

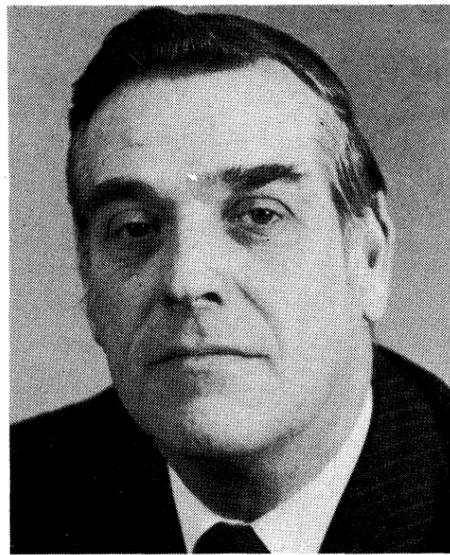


Jan '85

No 168

Roger Richardson retires!

From Essex Cadet to Assistant Chief



A.C.C. 'O' Mr Roger Richardson

AFTER 30 YEARS and 317 days' service to the policing of Essex, Mr Roger Richardson retired in the rank of Assistant Chief Constable "Operations" on 7th January. One of the most highly thought of officers at all levels of the Essex Police, Mr Richardson is well known county-wide as a 'policeman's policeman!' To mark his retirement he was

presented with a colour television and other gifts, together with a sincere expression of the respect in which he was held in words of praise from Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Ronald Stone. If any other mark of esteem was necessary, it was to be seen in the people who attended the function held in his honour at Headquarters — from former Chief Constables to serving PCs.

Mr Richardson (52) first donned the police mantle on 3rd January, 1949 as a police cadet. He was born, bred and educated in Saffron Walden and came straight to the service from Newport Grammar School. Asked what had originally motivated him, he said: "I was following the example of my brother. He was a cadet before me and then joined the Metropolitan Police. I didn't follow him all the way though — he finished up the Assistant Deputy Commissioner in Hong Kong Police.

These were the days when at the age of 18, young men were required to spend part of their formative years in National Service. Not to have his career ambitions thwarted, Mr Richardson joined the Royal Air Force Police. He was discharged in January 1954 as a Corporal and returned to the fold of the Essex County Constabulary at the princely salary of £445 a year.

Thinking back to those days he reminisced. "When we think of it, these were probably the happiest days of our lives. We had a smashing social life apart from the job." Jokingly he went on "I remember that we had a 3 piece suite and Brian King, who is now at Harlow, had a Morris Series E saloon. Well, you couldn't have both in those days could you? When he wanted to sit down he came to see us and when we wanted to go out we all went in his car".

As with all recruits there was a period of uniformed service to be faced before Mr Richardson found his forte in CID. He spent his probationary period at Clacton and Harwich in the days when "mods" and "rockers" were not even words in the dictionary. It was during this time that he met and married his wife Norma. She has been behind him every step of the way, supporting him as he forged his career in the CID. This period started with his appointment as a Detective Constable in Colchester in June, 1959 and culminated when he took command of the Essex Police CID in January, 1981 on promotion to Detective Chief Superintendent.

In the intervening years Mr Richardson worked on

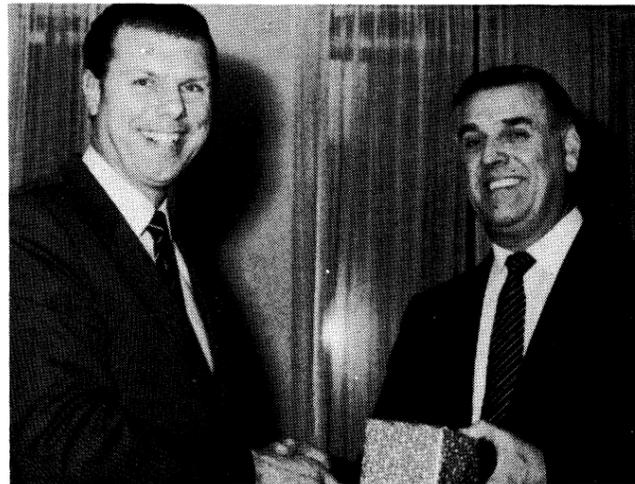
Headquarters Stolen Car Squad, at Brentwood and at Chelmsford before tackling what some would describe as one of the most demanding jobs in the modern police force with the Regional Crime Squads at Harlow and Brentwood. It was during his Crime Squad days that the name of Roger Richardson became widely known as a detective of extraordinary talent. More than this perhaps, he also built a reputation for his fair mindedness and general affability which won him a great respect with all those with whom he dealt. This was so not just in police and law abiding circles but also amongst the criminal fraternity.

With these attributes to his credit, along with eight professional commendations, it was not thought surprising when in January, 1984 the Chief Constable appointed him Acting Assistant Chief Constable "Operations", to cover for Mr



Mr and Mrs Roger Richardson recall happy memories with ex-Essex Chief Constable Sir John Nightingale and Lady Nightingale.

Peter Simpson who was away on a 12-month course. He held this command during one of the most difficult years ever for the Essex Police. He was often heard to remark, "I'm one of the old style coppers. I like to take things steadily and methodically. That's how I was brought up, not to chase about from pillar to



A.C.C. 'O' Mr Peter Simpson says "Good Luck" to retiring A.C.C. 'O' Mr Roger Richardson. Mr Richardson wishes "Good Luck" to his successor!

post". It was personal qualities such as these that enabled him to cope with a major industrial dispute, a diplomatic incident, the shooting of two police officers and many other trials and tribulations, both official and personal, with hardly ever a raised voice, seldom an external sign of strain and always a word of encouragement for others under pressure.

On top of all this, Roger Richardson fitted in being a leading light in the Police Headquarters Musical Society as well as the International Police Association. He is now the Social Secretary and Retired Members Representative for the IPA.

Looking back over his career and into the future, Mr Richardson said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my service. I don't know of a better career. I can't think of many unhappy times over 30 years. We've made a lot of friends and if the future is as happy as the last 30 years, we shan't do too badly. I haven't decided just how to fill my time yet — there is so much to do, I'm still wondering how I found time to come to work."

One man departs and the Police Force continues as always. In fact it continues as though nothing has happened — that's life and it's how it should be. Nevertheless, Essex Police is much the richer for the service of Roger Richardson and the poorer for his retiring. He had much to offer and gave it all, to the benefit of those who still serve. Throughout his service he cemented many friendships and there are many who are proud to count him to their acquaintance — and if he became one of those rare beings, a "character" of the Force, it was in the best possible sense. Without reservation the Police wish him and his family every success in all they hope for in the future.

FORWARD LOOKING ESSEX TAKES THE POSITIVE APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT

Let's Look at Ourselves



Left to right, Mrs Anne Brown, Mrs Nan Robertson and Chief Superintendent Terry Rands. Faces behind the phones at the new HQ department.

January has seen the inception of a new initiative spearheaded by the Deputy Chief Constable and designed to ensure that Essex Police maintain their reputation for providing the best possible service to the public. Under the leadership of Chief Superintendent Terry Rands the Force is instituting the system announced last year, of self evaluation to ensure that the challenges of the future can be met by appropriate styles and techniques.

It's very easy to live in the cosy world of the status quo and it is a common facet of human nature to resist change. Indeed, often proposed changes are seen as personal criticisms. This is not the way improvements are made however. It is true that change for the sake of it is seldom worthwhile but it is equally true that existing practices and new ideas need to be objectively and constructively considered on a

regular basis if real steps forward are to be taken.

The policeman who never made a mistake has not been born but it's not always easy to spot one's own mistakes. Neither is it easy to have them pointed out. It is often to the common good to do so however so long as any errors are presented in a positive fashion. As reported in The Law in March last year, Divisions will very much be their own watchdogs in this respect.

The Headquarters team will also be visiting police stations to look at systems as they work in every day situations. Chief Supt Rands told The Law "There are bound to be some hiccoughs, but we are not out to catch people on one leg. What is important is to put matters right whenever necessary as early as possible and to minimise the probability of the same thing happening again. This isn't achieved in the long term by adopting a narrow minded self defensive approach or by shouting at people. It can be achieved by helping them to understand the need to do certain things in certain ways and by giving proper consideration to anything that they may have to

say. We will be actively looking for those ideas and initiatives which Divisions have introduced with a view to Force wide application."

