

TIL 646

BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1965

City's New Police HQ Now Is Officially Open

Today the corporation of the city of Belleville finally broke a pattern in the complex of its municipal organization.

The official opening of the new police headquarters on Campbell Street saw the citizens of the city accord the process of justice administration the physical dignity due a crucial civilized process.

For the new quarters house not only the public law enforcement agency but — something that perhaps has not been paid sufficient attention — the court room and law offices of the city's magistrate court.

The tradition of combining both local judicial and police functions under one roof, of late, has been called into question. However, this event is not the occasion for debating the philosophies of that higher social issue.

For years, a much more basic argument has centred around the administration of justice and the enforcement of law in this city. Today, that argument has been, to a great extent, resolved.

It involved the environment in which these twin functions were forced to practise in the public interest.

The grubby surrounding in which, for many years, the law was enforced and justice safeguarded in this city, were scarcely high tribute to a sense of public dignity.

To be fair, however, awareness of the problem became more acute as time advanced. For years, various city councils tackled the problem without success, until a stroke of latter-day fortune placed the present building at the city's disposal.

The final result now is witnessed in the new

quarters officially opened today.

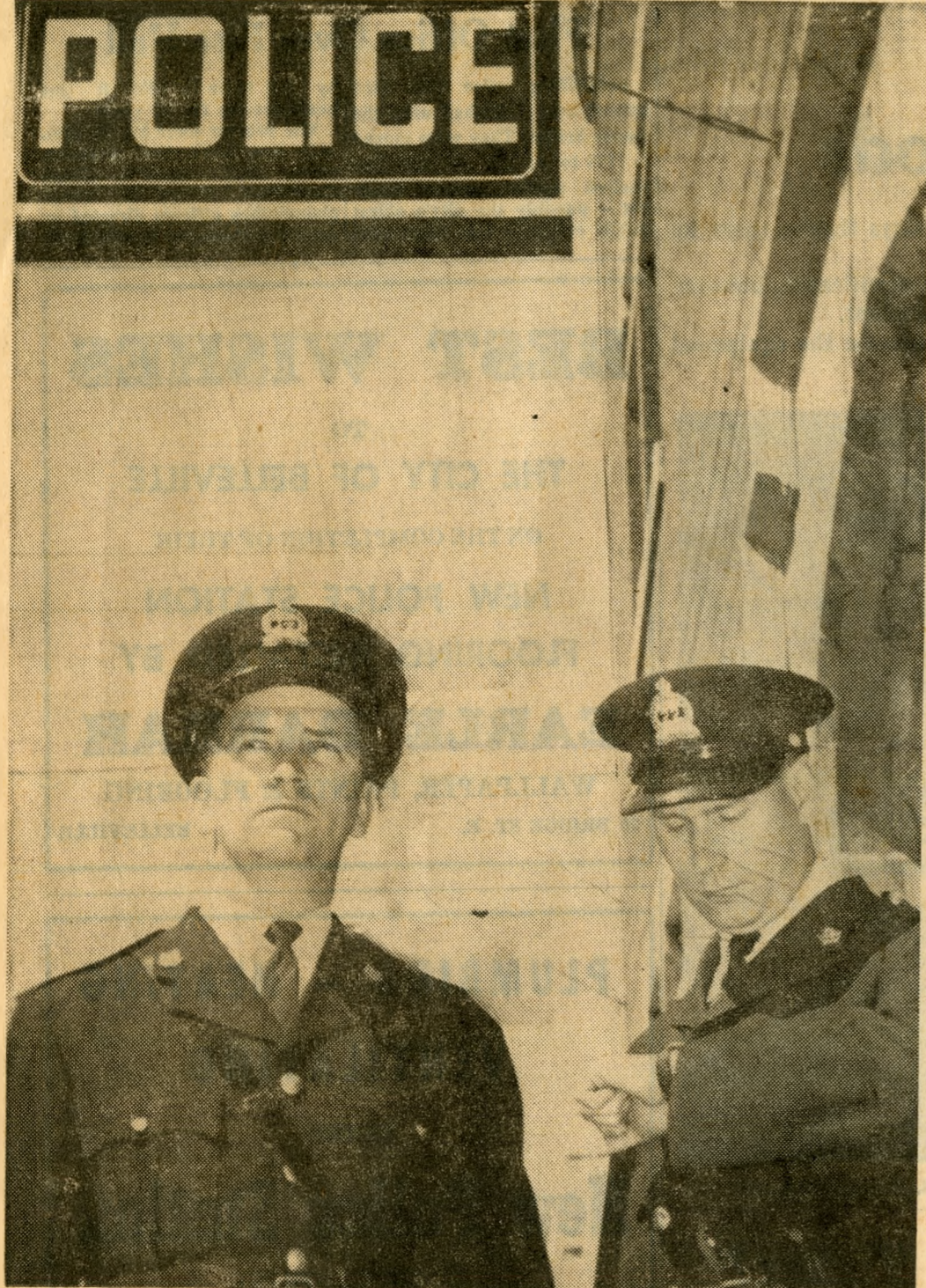
While not altogether an ideal solution, the new local police and justice quarters are at least a vast improvement over the premises of yesteryear.

