



Chief Superintendent from Herts becomes A.C.C.(P).

NEW APPOINTMENT FOLLOWS SURPRISE WITHDRAWAL

PETER SIMPSON, Traffic Division Chief from Hertfordshire, was appointed Assistant Chief Constable (Personnel) this month after the surprise withdrawal of Mr Michael Clarke of the Avon and Somerset force.

Mr Clarke, aged 43 years, informed the Police Authority of his change of mind, giving up — for domestic reasons — the post he was to fill as a replacement for Mr Bill Petherick.

In St Albans, where Mr Simpson lives with his wife and two of his three daughters, it was reported that the 42-year-old Chief Superintendent was "absolutely delighted" with his new job — particularly since he was coming back to his "home county".

After leaving the Military Police in 1959, Mr Simpson joined the Hertfordshire Constabulary and has served in every division of that force; as well as having been in the CID and uniform branch in every rank up to Chief

Inspector. Command of three sub-divisions and deputising at Watford led, in 1979, to his present Traffic Division post.

Mr Simpson attended the Police College Senior Command Course last year, having previously been at Bramshill in 1972 on the Inspectors' Course.

He is a Fellow of The British Institute of Management.

The new Assistant Chief Constable's father is Mr Arthur Simpson who retired from the Essex Force as a Chief Superintendent in 1961. "Returning to my father's old force has added a

certain spice to the occasion", said Mr Simpson, "It's a very happy coincidence."

Mr and Mrs Simpson are moving to Chelmsford as soon as possible, although Colchester has special memories for them. It was there, whilst at college, that they first met.

Describing himself as a

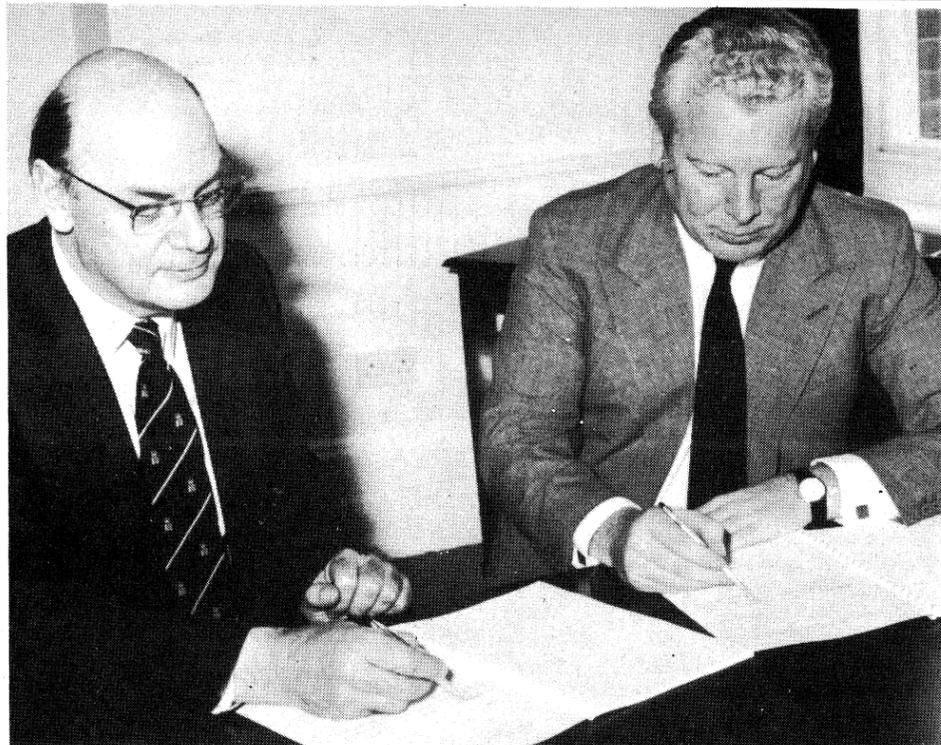
family man, keen on his home and garden, Mr Simpson said he had always been interested in motor-sport, although he has little time to spare these days.

Mr Simpson took up his new post as head of the force's Personnel Department on Monday, 11th May, 1981.



*Happy return
to Essex roots*

BANK
HOLIDAY
PICTURE
SPECIAL
IN
CENTRE
PAGES



Chief signs for new Force computer

KEEPING up to date with modern technology, Essex Police are taking another step forward to ensure that statistics are easily available and administration kept to a minimum.

The Chief Constable, Mr Robert Bunyard, today signed a contract for the lease of a Sperry Univac System 80 computer to replace the existing computer at County Police Headquarters in Chelmsford.

The contract anticipates delivery in July this year, and the equipment will include five work stations, four disc drives and two tape units, two further terminals and two printers.

When installed and suitably programmed the computer will provide additional management information and help to improve operational efficiency.



A new Editor has been appointed to 'The Law' on the transfer of Chief Inspector Cyril Rand to Personnel. He is Chief Inspector Barry Devlin, who took up his position on 1st April, after leaving his Command of the Saffron Walden Sub-Division.