The Chief Constable is concerned that the emphasis of the management of the force in terms of both the human and all other resources should be placed on the positive support of operational police officers. It is the primary responsibility of Chief Superintendent Rands to ensure that this is the case as far as is practically possible. "We are fully aware of the day to day pressures of the job," he said "and the need for help rather than hindrance."

The cynics may say they've heard it all before but the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

Very little of worth happens overnight and long term support from every level of the Force will be necessary if this initiative is to have any worthwhile effect. Nevertheless this is the right approach to modern policing and if just some of the theories become practicalities there is nothing to lose and a whole lot to be gained.

Pc Brian Bishop Fund

FOLLOWING the fatal shooting of Pc Brian Bishop at Frinton-on-Sea in August last year, the Chairman of Essex County Council, Mr Ron Williams, set up an Appeal Fund. The Fund closed on December 31 with a superb total of £39,276.

Contributions to the Fund have come from far and wide. Mr Williams, voicing his appreciation said: "The magnificent response to the Fund shows the Police just how much people do care."

Pc Bishop left a widow, Susan, and a 10-year-old son, David. The fund will be administered for their benefit. Any outstanding monies can still be handed in at any police station.

Mrs Bishop told "The Law": "I am overwhelmed by the kindness of everyone."

Shortly before the death of Brian Bishop, Pc Stephen Greet was killed in a road accident whilst on duty. Details of a collection for his dependents will be found on page 2.

Commutation — the taxing question: see page 7

POSTBAG — Letters to The Law, Force HQ

Happy memories

Dear Sir,
 May I take this opportunity to ask if you will allow me through your good offices to express my sincere thanks on behalf of Norma and myself for the very generous presentation by Brian Searle recently of a portable colour TV. May I also thank those very many friends and colleagues who braved the elements to attend my retirement party.
 I have very many happy memories of my years with the Essex Police, and I trust that these will sustain and make up for the loss of the day-to-day friendships that I will miss.
 Norma and I wish everyone a Happy New Year and good health and prosperity for the

future.
 Yours faithfully,
 Roger and Norma Richardson
Alive and well

Dear Sir,
 Thank you so much for your letter and the enclosed copies of "The Law" — it was very good of you to bring us up-to-date.
 Clem and I do very much look forward to "The Law" each month and it does keep us in touch with what is going on in the Force and how ex-colleagues and friends are faring.
 We do still see a fair few down here from time to time as our guests, though predominately retired members now. Needless to say, serving or retired members are always among our most welcome guests and a lot of yarning usually goes on.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you a very happy, successful and prosperous New Year.
 Sincerely,
 Joe Allan
 Humbers, Chideock,
 Bridport, Dorset
 DT6 6JW

Thanks

Dear Sir,
 On behalf of my mother and family I would like to thank those serving and retired police officers who attended the funeral of my father "Jake" who served with both Colchester Borough and Essex Police Forces prior to his retirement.
 Through this column may I also thank those who have sent messages of sympathy to my mother. Please accept the enclosed cheque which my mother would like to be put into the Bill Bishop Fund.
 Yours Thankfully,
 Chris Jacob PC 158

Kindly thoughts,

Dear Chief Constable, Superintendent and Police Sergeants, Policemen, Policewomen and all those who are employed by the Southend Police Force and elsewhere.
 I am 82 years of age and my wife is 76. I used to drive a London Tram and lived in London at Highgate and when I was on the last tram at night I had to walk home and I met many bobbies on the streets at night showing their oil lamps in the shop doors. It was 'good-night' then to you from the Bobby. I saw girls walking home, chaps drunk at twelve o'clock at night, but none would ever molest you, though half the streets in the main road were dark because the street lamps were out.
 Policemen were respected then. No one would think of assaulting them. Now things have changed, you try to walk

home in the early hours of the morning now. Especially if you are a girl. There was no violence then. The law was obeyed.

I know when I was 11 I got cuffed by the policeman's cape for not behaving myself, but I deserved it. If I told my Dad he would say, "Serve you right, I've got no sympathy for you". Now they just ignore the law and sauce the police with bad language.

I felt I had to write to you to show how I appreciate what the police have done for my wife and myself and I am sure there are thousands and thousands who feel you are doing a good job under difficulties.

I would like to thank you all for the difficult task you have had to contend with in 1984 and no doubt things will get worse. But you are all doing a good job and what we would do without you I don't know.

We have the finest police force in the World, who are able to adapt themselves to any trouble that comes along. God Bless you all.

May you, your wives and families have the finest Christmas you can possibly have. May you all be blessed with good health and happiness in the coming years, and luck that will never end.

I have written a poem for you all:

When the steep road mounts before you,
 And your heart knows dumb despair,
 When the spirit quails within you,
 And you're burdened with anxious care,
 Try summoning up all your courage
 As you will find it enough to make
 Your life worthwhile.
 For there's still enough to go on living for.

Though you will find it's a long hard road,
 But there be a bright hope waiting for you there.
 You will see lots of beauty and sunsets,
 Trees and flowers all smelling sweet,
 As you travel along life's way.
 So keep your courage, and keep your faith
 Because you're in the Father's care.

Once again God Bless you all and take care of you and the wardens.
 With my best wishes to you all.
 Mr A. E. J. Thomas
 Southend.

Thanks

Dear Sir,
 Through "The Law" columns, may I express my very sincere thanks to ex-colleagues and serving officers of the Essex Police who attended the funeral of my husband Charles at Ipswich Crematorium on 6th December, and for the floral tributes. Also for all the cards and letters of sympathy received.
 Yours sincerely,
 Lilian Samuel
 Stowmarket,
 Suffolk

Football tribute

Dear Sir,
 On 28th November, 1984, I took a party of seventeen 12-year-old boys to the Charity Football Match in aid of the Bill Bishop Fund.

Having been immensely entertained by the antics of Jimmy Greaves, the pace of Peter Taylor, the finishing power of Mick Channon and the superb skills of Trevor Brooking, I wish to pay tribute to the wonderful sportsmanship of the Force team.

Although obviously under instruction about strong physical challenges, and despite being outplayed in almost every aspect of the game, the sportsmanship and character of the team was a credit to the Force and an example to the hundreds of small boys who attended this memorable occasion.

Well done lads!
 W. Whitehill,
 Detective Inspector
 Police Station,
 Brentwood

What, a shower

Dear Editor,
 Is this taking police community relations too far? Maybe our willingness to help "Joe" public has made them expect too much from us.

Here is an example of what happened to a PC at Stansted Airport recently "in public" and with all sincerity.

The event was in the Main Terminal building. Conversing were a Captain of a small aircraft and the PC.

Captain: "Good afternoon."
 PC: "Good afternoon, sir."

Captain: "Is there a shower in the Police Station?"

PC: "Yes sir there is."

Captain: "I've just been to the Police Station and there is no one there."

PC (thinking that maybe the shower room light had been left on and the Captain concerned of the welfare of the person within): "It is possible that a light has been left on in the shower room."

but it is OK, there is no one in there."

Captain: "No I didn't think there was anyone in there, wondered if I could use the shower after I finish work."

PC (somewhat taken aback): "No you can't."

Captain (whilst walking away): "Well that's plain enough!"

Yours sincerely,
 Rick Jones, PC 177

Stansted Airport
 PS: The PC did tell the captain of a place to shower at the Airport but not on police property.

Ed: "Another 'Fly-boy' trying to 'clean up' at the expense of the police. What a shower!"

Suprise stocking

Dear Editor,
 Many thanks to the unknown for the much appreciated Christmas stocking. Now I've a problem ahead, one foot will get frostbite. "Two into one just doesn't go."
 Thanks a lot and a Happy New Year.
 Yours sincerely,
 Do
 Finance, HQ

Ed:
 For readers' benefit, some kind anonymous 'sole' presented Do with a surprise present — a stocking containing a bottle of Christmas spirit!

Appreciation

Dear Sir,
 I would like to express my appreciation of, and sympathy for the police and to say how fortunate we are in this country.

The miners, striking or not, are getting a great deal of sympathy but not enough is given to the police, away from their families I imagine a great deal of the time, not to mention the violence and unpleasantness.

Neither the politicians nor the media provide the support they should in any of the situations where the police appear to be the only ones standing for law and order.

