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# SUSQUEHANNA BULLETIN

Susquehanna Times & The Mount Joy Bulletin  
MARIETTA & MOUNT JOY, PA.

Vol. 75 No. 10 - March 12, 1975

Ten Cents

## While we sleep, our policemen are vigilant

There are so many things we take for granted in our community. While we sleep peacefully through the night, a few of our neighbors are awake and watchful, protecting us.

Only occasionally, when suffering from insomnia perhaps, we may gaze out a window into the dark night and see a lone police patrol car cruise slowly, vigilantly by.

Or, worse, we may be wakened by a sound, an unusual creaking, a snap, a dog barking. We sit suddenly up in bed, put on a robe and slippers, and, heart beating a little fast, go to

investigate what disturbed our sleep.

Then we may wonder, where are the police?

But most of the time we have a good night's rest. We are unconscious. And we

are unconscious of the police who are always on the alert.

We usually only become conscious of the police when we break a law by hoping they won't come by while we are parked by an un-

plugged meter or when we go through a stop sign without stopping on a back road.

If they do come by and do their duty by arresting us, we finally become conscious of them. And we don't like them.

## For today's policeman no one above the law

Being a police officer in a small town has its advantages and also its disadvantages, Chief James Millar of Marietta points out.

In a small town the policeman knows most of the citizens. If someone violates the law the police officer knows who he is dealing with and how to deal with him. He also knows the character of the violator and how likely he or she will be to commit a similar violation in the future.

But knowing people well can also interfere with law enforcement. If everyone is equal before the law and if the law is to be enforced impartially, regardless of who the violator is, then knowing the violator well can be a painful situation, both for the policeman and for the person he is arresting.

Chief Millar says, "I will not do anything to stain my badge. To treat people differently because of social standing would be for me a stain to my badge."

Chief James Millar is a firm believer in the democratic equality of all people before the law. Moreover, he believes that the new generation coming along also believes strongly in the democratic equality of all people. Younger people abhor partiality in enforcing the law, for example, arresting the poor and letting the rich get away with something. Watergate has strengthened their belief.

Older people are not as aware as younger people of the need for equality in law enforcement. Policing is

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J. Bruce Kline

## A policeman today has to know a lot

J. Bruce Kline, Chief of Police in Mount Joy, stresses how much more complex the job of policeman has become since he first became a law enforcement officer 18 years ago.

Supreme Court decisions to protect the rights of the accused have made the work of police much more difficult. Arresting a person is no longer simply knowing that a crime has been committed by a certain person. In convicting a person of speeding through town, some 60 conditions must be taken into account: for example, the distance between the speeding car and the police car that is clocking the speeder, what the speeder said to the policeman when stopped, etc., etc.

In a split second an arresting policeman has to make all sorts of correct

legal decisions before he acts. These instant decisions will be tested by a highly trained and skilled defense lawyer who has, not a second, but a month or more in which to prove that the policeman was wrong in making the arrest.

Police work today is a profession that requires legal, technical, medical, and interpersonal skills of a high order.

Scientific know-how is required. Recently, the Mount Joy Police acquired some crime scene equipment. They can take fingerprints now at the scene of a crime, take flash photographs, and make plaster casts of tire treads and footprints.

They can analyze drugs and administer their own breathalyzer test for intoxication.

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## It takes a lot of cool to be a police officer

If a television producer would ever plan a weekly show based on the professional life of George R. Shirk, Chief of Police of East Donegal Township - the show ought to be called "Mister Cool."

Making out a speeding ticket for a resident who knows him, Chief Shirk is asked, "You mean you're going to arrest me?"

When "Shirkie" or "Dick" as he is variously called nods and continues writing out the ticket his acquaintance calls him a filthy name, and speeds away.

Chief Shirk gets in his cruiser, follows the outraged speeder to a stop sign, gets out of his cruiser again, and hands the speeder the

ticket. The speeder tears up the ticket, dropping the pieces on the highway. "Now," says "Shirkie," not raising his voice, "I'll have to charge you with littering, too."

Imperturbability is one of Chief Shirk's main qualities. If he is wakened at 3 a.m. to stop a fight between a husband and wife, his calm but impressive uniformed and armed presence in the doorway is usually sufficient to soothe the embattled and usually drunken husband.

"Next day," says Chief Shirk, shaking his head in bewilderment, "they're back together again."

His job is, of course, to enforce the law, but he does

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James Millar



George R. Shirk