Computer feature page 7

Editorial

BRIXTON

THE recent events in Brixton have brought the role of the police as society's "cannon fodder" into sharp focus.

Our liberal, democratic system can only exist if its traditional conventions and institutions are understood and accepted by the majority of the population. The British police force is one of these institutions, and it can only continue to be effective if it retains its traditional image.

The absolute determination of all Chief Officers to maintain this conventional role is laudable. But the cost of this policy is vividly demonstrated by the numbers of injured police officers who stood against fire-bombs and bricks wearing only their normal thin uniforms and cork helmets.

Every police officer must have felt pride to compare his Metropolitan colleagues with the steel-helmeted, "storm-trooper-image" that other countries' anti-riot squads display. But for how long can this state of affairs be allowed to continue?

Critics

Even the strongest critics of the police action could not deny that the environment in which this conflict arose was created by deep rooted social problems — the solutions to which lie well outside the province of policing.

The pundits, the politicians, the social and community workers tell us they are determined to tackle these basic problems — and it may be that they will succeed. That has certainly been improved in some areas. But how long will it take? A year? A decade? A life-time? And in the interim who is to bear the load?

However broad the police officer's shoulders, it is too much to ask him to stand in the front line much longer. It is not acceptable that a liberal democracy sees its continued survival as being directly proportional to the number of policemen bruised, battered and maimed whilst keeping the Queen's Peace.

THANK-YOU

Dear Sir,

May I, through your columns, thank all my colleagues in the Force for the very kind assistance offered to me following the death of my son, Lawrence, on 4th March.

I also wish to thank everyone for the messages of sympathy, cards and floral tributes. I doubt that I would ever be able to thank those many people individually.

Yours faithfully

A. E. Calf
(RCS, Brentwood)

Dear Sir,

We would like, through your columns, to thank everyone for their help and good wishes during the period in which our daughter was ill in hospital.

Yours faithfully

Colin & Janice Trimm
Police House
Silver End

SOCIAL

Dear Sir,

To all members of N.A.R.P.O. (Colchester Branch) I wish to remind you that a Social evening will be held at the 'Copper Pot', Queens Street, Colchester at 8 p.m., Saturday, May 16.

We shall be hosts to a

party of retired Police Officers and their wives from Birmingham.

I ask the members to give us their full support in making the evening a success. There will be live music and a buffet laid on for free, all we require from you is your presence.

We would like to extend the invitation to former retired Police Officers and their spouses who have not yet joined N.A.R.P.O. There are no strings attached, it is just that we would like to see you again.

John Powell
33 St Mark Drive,
Colchester.

PENSIONS

Dear Sir,

Will you kindly permit me to correct the very misleading information contained in Mr A. W. Simpson's letter appearing in your last issue of 'The Law' regarding Police Pensions. Frankly, I am amazed that Mr Simpson did not get his facts correct before committing to paper and liaise with me as often we do on matters of this sort.

Briefly, the facts are as follows:

When a Police Pensioner dies NO refund of any overpayment for that part of the month remaining

Head of Essex C.I.D. Retires



Mr Crust receives his farewell gift.

CHIEF OF ESSEX detectives, Peter Crust retired this month after 28 years police service.

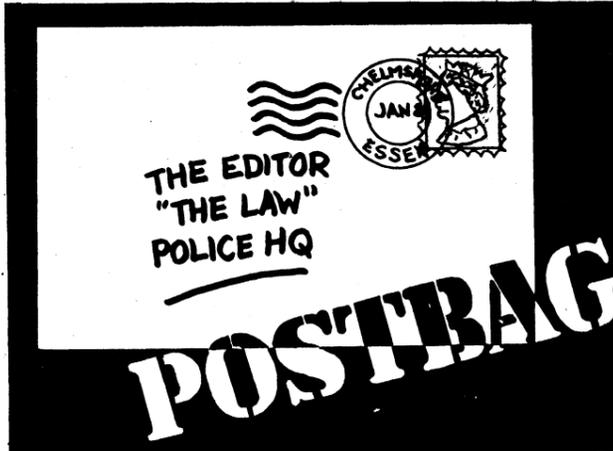
At a farewell party in the packed Headquarters bar he and his wife were presented with a full dinner service which had been personally selected by Mrs Crust. The ceremony was carried out by the Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Stone, on behalf of the whole of the Essex Criminal Investigation Department.

Mr Crust served in both Essex and the Metropolitan

Police Force — his length of service in each being almost identical. Essex won by 66 days.

Colleagues from other forces were amongst the guests who said goodbye to Mr Crust, and the Suffolk contingent left a plaque as a memento.

Mr Crust has not had time to enjoy his retirement, he has already taken up his new post as Chief Security Officer for a tobacco manufacturing company.



after his death is requested and the Treasurer has no such duties to inform his widow. Police Pensions are payable in advance on the 1st of each month and it frequently happens the cheque is sent out or paid to a Bank a few days prior and the pensioner dies in the interim period. In that case the County Treasurer has a right to ask for the return of the cheque or refund. The Widows' Pension is paid from the FIRST of the month following death.