I am sure there are many who feel as I do and wish there was some way of making our position clear.

Yours faithfully,
 Mrs F. M. E. Ford
 Colne Engaine,
 Essex.

Keep in touch

Dear Friends,
 Now that I have been away from Essex for nearly a year I would like to ensure my friends I'm still alive. I am at present working as a civilian in the Crime Prevention Department, a Dorset Police HQ. Apparently the roads were so bad between Essex and Dorset last summer that only four cars managed to make the journey.

If you expected a Christmas card from me, the reason that you didn't receive one is that I moved again the Saturday before Christmas and we are bringing an hotel back to use which has not been used for three years. I you are in the Weymouth area call in for a coffee.

Thank you.
 J. A. McGarvey
 Hotel Leander
 116 The Esplanade
 Weymouth, DT14 7EJ

A Dog's Day



'Saxon' gets a good luck pat from donor Mrs Hutchinson before pouncing the beat at Southend with handler Pc Pete Beauchamp.

AFTER 13 weeks of training, new recruits to our Dog Section will be putting their best paws forward around the county, replacing four old soldiers now enjoying a hard earned retirement.
 A snowy Sandon set the scene on Wednesday, January 9, for their passing out parade. Their previous owners looked on with a mixture of

pride and perhaps a little sadness. The dogs, selected from many that don't make the grade, had been donated from members of the public for a variety of reasons. For instance, 18 month old Saxon, now hounding the villains in Southend, aided and abetted by PC Pete Beauchamp, was the cause of his young owner's asthma. PS Rod Barratt is also at Southend with his new dog Ross, given by Mrs Holbart after her own dog took exception to a newcomer in the house.

All the dogs are German Shepherd pedigrees, and to qualify for selection, must all be physically capable of police work, with a natural ability to retrieve and a good even temperament. Whilst they must not be snappy, they must not be shy either. Many people think that the German Shepherd and the Alsatian are different breeds. Well they're barking up the wrong tree! When the dog was first introduced to Britain between the Great Wars, the German connection was not acceptable, and they came to be known as Alsatians because they came from the Alsace region of Germany. We are the only country in the world where "Alsatian" is used.

All five dogs, obviously enjoying themselves enormously, put on a wonderful display of obedience, agility and courage, fearlessly tackling an armed assailant. After their performance, the dogs were clearly happy to go backstage and take a bow from their original owners.

On a sadder note, the Force bade farewell to Bruce, better known as "Jaws", who has served with PC Mick Mercer for nearly eight years. The nickname came from his metal teeth, fitted because he wore his own away gnawing at his cage. Bruce faces a peaceful retirement in the Mercer household.
 by Sue Watts

Essex Roll of Honour

A FORCE Roll of Honour is to be erected at Headquarters. It will be placed in a prominent position either in the reception area of the main building or in the Training School.

Detective Inspector Brian Hindley of the Major Incident Project Office (HQ extension 215) is compiling the board. Obviously he has access to official records but he would welcome details of any officers who have been killed on duty.

Any personal reminiscences, family details and circumstances surrounding the deaths would be appreciated. These can be sent to Brian Hindley direct but if you forward them via "The Law" we will consider printing the stories.

Santa — picket



Sergeant Bob Needham's police dog 'Santa' keeps a watchful eye on picket duty at Carcroft Workshops, South Yorkshire.

Police Review

Police Review are looking for front cover photographs. Pictures should portray the force area or policing problems or duties specific to Essex. They should be in black and white if possible and can be submitted direct.

Police Review subscriptions are now £29.64 and £19.56 for probationers.

Pc Greet Collection

CONSTABLE Stephen Greet (26) was fatally injured in a road accident whilst on duty during August, 1984, leaving a widow, Susan, and a baby son, Mathew. Considerable efforts are being made to insure the future comforts of his dependents.

With the assistance of the Police Federation, a number of civil and other claims are being pursued. These should result in sufficient monies to ensure the financial security of Mrs Greet and her son.

A considerable sum has also been raised within the Force. Colleagues have given generously to a collection and other events, such as a concert by the Essex Police Band, have swelled the funds.

Now a raffle is being organised throughout the Force area. Prizes include a weekend for two at a European resort, a Hi-Fi set, a wrist watch and many, many more. All have been generously donated to the CID Jailbreak Team who are running the raffle.

Tickets are available on Divisions at 20p each. The draw will be made on February 23, at Harlow Police Station.



"OF COURSE — HE KNOWS ALL ABOUT STRESS — THEY FORGOT TO PAY HIS OVERTIME!"

KEEN OBSERVATION IS REWARDED BY AN EXCITING DAY OUT.

VIBoy Visit to Harlow

ON MONDAY, January 7, Harlow Police Station was visited by a Very Important Boy in the shape of Robert Aplin (10) from Blackmore, whose quick thinking helped the police to capture a team of high-class burglars operating in the Essex, Surrey and Kent areas. His parents' home was burgled last November. Robert

saw one of the burglars leaving the house. He followed him, and, seeing him getting into a car, noted the index number.

As a reward a special visit to Harlow Police Station was arranged. The Dog Section proved very popular with Robert and his family. Sergeant Phil Taylor and PC Dave Knight with their dogs put

on a special display. Sergeant Taylor gave Robert a photograph of himself and police dog "Max".

Lunch was laid on at the Police Station. This was followed by a trip up the motorway in a Granada driven by Sergeant Ted Stanley.

After tea and goodies at



The Aplin family included the control room at Harlow Police Station in their visit.

the CSB office, Inspector Joan Eason presented Robert with a Certificate of Merit for "Outstanding Service to the Public". Robert wanted to be a policeman before this incident and is even more sure that he does now. His brother David (14) wanted to join the Army, but is reconsidering, and little brother Matthew (7) couldn't close his mouth for long enough to say anything!

by Sue Watts



Robert and David spent some time with Sergeant Ted Stanley, who took them for a ride in a Traffic Ford Granada.



Sergeant Phil Taylor presented Robert with a photograph as a lasting reminder of his special day out.

Samantha's in town



Super 'Sun' girl Samantha Fox under the protection of 'A' shift constables Rennie Chivers (left) and John Shipley, when she visited Colchester recently.

Who says a policeman's lot is not a happy one? Some people get all the luck!

ON WATCH The 'Law' Editorial

DESPITE what many people think, Essex is a progressive Force in terms of management techniques. For instance, a form of Joint Negotiating and Consultative Committee was in being well before the renowned Edmund-Davies report recommended that such bodies should be set up. The problem is that not enough people make use of the options that are open to them. Is it just apathy, or lack of confidence in the worth of speaking out, or that members of the Force do not know what machinery exists for them to have their say or how to use it?

In point of fact it is Force policy to consult as widely as possible before any significant changes are made. Obviously with more than 2,600 officers it is not practical to approach individuals so their elected representatives are consulted. Elected representatives that is in the form of nominees from the Police Federation, the Superintendents Association and the Association of Chief Police Officers.

These people should be in a position to state the point of view of the officers they represent in respect of any matter under consideration. Of course, they can only do that if they know what that point of view is and they are not mind readers! It is futile to gripe if a particular point is not made, or is not made strongly enough, if the representative is elected by default or if no-one keeps him or her informed of the feelings of the Force members.

The Joint Negotiating and Consultative Committee meets every other month and any matter that is ordinarily non-negotiable and all major policy items can be discussed. For instance, last year the mutual aid arrangements resulting from the miner's strike caused problems with hours of work. This was thrashed out, together with such things as uniform, equipment and other bits and pieces concerning general welfare. The Chief Constable also gave advance notice of the new crime prevention strategy so that its implications could be talked through.

Stress in the police service and topics such as housing, transfers and general conditions of service fall within the remit of The Standing Advisory Committee. So do promotion policy and the training needs of the Force. The Deputy Chief Constable chairs regular meetings of this committee which is only too willing to consider views put forward. Under the auspices of The Standing Advisory Committee three sub-committees exist with specific responsibility to consider Housing, Training and Uniform.

Those views should be representative of the Force as a whole. If they are not, it should not be because they are not aware of these views. Anyone can make his or her own voice heard by simply talking to their relevant staff association member.

The committees, however, are not there to take on board individual grievances. There are other channels for that. They are quite properly concerned with anything that might effect the Force globally. That is what overall management is about; the general good of the organisation as a unit and so of the individuals within it and the community it serves. Obviously then there will be some within the service who end up less than satisfied. There is no such place as Utopia.

