ladies . . .

Mr or Mrs Editor,

I write in answer to your article on the Comment Page of The Law dated 19.1.81.

I am the husband of the Essex WPC who wishes to return to work after the birth of our child.

Believe it or not we do not get an option at birth, if you are lucky or unlucky enough to be born female you still may want to take up a career and have children.

No matter what you consider to be right or wrong about having children, continuing your career in the Police and getting someone else to look after your child, you are not going to stop a determined woman and if you think you can then you had better go to Wonderland.

Now I have said my piece, I believe I am from a school formed well before my time 'Mans Liberation'. There are too many women in this Police Force, and I believe a very vast majority of women still cannot do every aspect of my job as a male officer. Long Live The Male British Bobby.

R. A. Rosenwould
Police Constable 1031
Wickford

Dear Sir,

In reply to the hypocritical note that referred to the "Creeping paralysis of equality for women," I wish to put forward a few points.

Firstly I implore all you men, make up your minds about a Policewoman's role in the Force.

Seven years ago I stood in defence of the Essex Policewomen when a Policeman from Northumbria accused Policewomen of not doing a fair days work for their money. I wrote a cutting letter in return, which was published in the "Police" magazine and taught him not to incur my wrath again. I see I must defend us again, and this time it seems that Policewomen must not do so much to please you men.

Before the Sex Discrimination Act came into being Policewomen in Essex were doing the three shift system for less money than their male counterparts as well as carrying out their specialist duties.

Then you men begged us to do the job that you did, so equality came about and we became part of your system, a male dominated world, but I

say to you — Dominate if you can, you'll have a hard job.

Having begged us to become equal, we gave up our own specialised job of Policewomen's Department and demoted ourselves to your level, and what have we got — criticised and pushed about for our efforts.

Yes, we can dive as well as men, and we can crawl about under cars and lorries whilst on Traffic. We can arrest and interview anyone like male CID officers. What can you do? A rape statement taken by a man would only be worth putting in a comedy sketch.

But I would like to say that we survived the lowering of our standards, and to the best of my knowledge Policewomen in Essex are still making a name for themselves, so don't knock it before you research it.

To make such an unwarranted attack on Policewomen I can only say that you are a very unstable man, and be careful there may a Policewoman waiting to step into your shoes and show you how the job should be done, after all, your only line of defence must be attack.

I can quote from a Force Order signed by the Chief Constable that women are not specialising enough, it's small wonder when we come across people like you.

To be even classed as good we have to gleam at a job. That's not easy to do, but nearly every specialist WPC has succeeded, and it's only hard work that does it.

I conclude by saying if every one of you men were to stop watching your back and get on with the job in hand you would find out just how invaluable we girls really are.

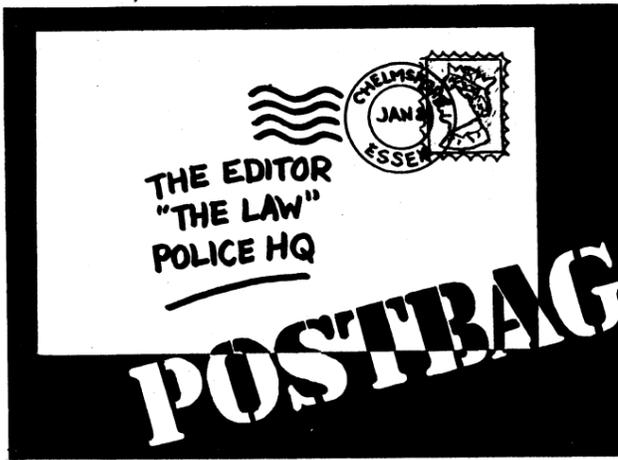
Terry Kennard
WPC

Headquarters.

Dear Sir,

In response to the Editorial Comment "It's a Woman's World", which I must say I found singularly offensive, I just wonder why it is that some men find it necessary to continually stir up feelings of hostility in women by such blatant comments as, I quote, "the creeping paralysis of equality for women".

Is this written to reassure their fellows that some of them are not alone in their seemingly tireless fight to hold on to something they



have never really had, or merely a personal reassurance that in putting women down in such obvious areas as pregnancy and new areas of job creation, it will somewhat diminish their achievements in obtaining their rights?

Incidentally, I was under the impression that the policy of the police force was equality for women.

Yours faithfully,
C. Lilley (Mrs)
K. Cable (Mrs)
Traffic Management

Dear Sir

Reading in the Obituary Column of the passing of an old friend Frank Harvey, a feeling of nostalgia crept over me as memories of pre-war and war days at Ingatestone where we served together come to mind. Undefined hours of duty and troublesome times always found Frank around ready and willing in all situations.

Few of us are left, and at 80 I often think it would be wonderful for us old policemen to spend our declining years in a village as in the period I served most of us were ex-servicemen and enjoyed our yarns of experiences. May be the few that knew Frank will like me say a silent "Goodbye" to an old pal.