Local Government

Local Government pensions are entirely different to police pensions and I can only assume this has caused misunderstanding. Local Government pensions are paid in ARREARS. In the case of

a police pensioner in receipt of a Local Government pension in addition, the Local Government pension ceases on death and the Widows' pension is payable from the day following. In this case the County Treasurer is duty bound to ask for refund, but I have seen one such case recently where the refund was not asked for until four weeks after death.

The County Treasurer's Staff are known to me personally and I know that they show every consideration to our widows. I know of no case within my Branch where the widow has had cause for complaint. Incidentally, when speaking to Pre-Retirement Courses, in conjunction with the Force Welfare Officer, I fully

Words from Watchdog

ONE WATCHDOG prisoner — resident at Harwich — wiled away the time by writing a series of verses about his experience. They found their way to 'The Law' office, and — without comment as to their literary quality — it was thought they might raise a smile.

"Delta Hotel"

There is a little police station
Down by the coast.
It is a very cosy place
With Officers better than most.

They do their daily chores
Without a single moan
And whistle throughout the day
Until they go home.

A lady lives next door
Who makes the prisoners meals
I'd like to cook for her one day
So she knows how it feels.

So here I lie brokenhearted
Applied for bail
But got remanded.

"Useful Rules for Prisoners"

Rule one. The police officer is always right.
Rule two. If he is wrong then rule one applies.

"Nightmares"

When I close my eyes at night
All I see is beans,
I think it is a deadly plot
And I know what it means,
A cook not far away I see
Is trying to put the wind up me.

More "Words from Watchdog" next month.

explain the facts outlined above which have been in force as long as I can remember and certainly obtained during my many years of service as Finance Officer.

It has been found that on a number of occasions that a pensioner does not acquaint his wife of her rights under the Police Pensions Acts which is to be deplored.

The Force Welfare Officer is always present at our discussions with the Pre-Retirement Courses and he will bear me out what has been said here. I know he endeavours to visit each widow as soon after the pensioner's death as possible and explains and assists with the completion of the forms necessary for her pension.

I hope I have disposed of any misunderstanding which have existed and will always readily assist in cases of difficulty.

Yours faithfully,
B. G. Brinkley
Secretary,
Chelmsford Branch.

Dear Sir,

My attention has been drawn to a letter from Mr Arthur Simpson, published in your last issue and, whilst my staff and I are gratified by the kind

sentiment expressed by Mr Simpson in connection with the general relationship between my department and police pensioners, his letter, with regard to recovery procedures, is factually incorrect.

Certainly police pensions are payable monthly in advance, but the statutory scheme also provides that no recovery of a monthly payment shall be made provided the pensioner was alive at some time during the month to which it relates. What occasionally happens is that a pensioner dies very near to the end of a month when the following month's pension payment has already been despatched and it is in these circumstances only where recovery is required, and this of course is for the full amount of that payment.

Even more rarely, a death occurs where the police pensioner also had a subsequent entitlement to a local government scheme pension which is not payable in advance, and in these circumstances recovery of part of the local government pension may be that it was just such a case that was brought to Mr Simpson's attention.

Yours faithfully
E. A. TWELVETREE
County Treasurer

CONCERN FOR THEIR TOWN PUTS COPS ON TOP

STATISTICS TELL us that the Brightlingsea section at Clacton had the highest crime detection rate in this force during 1980.

Notwithstanding the obvious comments about the value of statistics in general — and crime figures in particular — it would be strange not to be curious about this section and the men who work it. 'The Law' staff were certainly interested enough to take their cameras to Brightlingsea, and to talk to the 11 officers who police this tiny sea-side town.



Caroline Loader



Andy Thorpe



Derek Robinson described by residents as "a local institution."

Under the immediate supervision of Pcs Derek Robinson, the eight Pc's, one Wpc and one Dc work the usual compromise you expect to find in a small, isolated section. With residential Beats at the villages of Wivenhoe and Elmstead to look after, it is a constant headache maintaining 24-hour patrol coverage. Co-operation is the answer to that. "It's all about working together," was the comment from Dave Rusby, who has spent 20 years of his 23 years service at Brightlingsea. The secret of the section's crime success, according to the whole staff, lies in the professionalism and approachability of their one Detective Constable — Roy Dennis. From choice, Roy works from a desk in the corner of the general office and his whole

Community Policing isn't just a gimmick. At Brightlingsea it can be seen to work every day.

relationship with his uniform colleagues reflects this determination to be in amongst the day to day working of the station. "The uniform section" — he says — "are the eyes and ears of the C.I.D. We all work together to get the job done." Dc Dennis was unimpressed by statistics. "I'm not interested in figures" — he declared — "They are only figures and they don't mean anything. It's actually doing the job that matters, because in 6 months time we could be

bottom of the list." Brightlingsea's crime is largely the result of the efforts of local criminals and visiting villains from nearby Colchester. Although Brightlingsea is in the Clacton Police Division, it is much closer to Colchester, where all Brightlingsea offenders have to go to face the Magistrates. The sense of "community" that all the Brightlingsea officers showed was nowhere more clearly seen than in their attitude to crime. Andy

Thorpe, who has been at Brightlingsea for 3 years, spoke of being "more determined to protect the people you know". Time and again the officers stressed how they felt "more involved" with the public they serve because they know them as individuals. As Derek Robinson said — "If one of your local shops has been broken into a couple of times you feel determined to catch the thief, because you know the owner and you have to face him as a person. You really want to sort it out for him."