SPEAKING to members of the committees, they are convinced that the chance is there to influence Force policy procedures. Their frustrations rest not with the system but with those they seek to represent. For example, Chief Inspector Eric Finch at HQ Training School would welcome items for the Training Advisor Sub-Committee.

If anyone needs any information at all about these organisations Inspector Graham Dossett has all the details. He is the Chief Constable's Staff Officer and can be reached at HQ, extension 346.

HQ SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Present a

"BURNS NIGHT"

at the

ASSEMBLY HALL, POLICE HQ.

Saturday 2 February

8.00pm until midnight

BAR — SCOTTISH BUFFET

Scottish pipers, drummers and dancers

A complete Scots evening, with

dancing. Tickets £3.50 from

Mrs Clark, HQ Finance Ext 336.

George McGhee

Ex-Colchester borough policeman and champion boxer George McGhee (69) passed away on January 2. Well known for his sense of humour and work with young boxers, George saw all of his service at Colchester.

George broke his career with a spell in the Navy but returned to the Force on demobilisation. He retired in August 1964 and then worked as a civilian at Colchester. He took early retirement in October, 1979.

Yet another "character" who will be sorely missed, his funeral was attended by many of his former friends and colleagues.

Detectives play Santa



While attending a Detective Training Course at the Lancashire Detective Training School, Preston, Det Cons Dave Smith, of Billericay, heard that children in a nearby Care Home wanted a cassette radio. He promptly organised fund raising efforts among the students. He was so successful that not only was the home presented with a cassette radio, but also a large number of Christmas presents for the children. Seen above receiving the radio on behalf of the home are Mrs Mary Bamber and Miss Debra Whalley.

Come and play at
Doctors and Nurses
VALENTINES NIGHT

THURSDAY

14 FEBRUARY

Enjoy FREE FOOD, DISCO, RAFFLE
and plenty of drink in the HQ Bar

It's the Roger Richardson Show!

Retiring Assistant Chief Constable Roger Richardson is also the retiring Chairman of The Police Headquarters Musical Society. He has been an active member since 1968, when the Society superceded a drama group who used to perform in an old hut on the site of the

existing Headquarters Octagon.

Roger and his wife Norma are still with the Society which has an enviable reputation for the excellence of their shows. They are currently in rehearsal for the 18th production of the group 'Fiddler on the Roof', with Roger prominent in

the chorus line. "I'm always in the chorus", he joked to 'The Law', "I know my place".

Full House

The Musical Society is so popular that no seats are left for "Fiddler". In fact there is a waiting list. Book early for next year!



Viva Mexico (1976) with Cy Smith as the Sergeant of Police with Roger Richardson in the prophetic role of a Police Chief.



Viva Mexico again but spot the 'Police Chief' doing his undercover "master of disguises" bit.



Chief Inspector Roy Clark plays Nathan Detroit to Roger Richardson's Lieutenant Brannigan (Guys and Dolls: 1978).



Not always in the chorus, here Roger Richardson plays Tristan, "hit-man" to Louis XI (Roy Clark) (left) in a scene with Francois Villan (Derek Lee) — The Vagabond King (1981).



The Emperor of Austria (Roger Richardson) arrives at 'The White Horse Inn' (1978), with Johnny Johnson as Leopold and Barry Walker as the Mayor.



Roger and Norma Richardson (right) in the 1968 show 'New Moon.' An early production where the musical potential of a future 'A.C.C.' was recognised — in the chorus line!



Resplendent in his band Payne makes a tremendous



The slide Trombone in the band Evans (eight), ably assisted by

Basildon Bobbies beat their target

Marcus gets his electric wheelchair.



Marcus Dawes in his new wheelchair, provided by the efforts of his Dad's colleagues. Mum and Dad, Lynda and Dave are both delighted and grateful. Also shown behind Marcus are John Pinkney and Tina Martell who supplied the wheelchair.

Young Marcus Dawes (5) is the son of Constable Dave Dawes, the Station Clerk at Basildon. Dave's colleagues have been fund raising for months to buy Marcus an electric wheelchair. This is the story.

It all began Christmas 1983 when Sergeant Ray Burman first met Marcus and saw how disabled he was. Marcus had been 'handicapped' during heart surgery when he suffered brain damage. This caused physical and mental problems and some uncertainty about his life expectancy.

Ray and some of his shift colleagues, with the help of Sergeant Maurice Brazier and Chief Inspector Mike Benning, decided to run in the London Marathon to raise funds for the project. With the marathon completed they realised that more money was needed. Weeks later Ray was on his way to lunch when he met Chief Superintendent Alan Gilling and jokingly said, "We want to run in the Berlin Marathon." Much to his surprise he was promptly told to go ahead. Transport was supplied by H. W. Stone and PC John Seavers was commandeered to drive the team across Europe to Berlin. The run was completed and over £2,000 raised.

A wheelchair has now been purchased from J. Pinkney of Takeley who will carry out modifications for Marcus.

JENNY PUTS THE BR



WPC Jenny Mahoney, of Melbourne Park, Chelmsford, stopping time of Oke Chigbu (16) on a motorcycle before testing at a Home Office police recruitment drive in

about blowing own trumpet!



Picture courtesy of Harlow and Bishop's Stortford Gazette

braids, Essex Police Band secretary Pc Wilf Kennedy supervises whilst young Gemma starts to play the Tenor Horn. Cheeks bloated and eyes popping, Gemma made a picture to remember if not exactly memorable music!



Picture courtesy of Harlow and Bishop's Stortford Gazette

On a Wednesday afternoon in November last year, the Force Band visited Latton Green Junior School, Harlow, to give a concert and to show the children their musical instruments. They even let the children play the instruments and were pleasantly surprised with the musical efforts of the youngsters.

Head Teacher, Sheila Hiller, said: "I was amazed that the children could get any notes out. They all wanted to try and play one." The photographs show just how hard they tried!

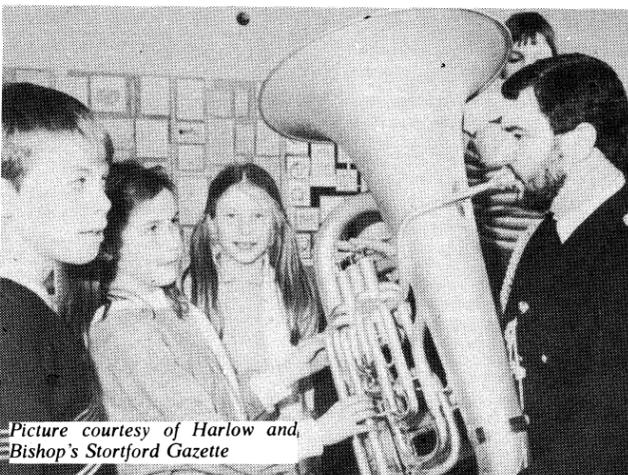
The children then settled down in the school hall to listen to the 26 strong Band play. One of the highlights of the afternoon was the Post Horn Gallop, especially when Band member Steve Drury did his party piece and walked through the hall playing a piece of rubber tubing, a funnel and a mouthpiece.

Finally, Police Band Master Bob Coxon picked up his baton and conducted a very nervous school brass band. "He was most impressed," said teacher Gill Ford, who is also a member of the Police Band.



Picture courtesy of Harlow and Bishop's Stortford Gazette

Constable Alan Carter on the beat with little Sarah Palmer (five). Fascinating rhythm in the classroom without re-percussion's for being noisy!



Picture courtesy of Harlow and Bishop's Stortford Gazette

Pc Mark Harvey gives an E Flat Bass solo surrounded by a group of admiring children. The faces say it all — now that's stardom.

of Lillian Kan (eight) and David Constable Mick Spalding. A achievement!

ES ON KIDS

Popular Melbourne Park WPC Jenny Mahoney was recently selected by the Home Office to help run the police stand at a careers exhibition in London.

It would be difficult to think of a better person for the job. As the picture shows, Jenny certainly projects the right image and she has the personality to go with her good looks.

She is also a dedicated neighbourhood beat officer. More than one attempt has been made to lure her away from "her patch", which is not one of the easiest in the county; but she resists them all.

Even a three months attachment to the Crime Prevention Department couldn't hold her!