Yours sincerely,
Bob Bradley
(Ex Ps 89)
Lancaster.

Dear Sir,

I had not overlooked my promise to write and tell you how my Bunyards Exhibition broad beans got on last year. It was more that I didn't quite know how to put it.

They were nothing short of a disaster.

Never mind, I see that this year the firm has gone in for sunflowers, so — here we go again.

Yours faithfully,
John Hedgethorne
Police Station
Colchester

Dear Sir,

On the occasion of the 40-year anniversary of the Air Training Corps, the Squadron at Southend, No 1312 (formerly numbered 1115) are proposing to arrange an exhibition at Southend Public Library later this year.

The squadron has been in Southend since the Corps was founded in 1941, and as one of the present Squadron Officers, I am aware that several Cadets passed through the Squadron and became Police Officers in the Southend and Essex Forces.

I write to ask through your columns if any ex-Cadets would care to get in touch with me, and if possible, supply any photographs, personal or camps, etc, with a view to placing them in the proposed exhibition. One of the things we are trying to recollect is the year and location of the Summer Camps, and photographs of Cadets in aircraft.

Yours faithfully
David Hurrell
Constable 91
Rayleigh.

Dear Sir,

In the last edition of 'The Law' you were good enough to publish an article of mine which dealt with the new Higher National Certificate in Police Studies due to start this year at the Chelmer Institute of Higher Education. As a direct result of this article I have had a number of enquiries from interested officers, which was of course the object of the exercise. Therefore, I would like you to accept my thanks, and to add as a postscript that the first Police Student has been interviewed by the Institute and has now enrolled for the course.

Yours faithfully,
Roy Clark
Inspector,
Force Training School.

. . . and the Editor is put in his place!

Dear Sir,

We are all pleased when the Press Council upholds complaints against the media for some of the more sensational types of journalism, particularly when it affects our own force ('Not turning the other cheek', January 1981).

I would like to point out however that "in house" editors have the same responsibility to their readers when printing editorial which is likely to create ill feeling or dissension ('We know our place don't we', January, 1981) whether it be racial, ethnic or just plain workplace.

You quote an isolated incident (which obviously wounded your pride) of Civilian Staff travelling first class while you travelled second. The real reason for this is that Local Government Officers on a salary of £7,500 p.a. and above are allowed to travel first class. This is brought about because they usually accompany Officers of the County Council who are entitled to travel first class. The number of civilians in the police service who exceed this salary point are very few, and non existent in some forces.

I would also like to point out that these same officers do not get paid overtime having exceeded the above salary point so it would probably be to the Police Authority's financial advantage to allow police officers who exceed £7,500 p.a. to travel first class and not pay them overtime.

Yours faithfully,
George Allen
Photographic Dept.,
Headquarters.

Dear Sir

I was indeed surprised at your January Editorial on the class of train travel of those proceeding to the PROs' Conference. Comparing Police Regulations and other administrative instructions relating to Police Officers' Conditions of Service with the Scheme of Conditions for civilian staff is a dangerous practice and can only invite "bullets."

Your civilian counterparts could equally write about being paid a third less for doing the same job and this would be without a rent allowance, lamp allowance and plain clothes allowance, but they don't.

Yours faithfully,
William Austin
Headquarters.

Dear Sir,

Relative to "We know our place don't we", published in the Law, January, 1981.

We, the below, known fairly well by our non de plume are unanimous in our views to the remarks of this middle ranking police officer. Is he really serious, or is he joking? Poor chap, we are sorry that he had to contaminate himself with geriatrics, some apparently ex police officers. We feel he was engaged on an extremely important mission with other Police Press Officers, leaving behind those lower ranking police officers to perform police duty in his area.

It is with amazement that this middle ranking officer could have such thoughts about his fellowmen. He too will one day be retired and be a geriatric, it happens to us all whatever rank achieved. After all, all policemen are constables. In conclusion we are all sorry for this constable who on this day had an unhappy train journey with geriatrics on such a serious mission.

The Dirty Dozen,
All ex Southend Borough Officers

Dear Sir,

On reading the Comment in the January issue of The Law I felt terribly sorry to those of our unfortunate brothers who had to languish in the perhaps none too solubrious confines of the second class rail. I can only say be patient, your time will no doubt come when you will be able to enjoy the comforts of the exalted first class and look down upon your poor colleagues in the 'spit' and 'sawdust' of the second class.

Why worry which class it is so long as you get to your destination safely on the same train.

At least we geriatrics do know our place.

Yours sincerely,
Charles Waller
Cornwall.

The Editor replies:-
The writers of the above two letters seem to have got the wrong idea. I didn't say I didn't want to travel second class — I DO know my place! And I didn't coin the phrase about geriatrics either. Still, it proves that a few people do read The Law.

More letters — page 7

The Law

Published by Essex Police, H.Q., Chelmsford, Tel 67267.

H.Q. phone extensions
374 and 375

NEXT ISSUE

MAR. 31

Printed by Essex Chronicle Series Ltd., Westway, Chelmsford.