"Knowing your villains", was the answer according to Elmstead Market's Beat Officer, Ernie Fosker. "If you get a spate of burglaries you get a feeling about who's responsible. It's all about knowing your public." In the three years he has been in the village Pc Fosker has obviously integrated himself well into the community. When his wife gave birth to their daughter recently, the Foskers received 60 cards wishing them well. Ernie felt a very personal pride in his work, which gave him continuous satisfaction. "If I don't do the job" — he said — "no-one else will. It's always down to me". The theme of "my town" was emphasised by

Brightlingsea's only Woman Police Constable — Caroline Loader. Identified as "our police lady" by the local residents and children, Caroline found the section suited her down to the ground. "There is a completely different way of working here", she said. "The young people have a different attitude to the police — particularly to police women". During the year she has been at Brightlingsea, Wpc Loader has been impressed by the way Detective Constable Dennis finds time to listen to every scrap of information — no matter how trivial it appeared. She felt that this collation of information was vital to detecting crime.

The beat at Wivenhoe is held down by Pcs Sid Cox

and Steve Rampling who man the frontiers with Colchester and have the Essex University to deal with. Schools Liaison is the responsibility of Pc Peter Chilvers who has been at Brightlingsea for seven years, and is a staunch advocate of his style of community policing.

Maybe the last word should go to Pc John Cross — the station's oldest living inhabitant. But John was enjoying a well earned rest when "The Law" visited, and so we left with a quote from Brightlingsea's newest member, Pc Dave Salmon — that maybe sums it all up.

"You can really get on with the work here instead of just rushing from job to job. Here, you get the time to really know people."



Roy Dennis hard at work at THE desk.



Ernie Fosker (left) and Dave Rusby meet for a chat.

If you are proud of your sub-division, section or department — tell us. We want to write about police men and women doing their job.

BANK HOLIDAY—



Above left: One of the results of the mindless rampage of violence and damage which the seaside town has had to bear all too frequently throughout the years.

Above right: Five van loads of prisoners, all of them visitors to the town are about to be given a conducted tour of one of the sights they didn't wish to see — the wrong side of Southend Police Station.



Above: A smile to match the sun is the welcome given by W/Pc Jackie Hill to visitors to the Police control post which is set up on the sea-front.

Right: Man's best friend is always in evidence at Southend on Bank Holidays and is given a wide berth by those troublesome visitors to the town. Seen here is Sgt Bob Williamson and his dog Marcus from Chelmsford Dog Section.



THIS OVER-GROWN and dilapidated cheerfully greeted Southend's visitors from London. Does its presence say anything about the hooligans who have taken over the Golden Mile? The Bank Holiday has seen as hundreds of skin-heads roam the streets, day 109 had been arrested and 500 for various reasons.

“The thanks of every-one in Southend go to the police who have battled to preserve law and order.”

SOUTHEND STYLE



Above left: The camera catches the moment as the crowd of youths begins one of its notorious rampaging runs along the sea-front which terrifies so many innocent holidaymakers.



Above right: As is usually the case, before anything happens, the Police take up a 'middle of the road' position from where they are able to cast an impartial eye over events as they unfold.

lated old sign, in better days, tend visitors as they drove in condition reflect local feelings destroyed the fun along the madness hit again this Easter the streets. By the end of are to appear before the court offences.



Above: Pictorial evidence of the oft-quoted 'Thin Blue Line' which is seen here controlling the unwelcome element prior to them leaving town on their special train.

Left: Things can't have been too bad for at the end of the day Southend's subdivisional Chief Inspector Tom Rodgers and Support Unit Chief Inspector Mick Curtis could both manage a smile as they appraised the sea-front scene.

are due to the men and women who and order on the sea-front."

ple in Power." Evening Echo, April 23rd.

National Association of Retired Police Officers by Bert Brinkley

Police Pensioners' H. A. — Lottery

It is to be regretted that due to lack of support the Lottery will be discontinued after the current cards expire on May 23. The Chelmsford Branch supported the Scheme from the outset and sold 270 cards for each period. It was realised that unless the Scheme was fully supported it would soon fold up. It is understood that a new-comer to the NEC has another idea to raise funds for the project and this will be announced when finalised.

Social Evening

An invitation is extended to all pensioners resident within the Rayleigh Division to a suggested Social evening at the Club Room at Rayleigh Police Station. It is only a suggestion at the moment and anyone interested should contact Pc David Seago Rayleigh Police Station (Rayleigh 775533 Ext 295).