The project proved a model of rehabilitation. All that could skillfully be done to furnish the building with an atmosphere of dignity and modern organization has been achieved.

Public thanks in no small measure are due to the works chairman John Deacon, police commissioners Judge J. C. Anderson and T. Y. Wills and Mayor Jack Ellis.

Not forgetting city council, whose final approval made the project a reality. Granted, that approval was given grudging by some — and with sound reason or they rightly held a new building was the ideal solution — but the overall achievement has been a satisfactory one.

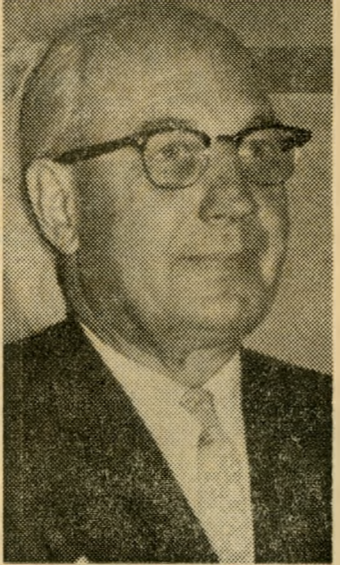
The essence of that achievement is the public acknowledgement of the necessary respect due local law, order and justice — without which no enlightened community can truly be said to flourish.



THE BEAT BEGINS from new Campbell Street headquarters for constables Charles Peters (left) and John Ashley.



Judge J. C. Anderson
commission chairman



Ald. Jack Deacon
works chairman



Mayor Ellis



T. Y. Wills
presiding magistrate

New Environment for Law, Order, Justice

Law, order and justice were projected into a new environment today in Belleville.

While housed in a more-than-50-year-old building, the city's police department and magistrate's court now will function in quarters designed to meet the social expectations of the times.

This is a plain fact which scores of citizens discovered for themselves when they toured the new law and justice administration offices on Campbell Street today.

While the exterior of the building may raise some doubts on cursory inspection, a tour through the edifice reveals an atmosphere in crackling keeping with the times.

It showed that the city of Belleville may now count among its corporative possessions the most up-to-date small-city police department in Ontario.

The contemporary effect is due to an architect's skill in rehabilitating an old interior. However, once inside, the appearance is backed up by the professional functioning of the complex.

In a main blue-white color theme, the building has been redesigned and furnished to match the needs of highly-sophisticated police work.

This is at once apparent from the roomy lobby on the ground floor, where all the significant administrative departmental branches are located.

Communication is the crucial key to the revamped organization.

Immediately off the lobby is a small communications bureau housing a radio transmitter, burglar and bank alarms and monitors, and the latest innovation in instant police contact — a telex machine.

The telex provides Belleville police with

almost-simultaneous contact with nearly 100 provincial and municipal police points in the province.

It brings not only speeded-up efficiency in modern police alerts, but also a greater degree of the secrecy sometimes vital to mutual law enforcement efforts.

A brief step up from ground floor level brings the visitor to the offices of the department's traffic and safety offices.

Several brief steps down to the basement area introduces the cell blocks and a garage with electronically-controlled doors guarding the rear of the premises.

The doors are controlled from the desk of the duty sergeant with one happier advantage. A cruiser may now quietly enter the station and its prisoners taken directly to the cells without having to parade in full public view.

