



A POLICEMAN'S LOT IS not a happy one all the time. Cons. Gary George spends much of his time doing paperwork involved in the job.

Police do more paperwork than pistolwork in real life duty

Police work in real life is not often like police work on television. Live constables spend most of their time driving, or doing paperwork.

The Free Press went on an afternoon shift with Constable Gary George of the Acton division of the Halton Regional police to find out what a policeman really does.

He explained that his zone extended from Terra Cotta to Eden Mills and south to 15 sideroad excluding Acton. Most of his shift is spent driving back roads in this area, checking out common drinking spots and keeping his eyes moving, to avoid the tunnel vision brought on by long hours of driving.

A police car will usually travel between 60 and 120 miles in a day, according to Constable George. Most of this travel is done over back roads, and cars take a brutal pounding. The department is getting new cars next month to replace the present ones.

Meet people
Advertisements for the

army and navy used to say "join up and meet people". The same can be said for the police.

Driving around the country can be quite interesting, according to Constable George. He sees places where he would like to build a home, and is familiar with all the scenery in the area. He also gets to meet people in his zone when he makes calls.

Working the rural zone has its drawbacks, however. Constable George says "one of the first things you look for on this route is dogs".

Nothing too exciting happens on day shift" says Constable George. "One main part of the job is answering people's questions, giving them directions."

In the afternoon's driving, Constable George dealt with only two occurrences. The first involved a dog which someone had reported to the Humane Society for alleged mistreatment, an accusation which proved false.

It looked as if nothing would happen at all on the shift until a call came over the radio announcing an accident: a truck had knocked over a hydro pole and the driver, while uninjured, was trapped inside by the fallen wires.

Even this turned out to be far less exciting than one would imagine. Constable George notified Ontario Hydro of the accident, and then settled down to make his measurements for the accident report he has to fill out.

Reports
All the day's activities have to be written up in the notebook which a patrolman carries, and then transferred to the proper report form.

"Liquor seizures are particularly bad," says Constable George. There are six different forms to be filled out when a constable makes a seizure. "It's not uncommon for you to be doing two hours of paperwork after the man you picked up has gone home."

Constables carry a briefcase with them at all times to take care of their paperwork.

Police buy shoes, shirts

Halton Police Commission awarded Maher Shoes Ltd. and Star Shirts Ltd. contracts for footwear and clothing last week.

Samples of cloth and details of pricing will be examined before an award is made.

Police lay five charges

Police charged four people with liquor related offences and one in connection with narcotics here within the last week.

Police in north solve crimes faster than region

The degree of crime solving by police officers in North Halton is greater than the rate for the region in April and for the previous three months, according to police statistics.

North Halton, consisting of urban Milton, Nassagawaya, Georgetown, Esquesing and Acton, cleared offences at a rate of 56 per cent in April, compared with 41 per cent for the entire region during the same month.

The region includes the north plus Oakville and Burlington.

Over the entire region some 7,049 complaints have been

lodged since January. About 45 per cent have been cleared from police books for the region. Over the same period some 52 per cent of the crimes have been solved in north Halton.

Common assaults occurred 17 times during last month in north Halton. All the complaints have been cleared, according to Halton Regional Police Superintendent Floyd Schwantz.