Whilst on the subject of social evenings, I am informed that the London Pensioners are holding a buffet re-union evening in the Police Club, Essex



By Insp. Clarke, Grays

For our next two Branch Meetings we depart from our normal practice of meeting on the last Friday of each month, and the details are as follows:

Friday, 1 May: 7.30pm Branch Meeting at 9 Sheridan Close, Harold Hill. Speaker: Mr Derek Gardiner.

Thursday, 28 May: 7.30pm Branch Meeting at 2 Wolmers Hey, Great Waltham, near Chelmsford. Speaker: Rev Robin Wilson, of Colchester.

On **Sunday, 31 May** at 6.30pm we engage in Team Witness at Gainsford End Mission, near Wethersfield. On **Saturday, 27 June** we shall hold our Third Branch Annual Reunion and Rally — watch for details in the next issue of "The Law".

Scott Committee Report

Police Headquarters, Chelmsford, on Friday, May 22.

Any pensioners who read this who are not members of NARPO should communicate with the Secretary, Mr Howard Perry, 97 Stock Road, Billericay CM12 0RN for further details.

New Members

Will intending new members please forward subscriptions when sending enrolment forms to Branch Secretaries, otherwise additional postage is incurred which could well be avoided.

Public Service Pensions — Index Linking

The SCOTT report was published on February 5, 1981, but it is impossible to give a full report in this column. The conclusions of the report are quite remarkable bearing in mind that the members of the Inquiry were carefully selected by the Prime Minister as persons having no connection with the Public Sector. The Government and the Press are still obviously hostile to public service pensions and it is important that all members understand the real issues and use every possible opportunity to explode the myths and distortive reports which are still relied on by many press reporters and members of the public.

The SCOTT report says, quite rightly, that all pensions ought to be index-linked. The problem is not the present public sector arrangements but the very poor provisions in many private schemes. The real problem seems to be inflation itself, if that were solved there would be nothing for anyone to complain about as regards public service pensions.

The SCOTT Committee, whilst looking generally at the public sector, concentrated its attention to the Civil Service whose pension scheme is ostensibly non-contributory but governed overall in their pay structure. The Committee in its report comes out firmly in favour of Index-Linking, saying "It is a highly desirable social objective that the standard of living of those in retirement should be protected!"

Public Servants do not enjoy the perks associated with the private sector, such as company cars, free or cheap travel, cheap mortgages, cut price goods or service and so on. The only obvious benefit of public sector employment is the index-linked pension for which the public servant is paying considerably more contribution than in the private sector. Nevertheless, it is a benefit which ought to be extended into the Private sector.



PICTURED above with the Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Ronald Stone, and Inspector M. Benning, the new Staff Officer, are four visitors from the Nigerian National Police Force. They visited Essex Police Head-

quarters in order to see how the most up-to-date Information Room in the country is organised and run. The visit was part of a tour to gain information and ideas prior to the reorganisation of the Nigerian Police Force.

Market Place

FOR SALE. Ottersports touring canoes. One single, 8 years old, £25. One single, 4 years old £75. One double 4 years old £100. All fitted with rudders, splash covers and 3 of the 4 seats fitted with backrests. Also included 2 pairs of jointed paddles and one pair left handed paddles. All canoes fitted with inverted keel for stability and built in bouyancy. All in good condition. If sold together for family canoeing — £180 — otherwise as shown. Contact Chief Inspector Baker HQ ext 582.

FOR SALE: Camping equipment. Grillogaz double-burner stove, as new, £25 plus Gaz bottle, £15. Gaz picnic stove, £4. Camping Gaz Globetrotter back-packing stove, £7.50. Two-man tent with sewn-in groundsheet and flysheet, £15. Aluminium frame ruck-sack, £10. Two wooden fishing stools, 50p each. Contact Supt Rands at Harlow P/stn, ext 300.

FOR SALE: 4-bedroomed detached former show-house with many extras, at Great Dunmow; £37,500 ono. Contact Supt Rands at Harlow P/stn, Ext 300.



Canada Trip

HARLOW Branch are packing their bags in preparation for their forthcoming trip to Canada. Twenty-two members and wives will fly out to Calgary on the 1 June, where they will meet up with eighteen members from Gummersbach, Germany for a combined trip.

After a few days at Calgary they travel to Edmonton and from there to Vancouver, touring the Rocky Mountains, Lake Louise, Banff National and Jasper National Parks, etc. They will be away three weeks and a full programme of events and sightseeing has been arranged by the IPA in the three cities. The party have chartered their own bus for the trip.

This will be the first time that a British party has

Community Police Medal Award



COLIN GREEN, the Beat Officer at Abridge, is the first recipient of an award given by the Epping Forest District Council. The silver medallion is for the officer, from either the Essex or Metropolitan

Police, who has worked in the area and has rendered outstanding service to the community.