ANOTHER "LAW" READERS' SERVICE

STANSTED AIRPORT HOLIDAY FLIGHTS

Summer Holidays 1985

COUNTRY	DESTINATION	TOUR OPERATOR	TELEPHONE	
BULGARIA		Balkan Holidays	01 491 4499	
		Balkan Tours	0223 211016	
CANADA	Toronto (direct service for 1985) (via Toronto)	Wardair — Vancouver	01 680 4281	
CHANNEL ISLANDS	Jersey	Stansted Reservations	0279 815151	
		Gala Holidays	01 514 0044	
	Guernsey	Preston Travel	01 349 0091	
		Modernline Travel	0534 35511	
	Alderney	Stansted Reservations	0279 815151	
		Gala Holidays	01 514 0044	
Sark	Gala Holidays	01 514 0044		
	Herm	Stansted Reservations	0279 815151	
FRANCE	Paris	Stansted Reservations	0279 815151	
		Anglia Holidays	0603 43764	
	Dinard (via Jersey)	Thomson Holidays	01 387 6534	
		Travelscene	01 486 6591	
GREECE	Corfu	Stansted Reservations	0279 815151	
		Horizon	01 493 7446	
		OSL/Wings	0992 87233	
		Owners Abroad	01 515 4000	
HOLLAND	Amsterdam	Falcon Holidays	01 221 6298	
		Beach Villas	0223 311113	
	Bulb Field Tours	Global	01 323 3266	
		Anglia Holidays	0603 43764	
	SCANDINAVIA	Norway	Gala Holidays	01 478 1127
		Portugal	Gala Holidays	01 478 1127
PORTUGAL	Faro	T.T.S. Tours	01 631 0185	
		Classic Holidays	0279 725000	
		Beach Villas	0223 311113	
		Falcon Holidays	01 221 6298	
		Owners Abroad	01 515 4000	
		Thomas Cook	0733 502200	
RHINE CRUISES	(via Amsterdam)	Blue Sky	01 836 8499	
		Blue Arrow	0727 69111	
YUGOSLAVIA	Pula	Anglia Holidays	0603 43764	
		Yugotours	01 439 7233	
ITALY	Venice	Balkan Tours	0223 211016	
BELGIUM	Brussels	Global	01 323 3266	
		Anglia Holidays	0603 43764	

Summer Holiday's 1985-SPAIN

REGION	RESORT	TOUR OPERATOR	TELEPHONE		
MAINLAND	Gerona for — Costa Brava/ Costa Dorada	Global	01 323 3266		
		Thomson Holidays	01 439 2211		
		Owners Abroad	01 515 4000		
		Falcon Holidays	01 221 6298		
		Sunstart	01 221 8010		
		Blue Sky	01 836 8499		
		Sun Jet	01 291 5000		
		OSL/Wings	0992 87233		
		Alicante for Costa Blanca	Malaga for — Costa del Sol	Classic Holidays	0279 725000
				OSL/Wings	0992 87233
				Global	01 323 3266
				Sunstart	01 221 8010
				Owners Abroad	01 515 4000
				Intasun	01 290 1900
BALEARIC ISLANDS	Majorca	Club 18/30	01 485 4141		
		Classic Holidays	0279 725000		
		Horizon	01 493 7446		
		Thomas Holidays	01 439 2211		
		OSL/Wings	0992 87233		
		Thomas Cook	0733 502200		
		Global	01 323 3266		
		Blue Sky	01 836 8499		
		Falcon Holidays	01 221 6298		
		Owners Abroad	01 515 4000		
		Minorca	Ibiza	Classic Holidays	0279 725000
				OSL/Wings	0992 87233
				Thomas Cook	0733 502200
				Blue Sky	01 836 8499
Global	01 323 3266				
Classic Holidays	0279 725000				
CANARY ISLANDS	Tenerife	Rank Travel	0992 87233		
		Intasun	01 290 1900		
		Club 18/30	01 485 4141		
		Falcon Holidays	01 221 6298		
		Owners Abroad	01 515 4000		
		Blue Sky	01 836 8499		
		Global	01 323 3266		
		Thomas Cook	0733 502200		
		OSL/Wings	0992 87233		
		Thomson Holidays	01 439 2211		
		Classic Holidays	0279 725000		
		OSL/Wings	0992 87233		
		Thomas Cook	0733 502200		
		Blue Sky	01 836 8499		
Blue Arrow	0727 69111				
Corona Holidays	01 530 2500				

MONEY MATTERS

IF the Government leaves commutations alone, a 30-year service retiring officer will receive upwards of £25,000 tax free.

I'd like to address the vexed question often asked:

"Should I pay off my mortgage with my commutation?"

Being charged with the job of providing financial advice in the circumstances, this is how we approach the subject:

"What do YOU WANT to do, and what would make you most comfortable?"

Every one of you (Us!) views his mortgage in a different aspect and I believe there are two extremes, with everyone spread between the two.

On the one hand, you have Constable Doom who feels his shoulders crushed in an ever-increasing vice by the pendulous burden which drags with him as he tunnels his way to that inevitable date with the grim reaper.

Constable Hoocair on the other hand takes a philosophical approach. "Mortgage? What mortgage? . . . Oh, THAT mortgage. Well it's cheap money and the house is getting more valuable, so why worry. What's on TV tonight? . . ."

Whether you are Doom or Hoocair, here are some simple facts.

Your mortgage costs between 8 per cent and 9 per cent after tax relief (MIRAS—January 1985), could you get better than that with investment?

The best Building Society rate is 9.2 per cent for term deposits but leading unit linked Insurance bonds and unit trusts have a long record of turning in 20 per cent to 25 per cent a year on average.

It's reasonable to expect that you can make more out of your money as an investment than you'll save on paying for the house. On the other hand, you'll retire in debt!

You could, of course, postpone your decision and "see how it goes". If you DO decide to clear the mortgage, though, I recommend that a small



by Tony Warren

amount is left owing, say £50 or so. This enables you to approach the lender for funds later, should you wish to improve the house and raise a small loan for the works.

There you have it then . . . although we have plenty of clients who are turning their bricks and mortar into investment capital we are well aware that some people simply aren't happy with what is financially advantageous. For those people, the best action is the one which makes them most comfortable.

FORCE LOTTERY

RESULTS of the draw held at Rayleigh Police Station on December 7, 1984: 1st prize D. Newell, HQ, £1,442.76; 2nd prize DC Watson, HQ, £721.38; 3rd prize PC Bennett, Gosfield, £360.69; 4th prize PS Snipe, Grays, £180.35. Consolation prizes at £36.07 each: PS Courtman, Epping; DC French, HQ; PS King, Harwich; C/I Hedgethorn, Colchester; PC Woods, Halstead.

RESULTS of the draw held at Rayleigh Police Station on January 9, 1985: 1st prize C/S J. Watson, Harlow, £1,453.12; PC Addison, Harlow Traffic, £726.56; TW Ryan, Rayleigh, £363.28; Insp Williams, Chelmsford Traffic, £181.64. Consolation prizes at £36.32 each: A. Cottee, HQ; PC Wimbledon, Basildon; E. Kirk, HQ; PS Parsons, Benfleet; PC Kebell, Billericay.



I'M SORRY we haven't been in print for the last few issues, but hope we can keep a regular feature from now on.

Firstly, can I thank just over half of our members for returning their membership questionnaire forms promptly, but can I remind those who have not yet done so to return them to me as soon as possible so that I can

formulate a despatch procedure for the new 10 Region Newsletter.

The Annual General Meeting of the Essex Branch will be held in the Quiet Room at Headquarters at 8pm Tuesday February 5, with buffet provided, to be followed on Friday February 22, by the 10 Region AGM, to be held in the HQ Canteen commencing 8pm. Buffet will again be provided.

A Valentine's Dance/Disco will be held at the Force Training School Canteen on Saturday, February 16, starting at 8pm, with chicken and chips supper. Tickets are £2 from Paul Adams, HQ Garage. From May 25-31, we are entertaining, in conjunction with the Force Band, a large group of German visitors from Nurnburg, who gave so much hospitality when the Force Band visited there in 1984. A full programme has been arranged, with accommodation in the Training School, but hosts are required to entertain the guests on Sunday, May 26. If you can

assist, please contact Paul Adams or myself.