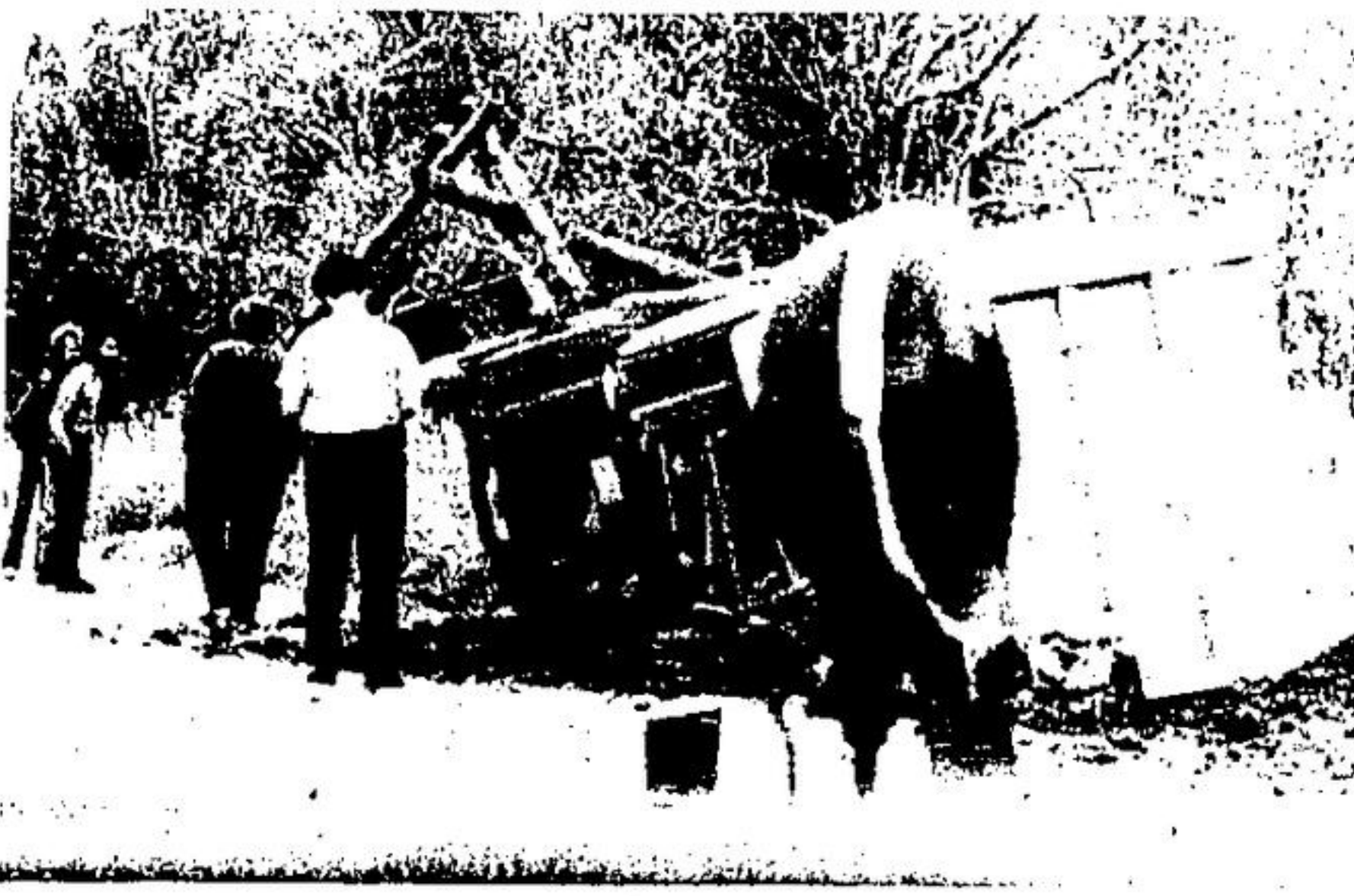
Eighty-six per cent of the 52 assaults across the region have been cleared up, according to police records.

In north Halton there were 67 thefts of a value under \$200,

and 28 per cent were cleared up. There were 400 more such thefts in the rest of the region, but the clearance rate drops to 16.48 per cent.

North Halton police batting average for solving frauds in April, mainly involving cheques, was 75 per cent of the 20 cases. Regional average is 69.23 per cent of the 39 cases.

Superintendent Schwantz reports 100 per cent clearance of the 15 drug related offences for April. The average for the region is also high, 98 per cent of the 50 charges were cleared off the books with charges.



AT THE SCENE OF AN accident, Constable George takes measurements for the accident report he will have to fill out after his shift is over.

THE DRIVER, JOHN GATT, of Guelph, received minor injuries when his car skidded of Highway 7 and rolled over just west of Highway 25 Monday at 5.10 p.m. Milton OPP estimate damages at \$1,800. Police also say there was no damage to another car involved in the mishap. It was driven by Terry Waterhouse, 82 Guelph Street, Acton.

H.R.P. add radio room to headquarters

The communications section of Halton's regional police force is getting extra elbow room, starting this week.

Construction of an approximately 1,100 square foot addition to police headquarters is strictly for communications, Halton Regional Police chief Ken Skerrett said Monday. P. D. Bowslaugh Ltd., of Brampton is slated to start this week on

the \$77,600 addition.

The communications room is currently lodged on the main floor of the headquarters building on White Oaks Boulevard, Oakville.

Construction is to be finished by July, Chief Skerrett said. Four tenders for the job, the highest matching the department's budget for the project at \$85,000.

In another communications related matter, police commission decided last Thursday to ask A.D.T. Alarm Systems to remove its control panel from the headquarters' communications room by July. A.D.T. will also be asked to make some other arrangements for the location of the panel.

Chief Skerrett agreed with Judge William Hourigan there would be no interruption of service with the alarm system.

In a memo to the police commission, Chief Skerrett stated most police forces in Ontario have removed burglar alarms from police offices. He recommended the same for the regional police force, with the exception of alarms connecting the communications centre to Canadian Armed Forces arsenals at Georgetown and Oakville.

Such panels tie together alarm systems from banks, companies and private homes.

Police ask questions on court location

Halton Regional Police Commission is asking Queen's Park for clarification of planned changes in the location of courts in the region.

William Hourigan, chairman of the commission, said he would write the solicitor-general about the future of courts here. The decision to request information came at the commission's regular meeting last Thursday at

Oakville.

In a general discussion between commission members they expressed concern that courts would be built in the north and the south of the region, without regard to the lack of public transportation.

It was also said that a court built between Oakville and Burlington may cause contract problems.

Kentners get booth

With more staff, vending machines and some re-organization, Kentner Catering will once again man the food concession booth at Terra Cotta Conservation Area this season.

For the third year in a row the Georgetown catering firm operated by Dave and Jerri Kentner will provide swimmers with hotdogs, hamburgers and other goodies.

At a recent Credit Valley Conservation Authority executive meeting, the renewal of Kentners' lease was discussed and passed.

The concession booth will be open from May 20. During May and June food will be available Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and when the

pool is open with minimum operating hours from noon to 5 p.m. daily and maximum operating hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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