Colin, who received 2 commendations for courage and devotion to duty during 1980, has given much of his off-duty time to helping the physically handicapped. The certificate accompanying the award mentioned his many years of devoted police service and said, "his contribution to the community has been enormous".

visited Western Canada and the Pacific coast and great interest has been shown by the members there. Whilst at the three cities the party will be hosted privately, staying at hotels whilst on tour.

Police H.Q. Musical Society Present

'Old Time Music Hall'

H.Q. Assembly Hall 5th & 6th June

Proceeds to

'Save The Children Fund'

Tickets £2 inc. ploughmans supper

from Roger Barkway H.Q. Driving School.

Curtain rises 7.30 p.m.

FOR SALE: 1972 VW Beetle. New engine. Customised. Wide wheels, etc. Very good condition. Taxed and tested. £900. Contact Force HQ. Ext 375.

FOR SALE: Mothercare bath and stand, £4. Fisher-Price activity centre, £5. Marmet collapsible pram / pushchair, navy blue, £12. Cot mattress and bedding, £10 ono. Contact Julian Field, Force HQ, Ext 375.

WANTED: All empty matchboxes, especially those with pictures of Public Houses on them, or boxes advertising types of beer, wine or spirits. — PS Piper, Colchester.

THIS is your FREE small-ad service. Please use this form as we regret that ads cannot be accepted over the phone or on plain paper. Send your ad to "Market Place", The Law, Police HQ, Chelmsford. Thank you.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE — ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank Station

Home telephone Signed

Advanced technology comes to Essex

HOW WOULD you take to work with a colleague who can do 14 jobs at the same time and solve problems in only millionths of a second?

That is what the future has in store for Brenda Byrne and her girls in the Force Computer Room as they await the July delivery of the Force's new Univac System 80 computer.

Described as "exceptionally powerful" this new machine will be able to handle the Force's present and future data processing needs with ease. "Not only" — says Brenda — "will we be able to improve the information available for administration and management but with this equipment we will be able to get involved in Opera-

SUPER COMPUTER TAKES FORCE TO 21st CENTURY

tional matters and help the policeman in his day-to-day work".

The superiority of the new equipment over the present computer lies in its almost limitless memory. Apparently it is impossible to make comparisons that mean anything — the System 80 has an infinitely bigger brain and can take anything this Force is likely to throw at it.

The System 80 is the most up-to-date computer Sperry Univac produce and what makes it especially useful for police work is that it can be linked to other locations outside the Computer Room. This "on-line facility" means that the Force's new brain can talk with divisions, other forces, other departments, even other computers, opening up a whole range of practical applications.

Lego Set

Brenda Byrne's enthusiasm for the new system and its potential role is infectious. "It's like the basic kit of a 'Lego' set," she explains. "If we ever need more capacity we can just plug it in like a new brick. There is really no operational requirement that this system cannot handle."

Although decisions are still to be made as to which jobs the computer is to undertake, it will almost certainly enter the operational field by taking on the Force Property

Index and Criminal Record Office.

Initially the computer will have to be 'questioned' through a Headquarters Control, but this is not a necessary restriction with the new equipment and Divisional, even Sub-Divisional outlets are a possibility.

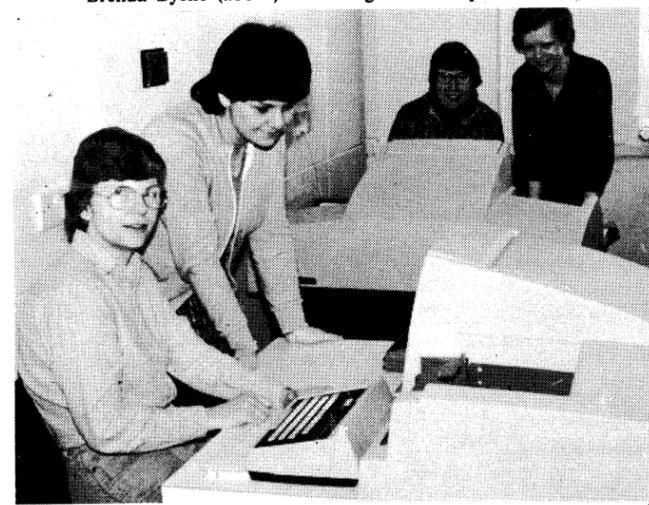
Special security measures make the computer safe for handling sensitive police material, and it is even programmed to "give protection against many human errors." A real advantage in any organisation.

In the early stages this project will be under the personal control of the Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Stone, and it is to be his decision as to when, where and how the Univac System 80 is to be used.

If the police force is to maintain its effectiveness in the coming decades it will only be by the judicious use of advanced technology. There can be little doubt that this new computer puts Essex firmly in the forefront.



Brenda Byrne (above) and her girls in the punch room.



Linda Vallance with the obsolete machinery that is soon to be replaced.

Force lottery

RESULT of the draw held at Basildon on Saturday 28th March 1981.