Amsterdam will be holding their "Flower Friendship Meeting" from September 5-8, at a cost of approx £25, excluding hotel which is about £8.50 per night bed and breakfast. Having seen the Flower Parade which is included, I fully recommend this trip.

Arnhem will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary from May 8-12, at a price to be announced.

Also celebrating their 25th Anniversary is the Swedish Section, at Helsingborg from May 29 - June 1, at a cost of approx £45 plus accommodation.

The Greek Section announce their 20th Anniversary celebrations in a Friendship Week at Athens from September 7-14, at the remarkable cost of approx £100, including accommodation. I have full details of these celebrations, so please contact me at home, Braintree 264000, or at Witham 512203 if you require details.

National Association of Retired Police Officers by Doug Rampling

for 1985 for which he is most grateful.

Please, if you have not yet sent yours in, do so as soon as convenient. We are not a rich organisation and every little helps.

One date so far for this year's diary, Friday, July 5. The Chief Constable has kindly agreed that the Garden party will be held at Headquarters on that day, make a note now so as not to forget. It is always such an enjoyable day that I am sure no one will want to miss it. Watch this space for further details.

RETIREMENTS

Acting ACC Roger W. Richardson, Headquarters Force Command, retired January 7, 1985, after 30 years 317 days service.

PC 1008 Michael J. Waspe, station at Chelmsford, retired December 30, 1984, after 30 years 64 days service.

PS 385 Ronald D. Parsons, stationed at Benfleet, retires February 1, 1985, after 25 years 75 days service.

PS 65 Arthur M. J. Pickett, stationed at Traffic, Colchester, retires February 15, 1985, after 28 years 23 days service.

PC 143 Colin G. Banks, stationed at Southend, retires February 7, 1985, after 30 years 1 day service.

PS 256 Peter A. R. Spensley, station at Grays, Road Safety, retired January 27, 1985, after 30 years 1 day service.

PC 1450 Geoffrey A. V. Reggett, stationed at Braintree, retired January 25, 1985, after 17 years 50 days service.

PC 1011 Derek A. W. Turner, stationed at Traffic, Laindon, retired January 25 1985, after 28 years 247 days service.

PC 113 George A. Sage, stationed at Leigh, retires January 31, 1985, after 26 years 318 days service.

PC 842 Robert W. Meade, stationed at South Ockendon, retired January 22, 1985, after 25 years 275 days service.

PS 216 Gordon A. Thake, stationed at Stansted Airport, retired January 26, 1985, after 30 years service.

PC 535 Robin J. Rickett, stationed at Harlow CSB, retired January 27, 1985, after 30 years 1 day service.

Sup John E. Page, stationed at HQ Operations, retires March 1, 1985, after 31 years 124 days service.

OBITUARIES

On December 1, 1984, ex PS Charles W. Samuel, 68 years, who retired from Chelmsford in 1968.

On December 2, 1984, ex PC Dennis A. Jacob, 65 years, who retired from Witham in 1972.

On November 28, 1984, ex PS Cecil R. Sweeney, aged 79 years, who retired from Southend Borough Constabulary in 1960.

On December 16, 1984, ex PC Reginald P. Hurst, aged 70 years, who retired from headquarters in 1966.

On January 2, 1985, ex PC George J. C. McGhee, aged 68 years, who retired from Colchester in 1964.

On December 26, 1984, ex PC Reginald Fisher, aged 77 years, who retired from Burnham on Crouch in 1952.

On December 27, 1984, ex PC Edward Gill, aged 79 years, who retired from Braintree in 1952.

PALE LEMON and white Venetian blind. Excellent condition. Size 60in x 35in. £10. Phone HQ Ext 374/375/376. SAAB 900GLS, 1982 (X), manual, 40,000 miles, sunroof, stereo radio/cassette. Full SAAB service history and bills. One owner. Immaculate. £4,200. C/I L. BAKER, HQ, CSB or Brentwood 73515. WEST DORSET COASTAL HOLIDAYS. Bed, breakfast, optional evening meal in our 17th century home with 20th century comfort. Contact: Clem and Joe ALLAN, "Humbers", Chideock, Bridport DT6 6JW. Tel: 0297 89310.

May I kick off the new year by wishing you all a very healthy and prosperous one in 1985.

1984 is now behind us and apart from George Orwell fans I think, best forgotten.

Let us hope that this year will bring better tidings for us all.

I am pleased to say that overall membership remained on a par throughout the last year.

While we lost some good friends during that time, we gained new ones as people retired from the Force.

At this time of the year there is very little to report that is of general interest. Branches will be preparing for annual audit of accounts which will be circulated prior to Annual General Meetings.

The Treasurer reports that subscriptions have been arriving

Market Place

PORTAFINO HOTEL, Newquay, Cornwall, close to Porth and Lusty Glaze beaches. Sea and country views. 5% discount for police officers. Lyn and Leon WOOD. 06373 5589.

POLPERRO, CORNWALL. Modern holiday chalet on pleasant site. All mod cons. Sleeps 4/5. Heated pool. Club. Very reasonable terms. Craig BAILEY, retired, 2 Collins Cross, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. Tel: 0279 53570.

FIRST FLOOR self contained flat, Colchester. Carpets and velvet curtains to remain. £22,000. W/Insp S. ROWLEY, HQ Ext 382 or S.L.H. 643360.

HOUSE, WITHAM. 3 beds, double glazed, gas central heating, garage, driveway, new kitchen, front and rear gardens, carpets, patio. £38,000. PC HILLS, Witham Station, or 0376 512692.

1982 CITROEN VISA SPECIAL, excellent condition. Genuine reason for sale. £1,850. W/Insp S. ROWLEY, HQ Ext 382 or S.L.H. 643360.

HONDA H100, 1982, very good condition. Taxed, £300. Christine FEARY, Clerk/Typist, Rochford Station 0702 547241, or Southend 334742.

BEAUTIFUL STOCKY Border Collie pups. Both parents kept and working at trials. Good temperament. PC 1254 CHAMBERLAIN, Tillingham, or Maldon 87258.

WELL MAINTAINED one bedroom house in charming development in Boreham, £25,500. Sue WATTS, HQ Ext 374 or Chelmsford 461249.

HONDA 125cc MOTORCYCLE, low mileage, Y reg. Also waterproof lined all-in-one suit, leather boots and helmet, £650, will separate. Sue WATTS, HQ Ext 374, or Chelmsford 461249.

INDESIT 2003 washing machine. Virtually new. Hardly used, £100 ono. Tel as above.

MUSIC CENTRE, "Studio Six". Two separate speakers. F M / L W / M W / R a d i o - Record Deck, £50 ono. J. H. ASPINALL. Tel: Chelmsford 252183.

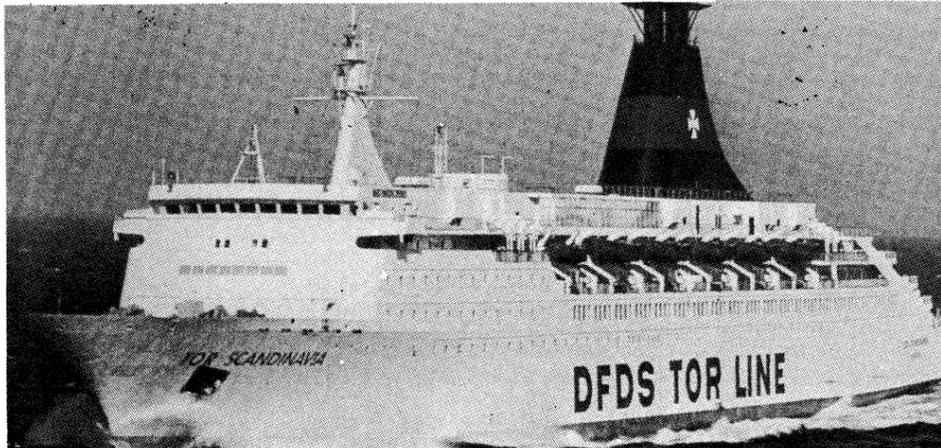
THIS is your FREE small-ad service. Please use this form as we regret that ads cannot be accepted over the phone or on plain paper. Send your ad to "Market Place", The Law, Police HQ, Chelmsford. Thank you.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE — ONE WORD PER BOX

Name and Rank Station

Home telephone Signed

SWEDISH CRUISE



Enjoy yet another relaxing three day cruise to Gothenburg in Sweden from Harwich, on Friday, March 1, 1985, with DFDS Tor Line. The timetable is as follows:

- 1630 hours Friday, March 1, 1985 — Depart Harwich (Parkeston Quay)
- 1700 hours Saturday, March 2, 1985 — Arrive Gothenburg
- 2000 hours Saturday, March 2, 1985 — Depart Gothenburg
- 1830 hours Sunday, March 3, 1985 — Arrive Harwich (Parkestone Quay)

The cost will be £18 per person. (Children under 4 years travel free). Accommodation will consist of two or four berth cabins (as required), each with shower and toilet. Inclusive of the fare will be a coach trip round the city of Gothenburg.

