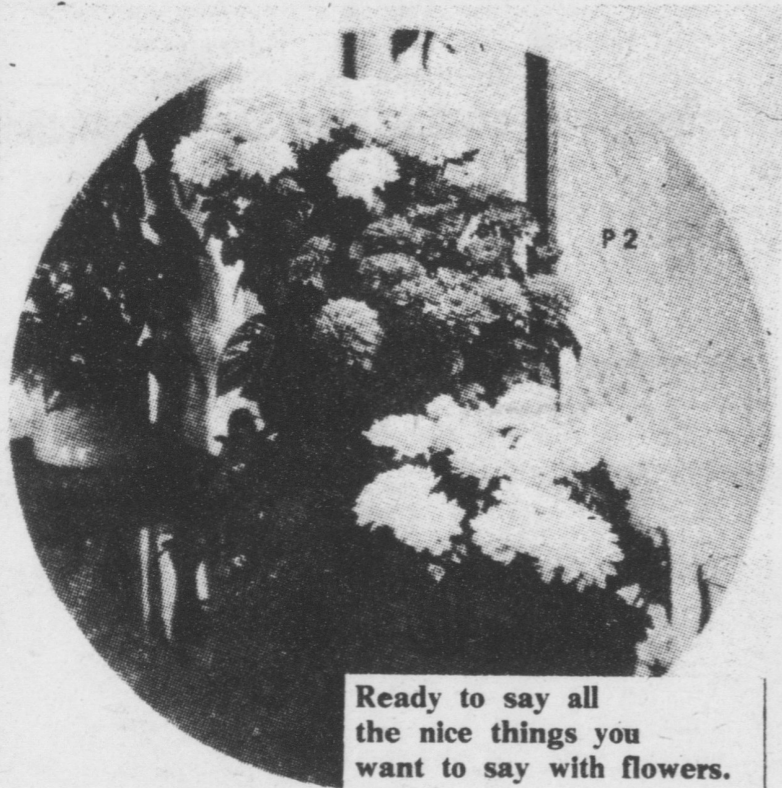


Fall Chrysanthemums

are now in bloom



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RUHL'S FLOWERS

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...text of police statement (continued)

[continued from page 2] ammunition. We should have target practice at least twice a year.

We need 100 feet steel tape measures - one for each cruiser. These are needed for accident investigations, etc.

We have been "bumming" fuses from other departments for a long time in order to keep up the supply in the cruisers. They are very necessary at times.

We need stationary with proper address, zip code, phone number, etc. which our old stationary did not have. We need a supply of notebooks, statement pads, etc. We have been "bumming" various police forms from other departments. Some forms are required by the District Attorney's office, Probation and Parole Office and District Magistrate's offices. We should have our own.

We should have an electronic siren, outside speaker, etc. on the old cruiser to replace the inefficient old ambulance siren.

We do not feel that each of the officers should be burdened with the expense of dry cleaning the township uniforms. We do not wear the uniforms except for Township duty and we try to look neat. They frequently become rain-soaked, muddy or otherwise soiled even after they have just been cleaned.

Past history of almost hostile attitude of some township supervisors toward the township police officers.

Some Township Supervisors have been known to criticize and even condemn the actions of police officers when the action taken was perfectly legal and completely proper. This has occurred when the Supervisor was given an inaccurate or false description of an incident by an individual. On some occasions when the supervisor was approached, he had immediately agreed with the individual that the officer in question acted improperly. The officer was never given an opportunity to present his version and the facts of the incident. The individuals involved in some of these situations have been known to spread the word that even a Township Supervisor made the statement that the officer was wrong.

In general, there has been a lack of understanding or interest in the problems that the officers are faced with along with their needs in order to do a proper job. This lack of understanding and cooperation has existed for several years and has become very

difficult for the officers to deal with.

What is to be the future for the East Donegal Township Police Department?

If the present police officers can no longer tolerate working under the conditions they have had for a long period of time and the Township Supervisors are not willing to help correct some of the problems, it would appear that the officers will then have no choice but to consider resignation. The Township would then have no police force.

If the police officers of East Donegal Township are forced to resign, the Township would have to rely on police protection by the State Police. The average response time for State Police patrols in our area is approximately 40 to 45 minutes. The State Police were unable to respond for three hours on at least on

occasion that we know of. The State Police will not answer all domestic complaints plus numerous other types of complaints as it is simply impossible for them to pick up stray dogs due to the overload of more serious matters in their patrol areas. Each State Police patrol area covers a number of Townships and Boroughs in each part of the county. Although the State Police do the best they can, they still have a limited number of men to cover the entire county.

The East Donegal Township residents would not put up with this sort of police protection on an everyday basis and especially on week-ends, holidays, Halloween or any other time when police activity is normally increased. Certainly no one could blame the State Police if a Township resident needed a police officer and it was impossible for them to answer the call.

To hire new untrained men would involve considerable expense for the 480 hours of police training which is now required by Pennsylvania Law. Untrained police officers can create serious problems of all sorts. Without proper supervision and training, they almost always do.

To hire trained officers from other departments would undoubtedly result in increased costs as they would probably demand a lot more than we have ever requested in the past. Many other Townships and Boroughs have experienced this situation. They either keep changing men or they meet the demands in order to have a police department.

The Township taxpayers are always going to demand police protection. East Donegal Township presently has a police department. Do the Township Supervisors want to keep their police department or drive the men out?



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