

PROTECTION DIVISION CHIEF RETIRES

THE 37 year police career of one of the best known officers in the AFP was drawing to a close as this edition of *Platypus* went to press.

Detective Superintendent (OIC Protection Division) Bob Pight joined the job as a cadet with the South Australian Police in June, 1951. He came to Canberra in June, 1959 to join the ACT Police — and he's been in the national capital ever since.

"There were only 47,000 people in Canberra when I came here in 1959," he said, "but where there are people there are always problems and there was always enough to keep us busy."

Bob remembers his days in general duties in close contact with the public as some of his most rewarding.

"I also look back with satisfaction at my time in the CIB in the early 1960's," he said. "I can recall as a young detective helping investigate a murder in Canberra when one of the top New South Wales Police detectives, Ray Kelly, was brought in to help us. I certainly learnt a lot from him."



Bob went on to become the Commander of the ACT CIB in 1981-83.

"Drug-related crime was on the increase then and the drug influence certainly started to affect the type of crime we were seeing," he said.

Bob's current job hasn't exactly been a time of idleness in the Bicentennial year. "It's been a hectic time for the Protection Division and the troops have been flat out looking after the large number of visitors. It's certainly been our busiest time since I came here in March, 1987," he said.

Looking back on his police career,

Bob says it's complete except for one minor detail: "I've done the lot except drive a motor-cycle and that's despite having been a Commander in the Traffic Branch and 2IC Traffic in the ACT Police days!"

And what will he do in his retirement?

"As little as possible!" Bob replied. "I'm going to live near Bateman's Bay on the New South Wales South Coast where I'm building a house. I'd like to devote some more time to thoroughbred racing in which I've been interested for many years."

Bob says that overall, the AFP — and policing in general — has given him a solid and worthwhile career. "The way to achieve success in the AFP is to be dedicated. You can't be an individual; you have to be prepared to work as part of a team and part of an organisation."

"Irrespective of where an officer works that person is always a part of the overall organisation. The AFP as a whole is what counts ultimately and everybody has to pull together to make it a success."

SUNSCREEN ISSUE

The Deputy Commissioner (Administration) has approved an initial issue of Hamilton Sunscreen SPF15 for distribution to all stations to protect the skin of members working outdoors.

Leading Australian dermatologists have warned that outdoor workers face an increased risk of skin cancer. Unlike many other cancers which occur in the community, the cause of skin cancer is relatively easy to identify and again relatively easy to protect against. A tan is not enough protection against skin cancer and it is vital that members learn to protect themselves from the strong sun by using the available sunscreen.

From an occupational health and safety viewpoint, and on the advice of the Director, Medical Services, and the State police forces, the issue of sunscreen cream was supported as a

sensible protective measure.

The Signs and Symptoms of Skin Cancer

Any unusual skin condition that does not heal in four weeks. This includes: any sore, ulcer or scaly patch on the skin, or white patch on the lips, that doesn't heal; any mole that seems to grow quickly; any mole that changes shape or colour; any mole that bleeds or repeatedly itches. If you notice any of these early warning signs, ask your doctor to check it out.

Skin Damage by the Sun

Ultraviolet rays from the sun do the damage. These rays penetrate the skin and injure living cells, making them swell and the skin burn. In an effort to prevent further injury, your skin develops a tan. But the damage accumulates, tan after tan, year after

year. When you are still quite young, your skin can become old looking — dry, wrinkled and blotchy. It can also develop skin cancer. More details in Canberra can be obtained from Greg Lovell, OHS Officer, on extension 7113.

THE FUNCTION OF THE SKIN

The skin protects the inside of the body from outside dangers, such as the sun. Squamous cells are constantly being rubbed off the surface and replaced by new cells. The melanocytes produce more dark pigment (melanin) which partly protects the skin from too much sun. Many Australians, however, have fair skins which don't produce much melanin.