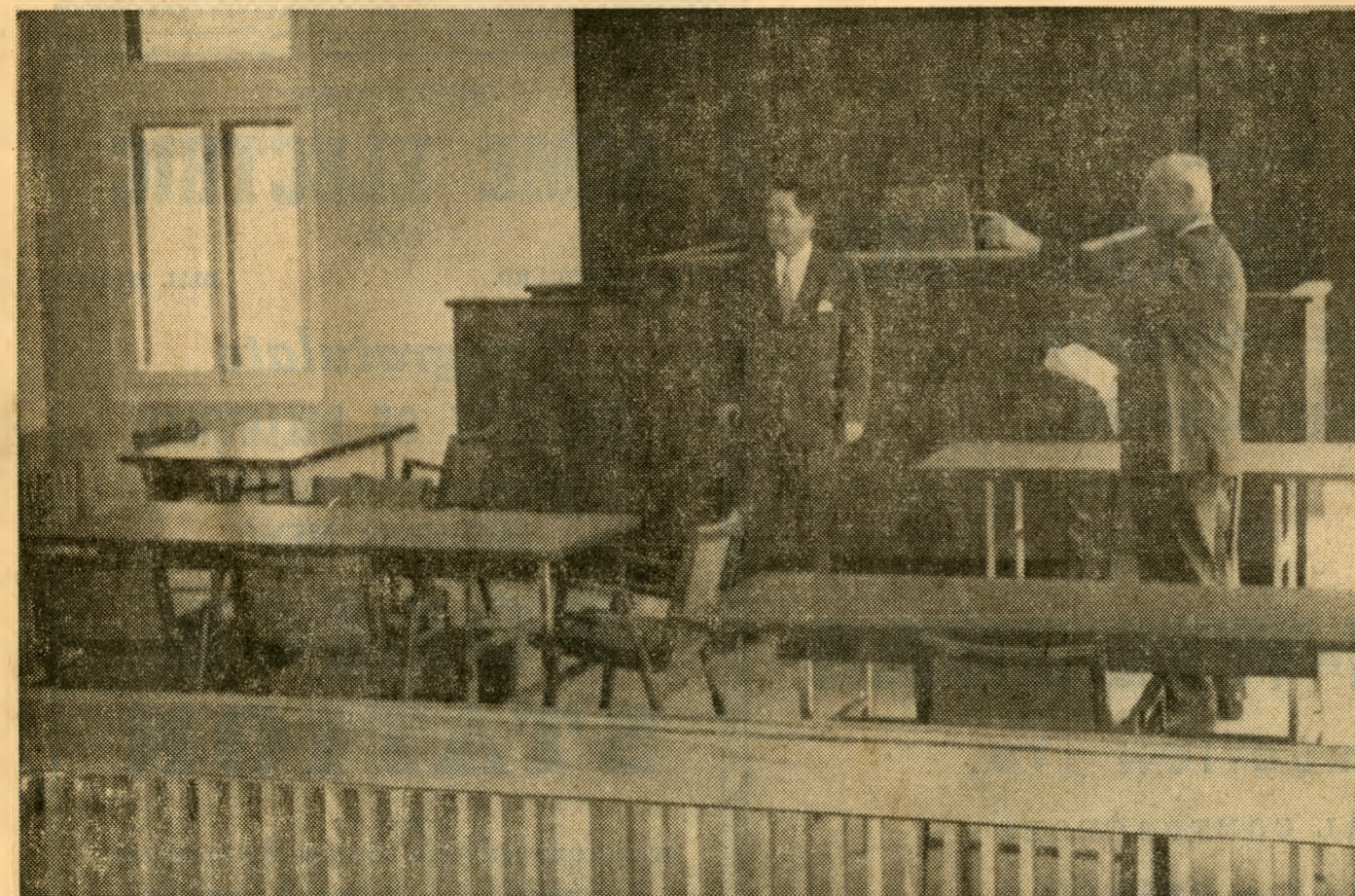
Investigation of cases and hearing of charges against them, is centred on the third floor of the building. Here are located the magistrate's court and the detective offices.

The court is a roomy area. Besides ample space for lawyers and spectators, it provides a big prisoner's dock.