1st prize Pc 1237 N. Thompson, Basildon, £1,071.60p; 2nd prize Ps 305 J. Maloney, Witham, £535.80p; 3rd prize Pc 1032 P. Pickup, Billericay, £267.90p; 4th prize Pc 674 R. Burman, Benfleet, £133.95p.

Consolation prizes, at £26.79p each — Pc 1247 R. Crow, Maldon; Dc 581 J. Lawmon, Southend; Miss L. C. Harris, H.Q.; Pc 545 J. A. Swann, Driving School; Pc 1353 P. Pearson, Colchester.

Federation Notes



Sale of Police Houses

AT the last Police Authority meeting a proposal for the discount sale of Police Houses declared surplus to requirements was approved, subject to authority being forthcoming from the Home Office. This we understand is being sought at this moment, and their decision is awaited with some degree of expectancy. There has already been a certain amount of classification of properties which it is proposed will be retained, and some that will be disposed of have been tentatively earmarked. However these lists are not being published yet, so can I ask you not to ring through to Property Management enquiring

after your house, since they will not be in a position to give you the news you want to hear.

There will however be a number of houses sold during this forthcoming year, so that the proceeds can be utilised to effect modernisation of some one hundred houses that it is intended will be retained, at least for the foreseeable future.

As yet the scheme has not been worked out to final details, but the Standing Advisory Committee will shortly be setting their mind to this task, and once approval has been obtained the scheme will get under way.

It is not the intention of the scheme to flood the market with houses, they will be sold off gradually, the full process may take some years. It has been agreed that any officer residing in a house which it is intended to dispose of, will not be moved out of that house to facilitate the sale. So that an occupant, who at the moment is unable to purchase through lack of finance will to some extent be able to protect his right to purchase until he is able to afford the deposit and legal fees etc., if he wants to buy the house he is in. It has also been agreed that an officer residing in a house which is

to be retained, may take his reduction qualification from that house to purchase another which may at that time be empty — details of how this will be achieved have yet to be worked out.

Anyone who read and digested my remarks some eighteen months to two years ago about establishing 'financial credibility' by saving towards their deposit and legal fees, will now be sitting in a very good position to progress on to owner occupation. For those who have 'dragged their heels', there is still time to make some provision for future purchase. Most Building Societies prefer to advance money to savers with their society. Most have a minimum demand that the 10 per cent deposit be saved up over a minimum period of time. Some require a six months' membership of the society before they will consider an advance.

I have now been in touch with two major Building Societies who have said that they can give some concession on the deposit, taking into account the value of the house and the reduction that accrues to the purchaser, and subject to the old dragon — "financial credibility." Anyone who wants details

should contact me as soon as possible.

Force Group Insurance

The Inland Revenue have altered the rules concerning income tax relief on premiums, so that in future the premium for an officer is increased from £1.40 to £1.43 per month, Cadets increased from 70 pence to 72 pence per month, but their is no increase in the 60 pence per month Spouse Insurance. This addition is to take effect from 1st April 1981, arrears will be deducted in next available Pay Packets.

by
*Jim
Rodgers*

Return of Premium Insurance

This scheme of Unit Insurance has been revised by George Burrows (Group Insurance) Limited, and officers below the age of 45 years may now effect a

maximum of TEN UNITS COVER, in place of their former SEVEN UNIT COVER.

Each Unit is for £2,000 and costs £1 per month, and covers the officer up to his 55th birthday for death from any cause. If he survives to his 55th birthday, then he or she is reimbursed the Premiums he has paid, less a small amount deducted to pay for the administration of the scheme.

The Federation strongly recommend this scheme to all serving officers below the age of 45 years, it can be utilised as life cover, mortgage protection or even 'commutation' protection in certain circumstances. If you want further details contact my office, I have an initial supply of application forms, either for new entrants or for extending cover already in existence.

Maternity Leave

A recent Force Order indicated that henceforth it will be Force Policy to require pregnant women officers to commence their paid or unpaid maternity leave at the third month of pregnancy. There was some rapid action taken with regard to those officers who are currently in that 'happy state', and as a result some ladies found their financial

plans being rudely shattered. However representations to the Chief Constable have achieved a compromise for these few (and any that may discover they are pregnant before 1st July 1981) so that they may be retained in a protected role up to the sixth month of pregnancy. However this compromise will not be available for anyone discovering their pregnancy after 1st July 1981, the Force Order will apply. There are various ramifications concerning the National Health contribution record relative to these ladies, which mean that planned families will need to be well schemed in the future to ensure sufficient contribution has been made to achieve the grants and benefits to which they are entitled. These contributions need to be a full year contribution in the year preceding the confinement, and at least six months contributions in the financial year confinement takes place.

Because of these ramifications — and other information which has come to my knowledge concerning a section of the relevant Regulation — it is my intention to seek legal advice from the Federation Solicitors on the subject. I will report as soon as that advice is to hand.

