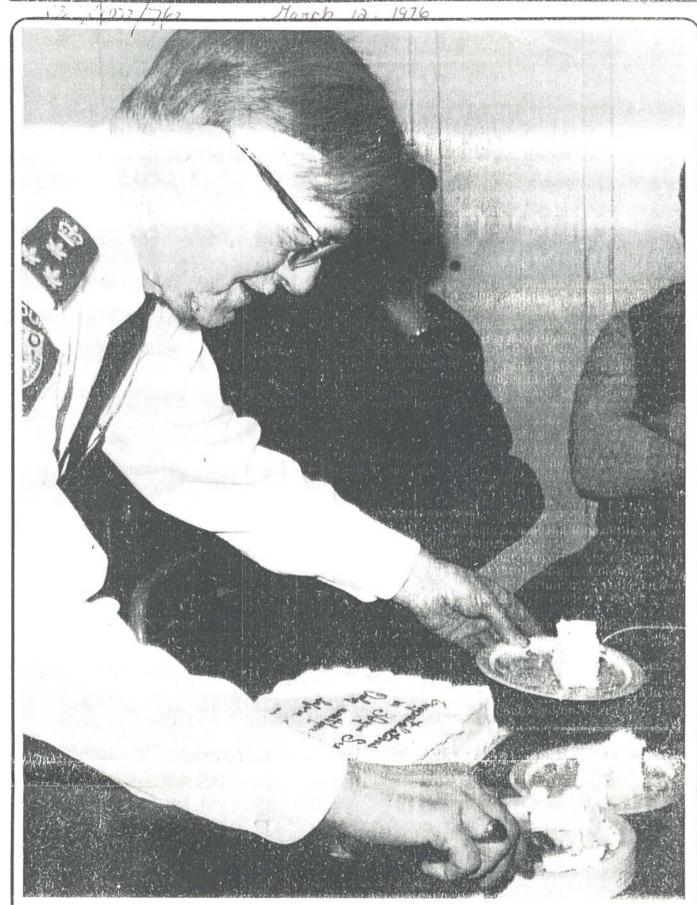
A Cobourg - Police



 $30~\rm YEARS~\rm LEFT~TO~GO~$ Cobourg Police Chief Gene Butler was honored by his force this Wednesday for $30~\rm years'$ of dedicated service.

Thirty years ago Gene emptied metres

In 1946, when Gene Butler joined the Cobourg Police Force, they needed a man to collect money from the parking metres.

That was all right with the young Cobourg man, though. He wasn't becoming a cop for the adventure of it — not in those days.

The job paid \$1300 a year -- about \$110 a month starting salary with a guaranteed raise of \$25 a year.

The same job is worth \$10,000 a year today, but more astronomical things than that have changed.

For example, thirty years ago, when two emergency calls came in in one week, that was a very busy week

And to answer those calls, the five constables would jump on their bicycles and pedal to the scene.

Police cruisers did not arrive in Cobourg until 1948. Gene Butler will never forget that first car.

The fact is, there are a lot of things that Gene Butler is reminiscing about lately that he will never forget. Thirty years is a long time, he admits, but it's funny, it doesn't feel like a long time.

Wednesday afternoon, to wish their chief another 30 years, the 18 men and five women of the Cobourg Police Department, celebrated his passing of three decades of service.

Gene Butler has stood as their chief for five years. He sifts through memories which include his own ups and downs and those of his men. It makes him feel a little old and a little weary. Probably, some of the past is even better left unturned.

"I never wanted to quit in 30 years, and I still don't. But it was much easier being a constable 30 years ago.

In 1945, Cobourg was a town of about 6,000 people, But according to Chief Butler, the biggest changes in Cobourg don't result from a doubling population. Society is responsible. Worldwide attitudes are responsible. People have changed," he says.

"When the kid next door stole a length of lawn hose in those days, the neighbor took care of it. Today you call the police. We had problems 30 years ago, but they were handled by the people concerned. They weren't police problems

The dramatic difference came in 1966 and 1967," says the chief.

"We were completely unprepared when the drug culture descended upon us. We had to adapt to it, to learn about it. But it has caused an awful lot of difficulties in law enforcement."

Ten years later, Chief Butler says serious crimes are still being committed by people under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Drinking has increased since the lowering of the drinking age – it is not getting better.

"No, it hasn't made me staunch, seeing all this. We're dealing with the worst of society, and yeah, it gets to you. But it hasn't made me staunch."

What concerns him as much as anything about Cobourg's increasing crime rate, is the lack of respect for property he says he

sees in young people.

"It's the kid who will walk down the street and punch an aerial off a car that worries me.

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HE WAS SPEECHLESS, HE REALLY WAS Chief Gene Butler acted as embarrased as he looked, at the fuss his department made over his 30 years of service.

TAKING A BETTER LOOK Constables look over they presented to the chief this Werines lay.

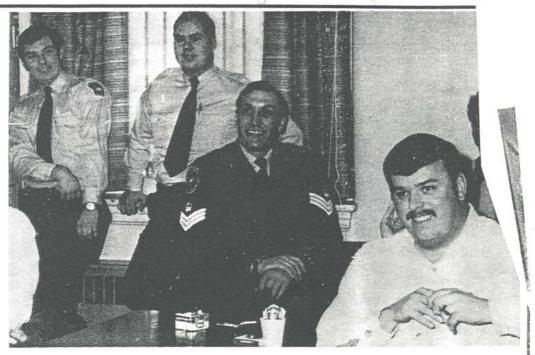
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department, have evolved. "Black was black and

"Black was black and white was white when I was out there on the beat. The law said you couldn't drink until 21, and when a father was caught serving liquor to his 17-year-old son in the home, that was against the law.

"It has to be that way for a constable. There is no other way. But I'll tell you, I see sides of it today I never saw when I was on the beat. Like the shoplifter, before he was just a thief. Today, I see motives.

It makes it harder."



WE'VE BEEN THROUGH IT TOGETHER Staff Sergeant Homer Seale watches with satisfaction as his long-time colleague and friend, Gene Butler is honored.



e gold pocket watch which

HE WAS SHY, SHE WAS PROUD. Chief Butler and his wife, Mavis, accept roses and a gold engraved watch from the force.