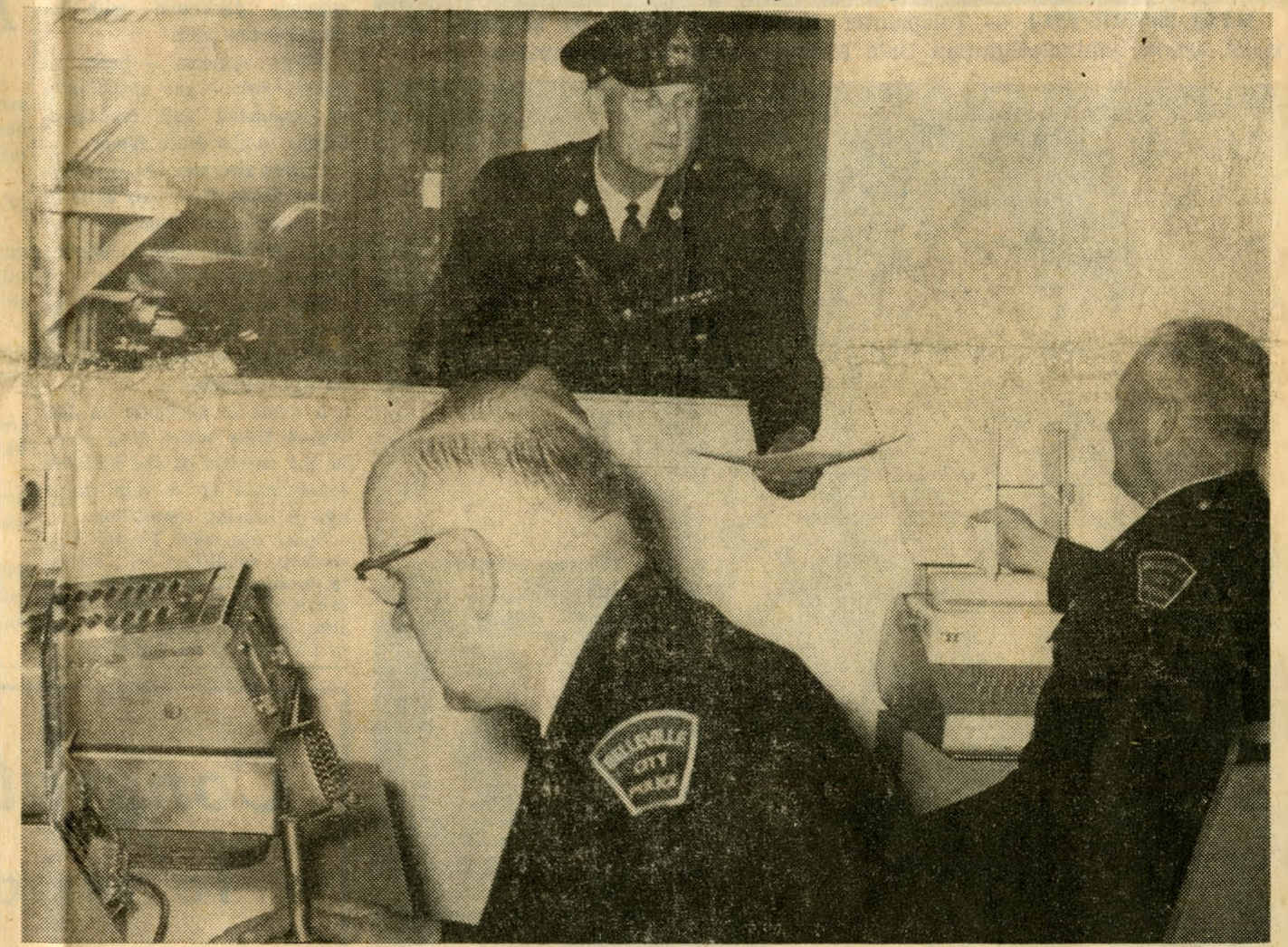
Close by are the offices of the court clerk and the justices of the peace — and the detective offices.

These also include fair-sized twin offices and darkroom for the department's identification work in photographs and fingerprints.

The new headquarters also has one more striking feature. It only has a handful of neighbors on the short city block that is Campbell Street. Five of them are defence lawyers — and the office of one legal partnership faces directly across the street from the magistrate's courtroom.



MAGISTRATE'S COURT is inspected by visitor (coroner Dr. J. R. Scott) shown around by court clerk Walter Probert.



