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TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1983

PRICE 18p

Four years jail for sex menace

Sex case policeman John Edward Bates was officially dismissed from the Lincolnshire Police Force on Friday during a disciplinary hearing.

Chief Constable Mr James Kerr heard the evidence against Bates, branded a "menace to boy scouts" by a judge after being found guilty of 13 sex offences against young boys.

A spokesman for Lincolnshire Police said: "This case would be a formality. Mr Kerr heard the evidence against Bates and would then decide how to punish. He has been dismissed from the force."

Bates (35), of 75C Pinchbeck Road, Spalding — a police constable, scoutmaster and church chorister — was sentenced to four years' imprisonment at Nottingham Crown Court on Thursday morning.

He had strenuously denied committing 11 indecent assaults and four offences of a more serious nature during the 13-year trial.



Scoutmaster John Bates at a campfire entertainment.

Bates was found guilty by a three-woman, nine-man jury of 11 indecent assaults, for which he was sentenced to three years. He was found guilty of committing a more serious offence and attempting to commit the offence, and was jailed for four years. The sentences are to run concurrently.

He was cleared of one charge of a more serious nature, and the jury could not agree on a verdict involving a similar charge. The judge, Mr Justice Park, discharged the jury from having to reach a verdict.

Eleven of the 12 jury members returned to court on Thursday to hear sentence passed on Bates, described by Det Chief Constable Ray Moyes, head of Lincolnshire CTS as a man of "hitherto unblemished character". Mr Moyes, who was ac-

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Man found shot dead, wife has serious facial injuries

Marriage ends in horror...

● By Free Press reporters

A 32-year-old mother is seriously ill with facial injuries and a fractured jaw after her marriage ended in grim tragedy.

Mrs Wendy Thompson was rushed to the Pilgrim Hospital intensive care unit after police were called to the family home in Fleet.

Officers also found her husband, self-employed car mechanic Mr Graham Arthur Thompson, with fatal shotgun wounds. He

was certified dead at the scene.

An inquest into his death was opened in Spalding yesterday afternoon when the coroner, Mr John Bowser, took evidence of identification.

He was told that Mrs Thompson's condition had worsened. She had been moved to Derby hospital and was unconscious.

Police kept a bedside vigil over Mrs Thompson who was described by a Pilgrim hospital spokesman yesterday morning as "very poorly".

A spokesman said she had suffered serious wounds but would not comment on the cause or nature of them.

The couple's two sons, Mark (14) and Julian (11), are now being looked after by relatives.

Mrs Thompson worked at Tinsley's at Holbeach St

Officers were called to the home, at 55 Branches Lane, shortly after midnight on Thursday to discover Mr Thompson dead and his badly injured wife lying nearby. A team of forensic officers

from Lincoln combed the small bungalow for over eight hours and Home Office pathologist Dr Peter Andrews, was called in to carry out a post-mortem examination on Mr Thompson.

At the scene on Friday the man leading the investigation, Detective Superintendent Colin Bailey, said: "We can only treat the situation as a suspicious death at present."

And as news of the tragedy began to sink in shocked neighbours could still hardly believe what had happened. Mr Tom Benstead, of 51 Branches Lane, told how he had suspected nothing when he heard a noise around midnight.

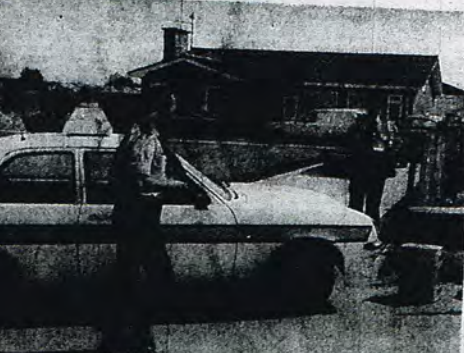
"There was some shouting and then a radio in a car. I thought it was a taxi and the noise was some of Graham's friend leaving," he said. Mr Alan Fidler, who runs a motor repair workshop near the bungalow, was a close friend of Mr Thompson.

Mr Fidler, of 7 Park Road, Holbeach, was shocked by the news that his friend of over 20 years was dead.

He said: "I was having a drink with him in the Rose and Crown at Holbeach until 10.45 that evening and he seemed all right then."

Mr Thompson had run his own car repair workshop for about six years and according to Mr Fidler "just lived for cars".

The couple's bungalow was built by Mr Thompson who is a former pupil of the Peele School at Long Sutton. His parents, Arthur and Marjorie Thompson who live at 34 Long Road, Tydd Gote, were too upset talk.



Police activity outside the Holbeach bungalow on Friday after the previous night's dramatic events.

Family's house is saved by the bell

A Swineshead family were literally "saved by the bell" when a chip pan caught fire in their home during the early hours of Sunday.

Heat from the fire melted the door bell mechanism which shorted the circuit and caused the bell to ring continuously.

This woke up Mr Eric Webster (53), and his family, of 1 Cowley Road, Swineshead, who were asleep upstairs.

They all escaped without injury but were unable to prevent two family pets, a budgerigar and canary from perishing in the smoke.

Firemen from Donington attended the blaze but were unable to prevent damage to the cooker and kitchen.

£3,000 damage to outbuilding

A quick-thinking passer-by raised the alarm after spotting a fire in an outbuilding at the Old Red Lion Antique Shop in Gedney on Sunday afternoon.

Firemen from Long Sutton were called to the scene but were unable to prevent serious damage to the building's contents. A Volvo estate car parked inside was also gutted.

The building and car belonged to Mr Paul Johnston, of the Old Red Lion in Chapelgate. The police, who are still look-

Cyclist hurt

Cyclist Michael John Emraz, of 49 Aintree Drive, Spalding, was treated for a deep cut to his hand on Friday evening after an accident with a van on Little London Bridge, Spalding.

The van driver, Mr Richard Shane Wallace, of 12 West Street, Crowland was unhurt.

£1,000 for chairlift

The recent East Elloe Lions Club Green Shield Stamp Appeal made £1,000 to boost the Holbeach Hospital Chairlift Appeal.

Mr Eric Bumfrey, public relations officer, said he would like to thank all those people who sent in books of stamps and many loose stamps.

"We hope you will all agree that this was money well spent and that this piece of equipment will prove to be of great help to the patients and staff," he added.

Fatal crash at corner

A man died yesterday (Monday) after an accident between a van and a lorry at the Five Bells corner in Gosberton.

The accident happened at 1.20 pm and traffic diversions were set up while the road was cleared.

No further details were available at the time of going to press.

Keep cool a sh 88F

Soaring temperatures put a warning on Meditternians Friday and people sought shade, and the riverbank. It was a day of the with the temperature 88 degrees Wurzel (right) had answer to ching west plete with hanky, su and ice a took a well break from a deck ch dent at the Meanwhil Joanne Al low), a ca Barclays Spalding, fc ldeal way to with a padd splash in a lo The su caused one problems f Tony Wint story below)



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