The ship, as previously, will be the MS Tor Scandinavia, 15,500 tons, which is illustrated above. The vessel has the luxury of a five star hotel which includes a restaurant, cafeteria, bars, night club, disco, two cinemas and a sauna.

If you are interested please complete the reservation slip and return to DS 231 B. R. Firmin, at the Port of Harwich NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15, 1985. Cheques should be made payable to DFDS Tor Line and post dated FEBRUARY 15, 1985.

Tickets for the cruise will be issued on the day of departure at Harwich.

This offer is open to all members of the Essex Police, retired Police officers, Civilian employees and their immediate families.

Depending on the response it may be necessary to restrict those travelling to 'first come, first served'.

* For those who do not have access to the Internal Mail system, please send your bookings to Essex Police Office, c/o HM Immigration, Parkestone Quay, Harwich, Essex.

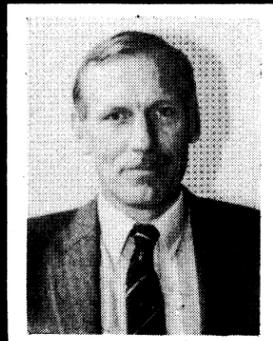
Passports are required.

Surname	Christian names	Station
1		
2		
3		
4		

Address Telephone numbers

..... I require a two/four berth cabin

Federation Notes



by
Jim Rodgers

Rent Allowance

IT IS with some concern that I report that so shortly after the arbitration settlement on Rent Allowance, the Home Office has sent out a circular (number 90/1984) in which they seek to undermine the local negotiations within Forces on the biennial review of Maximum Limit Allowances,

Selected house

The Circular advises Police Authorities that they (the Home Office) will not ratify local agreements where the agreed selected house produces a rental value which is not somewhere near the AVERAGE rental value of all the Police housing stock in the Force.

They have also said that the house must conform to the criteria laid down with regard to the Metropolitan Multiplier System — that is that it must be at least 5 years old, be a three bedroom, semi detached house, with full central heating and a garage — and at the same time be rated as near as possible to the average for police owned stock . . . etc.

Within this Force the house that we use is 42 New Park Road, South Benfleet. It has been the Force Selected House since 1977. We decided upon this house and the Police Authority accepted it, after a long and detailed examination of the County Police housing stock, which fell within the criteria set out.

Middle of the road

At the time of selection we rejected houses in the very expensive commuter belt part of the county, and also the lowly stock in the more rural areas. We settled on what we, and the Police Committee concurred, considered to be a really middle of the road Police House in Essex.

Your Joint Branch Board trust that the Home Office will take the same view, bearing in mind the lengths we went to, to be fair in our original change to the Benfleet House.

A later paragraph in the Home Office Circular, shows that perhaps the nefarious Mr Ed Shore from West Midlands, was not the real culprit in the recent problems over Rent Allowance. It says "The Secretary of State intends to keep the maximum limits of Rent Allowance under review. In the light of future developments he may need to consider further steps are necessary to limit the additional costs to police funds."

Right to re-write

It would seem that in spite of the fact that the Police Arbitration Tribunal made an unequivocal ruling with regard to Rent Allowance, the Home Secretary has taken unto himself the right to re-write the agreement of the Police Negotiating Board! He has assumed the right to alter the allowance if he considers **THAT IT HAS BECOME TOO EXPENSIVE!**

With that attitude, the future for the Police Service looks very bleak indeed!

FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES

The Joint Branch Board this year has some new faces — Peter Smith for CID Inspectors, Derek Durham for Southend, Stewart Bowman for Basildon Sergeants, Alan Coley for HQ Staff Constables, Bob Englefield for Chelmsford Constables.

We also have some old friends returned to the fold, John Stenson for Harlow

Inspectors, Alan Easter, Basildon, Alec Fox for Grays and Ian Heffron for Grays Constables.

The others remain basically the same as last year. I still remain the JBB Secretary, and Bob Needham has retained the Chairmanship. Ted Davidson is still Secretary of the Inspectors Central Committee.

FEDERATION NEWS...FEDERATION NEWS...FEDERAT

TO TAX — OR NOT TO TAX ?

THE QUESTION OF TAXATION OF COMMUTATION STILL UNDECIDED

THE question of whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will or won't tax the lump sum which officers can commute from their pension on retirement is still wide open, as far as I can see.

I suppose we have become accustomed to the never ending attacks on the rewards for being Police Officers. After successfully fending off disaster for the Rent Allowance, and Pay over the past two years, we now seem set to do battle over our Pension expectations.

With the ever growing alarm, discussion and rationalisation of what was suggested to be the Chancellor's policy — there was talk of mass retirements of senior officers to the extent that there would have been many understrength Police Forces had they all caught the fever at the same time. There have no doubt been many who, not being prepared to gamble, decided to take their pension, lump sum and all, and go.

The Staff Associations at National

level sought assurances that the Treasury were not going to put an additional burden on public sector pensions through the aegis of our Federation advisor — Eldon Griffiths. None were forthcoming. Other interested parties also made the same approaches and reluctantly, Mr Nigel Lawson made the following announcement. "There is no need for anyone to take premature retirement because of rumours currently circulating that lump sums earned by occupational pensioners are to be taxed. Those who have "already qualified" can be assured that nothing will be done to take what they will regard as their life saving provision away from them."

Now, you make up your own mind. What does this really mean? If you have achieved 30 years service, you will have qualified for a maximum pension, and an ability to commute up to one quarter of that pension into a substantial lump sum. If you have over 25 years service — and joined

the police before August 1961 — you will have qualified to take a pension of at least a half salary, with a much smaller lump sum capability. Do the Chancellor's comments mean that a man with 30 years in at the time of his change in policy for public sector pensions, will be able to take his entitlement in full? Do they mean that an officer who has not qualified for the full pension will only be able to take what he has earned up to the point where policy is changed? Your guess is as good as mine.

I certainly don't see that his comments can give any of us a pleasant feeling of relief because they do seem to confirm that the "rumours" have a very sound foundation within the minds of the Exchequer. And that can't be good for any of us.

Even though the Chancellor may be under some pressure not to tax commutation **THIS TIME** — he hasn't ruled out the possibility of doing so in the future!

Police house sales

YOU will recall that the new Housing and Building Control Act increased possible discounts from 32 per cent to 60 per cent, subject to a maximum total discount of £25,000, and that your Branch Board together with the other Staff Association representatives had been in consultation with County Hall to have the present scheme updated to equate with these discounts.

The result was an agreement and this agreement was subsequently ratified by the Police Committee at their December Meeting. The approval of the Home Office is being sought and should be received within the near future.

Once we get the green light to start, it is hoped that a list of houses which will be declared surplus to requirements will be published so that the occupiers of Police houses will be able to view and set their sights on

the one of their choice. A certain number of occupiers will be contacted to see if they would be prepared to buy the house in which they reside — this will be on a phased basis — in order to gauge what sort of response will be forthcoming.

Anyone who finds themselves in a position to buy at a very good rate of discount, who does not have the ready finance available to commence purchase, should contact my office for details of a couple of agencies who have the facilities to provide mortgages fairly quickly. In fact for the uninitiated they can provide a whole package including solicitors and surveyors as well as the funds, at very competitive rates.

There will obviously be more news about the discount scheme, as soon as the Home Office have approved the new scale of discounts. Watch this space!

Award of the Joint branch Board Presentation Plate



Pictured above, left to right, are Frank Boyle, Malcolm Kohler, Phil Charters (Vice Chairman), Bert Wallace, Jim Goreham and George Sage. All were recently the

first recipients of the J.B.B. Presentation Plate which is awarded for service on the Board or for service to their colleagues.