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE sees radio (foreground sergeant D. Ellis) and teleprinter (background, sergeant Sam Cook) in operation with information being handed constable E. Minaker.



CONFERENCE ROOM sees Chief R. J. McLauchlan (centre) in session with senior officers. From left, staff inspector R. Blatchford, sergeant H. Wright, detective inspector Harold Reid, sergeant R. Milligan.

City Police Win Space Race!

At Last! There's Room for Modern Methods



WELL-EQUIPPED! — Telexprinter message is taken by sergeant Keith Wright. Below, plainclothesman Dale Ashbury dusts for fingerprints.



Opens Building



Hon. Elso Roberts, Minister Lands and Forests, native of Belleville, opened new Headquarters.

If the officer on the beat has stars in his eyes these days they're there for good reason — his force has just won a space race.

The new Campbell Street headquarters has more vital significance, however, beyond providing bright working conditions for the department.

At long, long last the force has room to install and operate the equipment and work systems crucial to modern police work.

The 41-man department headed by Chief J. B. McLauchlan is now on operational par with any city law unit in Ontario outside Metro.

Today's official opening gave some hint of it to the general public. Among the new additions most obvious were the department's new communications bureau on the ground floor and the dark room and identification offices of the detective unit.

Pride of the new communications set up is a telex machine providing hookups with most police points across Ontario.

The system is as simple as it is speedy. Messages may be transmitted immediately after dialing each police department's telex code. For general alerts the message is simply flashed to Toronto where it is transferred to tape then transmitted simultaneously around the province.

The identification bureau is indispensable to modern police work, incorporating photography, fingerprinting and the cataloguing of clues in general. The Campbell Street headquarters counts a full-equipped spacious darkroom with its identification unit.

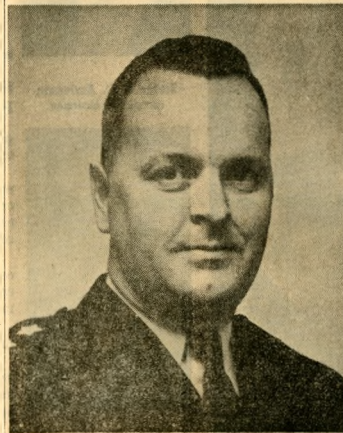
Filing systems — basic to police work — can now finally be expanded and revamped thanks to the space factor.

Offices also now are available to the heads of various units in the department. Even the duty sergeant now has a private office off the public lobby.

The men can also keep in training — in physical trimness and trigger control — without leaving the building.

A gym is available on the second floor while deep down in the reaches of the building construction of a gun range now is nearing completion.

Space has made for the best working conditions yet known to the force. Constables now are provided with a room lunch area, personal-locker and shower facilities in the basement.



CHIEF CONSTABLE J. B. McLAUHLAN

'What? --- A Ticket? For No Sleigh Bells?'

Nothing more lucidly illustrates the gradual process of social change than nuisance laws — those measures deemed necessary by contemporary society to eradicate more plaguesy manifestations.

For instance, in 1880 the town of Belleville only had two police constables — John Roach and James Wilson.

In summer they were called on to arrest anybody swimming in the Moira River between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. Such pursuits, apparently, called for daylight exposure of flesh comfortable enough to be indecent.

In winter, if you drove silently down Front Street on your sleigh there was little use telling Roach and Wilson: "Dammit men! I've got all me bells — but me clappers are frozen!"

The by-law specifically stated: "Persons driving with a sleigh are obliged to have two or more sleigh bells affixed to the harness of the horse or harnesses.

Belleville's ordinances included a by-law preventing anyone keeping "more than 25 pounds of gunpowder at any one time on his premises where fire is used."

Of course, the same by-law permitted you to play all day with your gunpowder inside town limits — providing every other building, street or highway was 200 feet away. Both constables had to ensure this — among everything else.

By the way, whatever did happen to Roach and Wilson?

Congratulations . . .

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First Office Over Fire Hall

Belleville's police were once housed over a firehall near the Upper bridge. They were moved in 1873 to the new city hall. The ancient market square building — possibly the city's oldest public edifice — was taken over by the force in 1905. It was headquarters for 60 years. The present force has 41 men, with five uniformed sergeants and staff inspector Ralph Clatford. There are seven plainclothes officers directed by detective inspector Harold Reid.

BEST WISHES

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