

FORTUNATELY THE ONLY ONE?**APPARENTLY NOT!**

From Derek George, Orpington, Kent

Dear Chris

Regarding the article in No.14 issue of 'The Peeler' and PHS Journal No 25 Headed 'Fortunately the only one?' About 1970 I was Duty Officer at Croydon Police Station' and took a charge of murder against a P.C. I can't remember his name, but I know he was stationed at Wallington Police Station. I think the arresting officer was Det. Supt. HENDERSON of the Murder Squad. The P.C. had killed his wife, a nurse and subsequently pleaded guilty to manslaughter. He had apparently buried her body in a field and although he tried to show the arresting officer where this was, as far as I know her body was never found.

I hope that this memory is of interest to you.

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And another report

Re the short item by Derek George on page 11 of Peeler No. 15 2012 and PHS Journal No 25.

I was an Inspector at Wallington during the 1960s. The P C who murdered his wife came to my notice because he was rather odd, lie did not mix or socialise with the other officers. He always seemed to be sitting alone during meal breaks and never spoke unless spoken to. He had a thing' about car revenue licences, Hardly a shift went by without him handing in a process book for an offence of no revenue licence; Often more than one. In those days it was thought a car had to be driven on a road before it committed an offence of no revenue licence. He would wait hours to catch a driver moving a vehicle without a current tax disc, even used his own time off duty, if necessary. He did not show interest in any other Police work, but his mania to look at every revenue licence often turned up offences of forgery, altered.or stolen licences and led to the discovery of a ringed stolen car on one occasion.

In the area of Woodmansterne on Wallington section there were a number of small holdings set up by a charity for ex-servicemen after WWI. They were usually one man concerns raising goats,pigs, chickens and the like. Many of them had a Heath Robinson type of vehicle to carry swill etc. to different parts of the holding. They were amateurish and dodgy constructions and although driven by an old vehicle petrol engine they were not registered as a motor vehicle or taxed. They were frequently used on the public roads locally. The PC knew all the rules and regulations about 'off road' vehicles requirements for tax, and often kept observation and personal records to report them for tax evasion. The station officers did not like taking his reports because they were complicated and sometimes needed long reports to the Revenue authorities. He also caused bother by not being on his beat but off somewhere trying to catch an offender. He started to come to me with some of his cases as I did not discourage him.

When I heard later he had murdered his wife I was surprised as he did not seem the sort tor violence, I never saw him lose his temper or get annoyed.

The story I heard about the murder was that his mother in law reported her daughter missing. When questioned the P C said she had run off with another man, but eventually admitted killing her during a quarrel. I don't think it was found out how. He had driven around with the body one night and left it in one of the trenches opened up for the natural gas pipeline which was being laid everywhere. As it was in a strange area to him he claimed not to know exactly where.

The cause of the quarrel was never known by me, hut I guessed it was because she had not taxed the family car!

Unknown Author

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