They're angling for success

By Roy Rout

FOR the first time the Essex Police Angling Team were able to celebrate winning the S.E. Police Fishing League when winning the fifth and final match of the series where Sussex pushed for the top spot right to the end.

The season got under way at Mucking with the home side finishing second on the day to Sussex, good results from Phil Parker, Mick Pennock and Mick Dole meant only a slight deficit to carry to the next match on the River Rother in Sussex.

Here the tables were turned on the hosts with fine performances from Bob Neale, Mick Dole, Roy Rout, Bob Meade and Dave Ruff to put Essex in front in the league.

On to Appledore in Kent for the third match, won easily by the home county but with Essex finishing third to Sussex by just one point a slender lead was still maintained, Barry Johnstone and Tab Hunter being the Essex successes of the day.

Fine results by Bob Neale and Mick Newstead on the River Lea at Broxbourne

helped Essex to draw with Sussex for the first place on the City of London's home water. This resulted in Essex being just four points ahead of Sussex before the match in Surrey started.

With the wind blowing a gale on a very fast running water it was obviously not going to be a day for heavy weights of fish, but with Essex men pegged next to their Sussex opposition on the day everyone knew what had to be done.

The result although close eventually went the way of Essex with Kevin Taylor, Roy Rout, Bob Neale, Bob Meade, Tab Hunter and Dave Delamain getting the all-important results.

Consistency over the season was the winning factor for the county with Neale, Rout, Hunter and Newstead all finishing in the top ten over the five-match period but with excellent backing from the rest of the team the long-awaited success was achieved.

Final league table: Essex 180 points, Sussex 191, Surrey 306, Kent 373, City of London 552.

CHELMSFORD TOPS AT TABLE TENNIS

THE final of the Croker Cup Table Tennis took place recently at Chelmsford Police Station. For the sixth successive year this was contested between Chelmsford and Grays.

The Grays team were Dave Hills, Bob Thurston, Tony Newell, Clive Harding and Julie Allen. Unfortunately for Grays their top player, Ken Dodd, was injured.

Chelmsford had an exceptionally strong team in Dave Birkett, Chris Jacob, Peter Layzell, John Barcham and Ann Williams. Both Dave Birkett and Chris Jacob represented the British Police recently against the RAF (who had flown their players in from Canada and Germany to represent them).

Ann Williams was not due to play, but owing to a family bereavement to Chelmsford's original lady player a plea was made to the duty sergeant to allow Ann to play, instead of patrolling the streets.

Julian Dawson, the Duty Sgt, was kind enough to allow her time off at short notice. (He obviously thought about all the time he had off for his football matches or was it the fact that an interested spectator in the Sports Hall was Chief Supt Harris!!).

Anyway back to table tennis which was won by

Chelmsford 14-0 to retain the Cup. The Cup and trophies were presented to the teams by Chief Supt Harris, who then showed

Ladies' Singles, Men's and Ladies' Doubles, Mixed Doubles and Veteran Singles. These events will be taking place at South-



Chief Superintendent George Harris presents the Chelmsford Captain, Chris Jacob, with the winner's trophy.

Dave Birkett how table tennis should be played. In fact I was quite impressed with the way he played.

Several Divisions within the Force have table tennis teams playing in local leagues, yet when it comes to the Force Table Tennis Championships we have been getting a very poor turnout.

This season we have introduced a new event, a consolation singles which will be an event for all first-round losers. The other events are Men's and

end Police Station end of January beginning of February time. As soon as a date is fixed I will let you know.

Let us try and get a good entry this season. All persons interested in playing please contact Chris Jacob at East Hanningfield Police Station (Chelmsford 400222).

By
Chris Jacob

FOOTBALL FOCUS

BOTH Force football teams ended 1984 in tremendous spirit and are now looking forward to a very successful New Year. Conditions have been bad in recent weeks but our teams have played where others wouldn't and the results have been very rewarding. A lot must be said for the HQ Groundsman, Ray Dev-

enish, who has maintained our pitch in superb condition.

The first team are two points behind Rayleigh Town at the top of the First Division, but have two games in hand. A surprise defeat at the hands of Takeley in the League Cup just seemed to serve as a boost in the League. A notable win away

to Herongate emphasised the fighting spirit of the team and more recently an extra time win over Carribean in the Intermediate Cup showed that even when not at our best we are hard to beat.

The second team have still not been beaten in a Cup game. They are not in the area semi-final of the Junior Cup. A position achieved with an excellent 2-0 win, away to Great Waltham. In the League things have started to change. Two decisive wins over opposition above us in the League has left us in a healthy mid table position with at least 4 games in hand over most teams. The second team is playing far

By
John Weatherly

more consistently now and there is keen competition for places. Mention must be made of Martin Oakley's hat-trick in the 3-0 win over Mountnessing. He's been threatening it for some time.

A feature of the past few weeks has been the interchange of players between the two teams, caused by injuries and absentees. Everybody is very much enjoying their football at the moment, whether it is actually playing or turning out in support.

Finally I should point out that the Club took the first step in the right direction in the PAA Cup when we beat old rivals Beds and Luton 3-1. Will we go all the way this year? We've never had a better chance. Come and see for yourself.

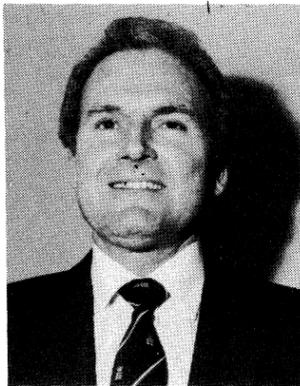
George Sage retires! New Sports Sec.

FORCE Sports Secretary for the past six years, Constable George Sage has left the Essex Police after almost 27 years. Most of his service was in the Southend area, but he

nearly six years, and is keen to promote the interests of the Essex Police in all sporting activities.

All you budding athletes can contact John at Grays on extension 294. He will be very pleased to hear from anyone on the sporting scene.

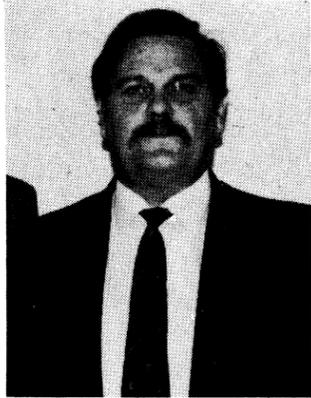
Everyone thanks



John Barrett

is well known throughout the county.

The new Force Sports Secretary is Constable John Barrett of Grays Division. John has been involved in the Grays Police Sports Club for



George Sage

George Sage for all he did and wishes him every happiness in the future.

Rugby round-up

OUR activities are still being severely restricted by the current industrial unrest and our only fixtures at the moment are involved with the PAA Competition.

We had a very successful trip to Thames Valley recently in competition and managed to avenge a trouncing we received last year. We beat them 6-3, a converted try to a penalty, and were on top for the whole game. Our forwards were able to

By
Mick Hall

win and control superb balls which allowed our backs to run and we were unfortunate not to score more points. Spirited defence in the second half allowed us to keep Valley at bay and Essex Police proved that we can play good rugby when we have to.

Our reward for this victory is a third-round fixture at home against Kent. This was due to be played on January 16, but had to be cancelled because of the weather. The game has been rescheduled

for February 6, and we do need your support. This is the furthest we have ever been in the competition and the National Semi-Finals beckon. In view of the fact that we have played only two games this season we are doing very well indeed, imagine our potential when we finally begin our regular season.

Approaches are being made to get us involved in the Essex floodlight league next season which should give us much better opposition in the future. The club is definitely on the up and up!

We are at the moment approaching fever pitch over the forthcoming tour. A party of 40 are due to leave Police Headquarters for Paris on Thursday, February 14. A list of helpful French phrases has been produced, along with a comprehensive survival kit. The "SOCK" is to be held by PC Brian Jeapes, and although a Judge has not yet been chosen several suitable candidates are being considered. The printable accounts of the tour will be published on our return.

Please remember that we need support for the Kent fixture (weather permitting). Kick-off 2.30pm, Wednesday, February 6, at Police Headquarters.

The Law

H.Q. phone extensions

374 and 375

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Copy in by Feb 15