Bulls-Eye for Shooting Team

THE Essex Police Rifle Shooting Team successfully won the winter PAA National League, Division 5. Out of 10 postal matches they won the last nine rounds having been beaten in the first round only. The team consists of Rob Wolton, the Captain and Malcolm Byde from Colchester, Mick Brangham from Staff and Les Brewer and Ron Missenden from Clacton. The other teams were from all over the country. The team averages were, 97.2, 97.6, 98.0, 96.8, 94.8 respectively. The teams average aggregate was 484.4. Each member will be receiving a winner medal from the PAA.

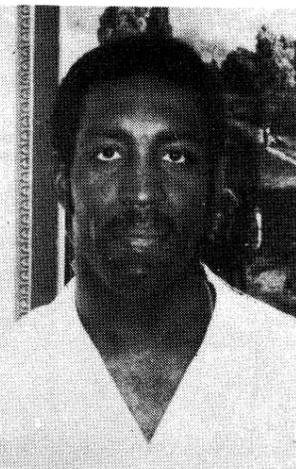
Terry stays at the Top

DETECTIVE Constable Terry Irving is an expert in Karate. In March Terry went to Poole in Dorset to compete in the Karate Union of Great Britain Southern Region Karate Championships and took fourth place.

Terry is the holder of a Black Belt 1st Dan and was competing against 130 other competitors in the men's individual Kumite (fighting) brown and black belt category.

In 1974 Terry, who is stationed at Rayleigh, competed in the same championships and came home the champion. At that time he was also a member of the English

squad and he is a member of the Stock (near Chelmsford) Shotokan Karate Club.



ATHLETICS ROUND-UP

IN A BUSY period for the athletics section, the highlight was the long trip to Preston for the PAA cross-country and race, walking championships on 1st April.

A women's race having been included for the first time, Siobhan Mullender was in the squad which made the long journey, arriving only 15 minutes before the start. Siobhan, now stationed at Witham, was well to the fore throughout but in finishing 7th was a little annoyed with herself for losing ground in the closing stages.

But her run showed that the team race could be won next year when the event is scheduled for Danbury Park.

In the men's event high hopes in the Essex camp of a good team placing were dashed early on when Perrott could not travel. And Chris Turner, Colchester, the Force champion, never really got to grips with the race and finished a disappointing 14th, behind several runners he has beaten this winter.

Team captain Andy Down claimed 74th position in the big field of 264 finishers, and Steve Pearmain, Grays, just made the top 100 in 97th spot. The top 10, 106th, Barry Daymond, 163rd, and Dave Murray, 197th completed the scoring. At 6 to score this year the team race was a little against Essex who might have finished a little further up the list at 4 to score as it was formerly. But 14th out of 29 is just the right side of halfway.

BACK TO FRONT

The only Essex competitor in the 10 miles walk was disconcerted to see that the programme had him down as J. Thorne-Hedge. But after deciding not to walk the course backwards as a protest he was rewarded with 10th place in a sprint finish and selection for the National Police team for the annual Match against the Civil Service and RAF.

This took place two weeks later with Peter Ryan included in the team after his training holiday in America. Peter took 4th place in the race and looked sharp but was quite ill afterwards. No doubt the cold wind got to him after all that sunshine in Arizona. Hedgethorpe finished 20th in a classy field of 25.

Between these races Hedgethorpe had tackled the Essex 50 kms at Basildon on 11th April. It was a long way but he marched on to gain 5th place in the County championship. On 30th March, Sheppard clocked 49.53 and Hedgethorpe 53.35 in the Essex 10,000mts at Hornchurch. Walkers and runners had

a second chance to get out together on 25th April when the Essex County 20 miles championships in both codes were held together at Chelmsford. Alas the weather was foul and this reduced police starters, one suspects, to two in each race. Hedgethorpe repeated his 5th place in the walk while Sheppard gave way to the weather after two laps.

In the run, Len Perrott, starting with the rest recorded 2hrs 15m as part of his marathon build-up, but Andy Down setting off some 9 minutes behind the field clocked 2 hrs 10m (official) which amounted to a time close to 2 hours. This was a good strong run. Len Perrott was kept from the PAA championships on 1st April because his wife presented him with a daughter, both doing fine.

Medal Winners

A HAT-TRICK by John Weatherley secured for Essex their third South Midland Cup Final victory in a row recently.

Played at Barton Rovers' ground in Bedfordshire in freezing cold conditions, the Met 'L' Division found us too strong in all departments and were soon one down from an enterprising move involving seven players, culminating in a looping shot from Weatherley giving the Met 'keeper no chance.

Shortly into the second half, Stewart Lowe made a penetrating run down the right to cross, allowing John Weatherley plenty of time to slot his second.

All credit to 'L' Division who came back to win to make the score 2-1 in a goalmouth scramble but their cause was ruined shortly afterwards when Paul Gamman was put through; the Met 'keeper saved well outside his area and his explanation to the referee meant he showered before anyone else.

With only ten men, the Met became overwhelmed and eventually conceded the third shortly before the end.

The story was rather different the evening after when late duty commitments meant we faced the top team in the Olympian League, Rayleigh, without four regular players. Needless to say we went down 4-0, but all credit to the players who fought hard with a seriously depleted side.

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