

'Jekyll and Hyde character'— claim

Pc on sex charges

Reporter: PAULINE HILL

A Spalding policeman and scoutmaster betrayed the trust put in him by indecently assaulting teenage boys, a court has heard.

John Edward Bates

Constable stops suicide bid

A Holbeach policeman talked a local man out of committing suicide during the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Pc Jim Coleman stood patiently on the bank of the River Nene at Sutton Bridge for an hour gently persuading the man not to throw himself in the river.

Finally the man, who was standing right on the water's edge, walked up the bank to the officer and back to safety.

And now Pc Coleman (42) has been praised for his efforts in helping the man.

Chief Inspector Sid Tomlinson, head of Spalding

(35) was described as a "Jekyll and Hyde" character—on the one hand he was said to be a pillar of society, on the other a man who interfered with youngsters while they were in his care.

police, said on Wednesday: "Pc Coleman did a good job in talking to the man and encouraging him to leave the river bank and seek medical treatment."

The incident happened at just after 12.30 am as the tide was ebbing.

Chief Inspector Tomlinson said: "The man was reported missing from his home and as a result we made a search of Sutton Bridge."

"We found the man on the river bank and he was threatening to throw himself in the river."

He added: "I am very pleased with the action taken by Pc Coleman."

Nottingham Crown Court heard on Tuesday how Bates declared his love for a 14-year-old boy after senior police officers were called in to investigate the allegations.

Bates, of 75c Pinchbeck Road, Spalding, appeared before the court charged with 11 offences of indecently assaulting boys aged between 12 and 15 and four of committing serious sexual offences with three boys, aged 12 and 14. He pleads not guilty to all the charges.

The Judge, the Hon Mr Justice Park, and the jury of nine men and three women heard Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, prosecuting, claim the offences were committed while Bates was a policeman, scoutmaster and later a Spalding parish church choir member.

DISTASTEFUL

"It is clearly a very distasteful case by any standards," he said. "He appears to have been a Jekyll and Hyde character—a pillar of society on the one hand, on the other abusing in a very serious way the trust which had been reposed in him through the various positions he held in the community."

Mr Fennell alleged that when the offences were brought to the attention of the police, Bates admitted indecent assault because, he said, he did not want to embarrass the boys.

He is alleged to have told Detective Chief Superintendent Ray Moyses and Detective Chief Inspector Bob Warner that he would admit indecent assault on three boys, not serious sexual offences.

He is alleged also to have told the officers: "I have lost my job and I will have to go to prison for this. I suppose the best thing I can do is consult a solicitor and take his advice."

But the court heard, when Bates was interviewed five weeks later he denied every accusation, and alleged that there had been a conspiracy against him.

It is said the offences were committed between 1975 and 1982, beginning when Bates served in the Royal Air Force.

Bates was in the RAF for 12 years, but at the time of the first allegation was stationed at RAF Wittering.

The court was told that in 1975, when Bates was running a scout troop at the RAF station, a youth joined the Bourne scouts.

The boy, who was then 13, met Bates on a camping trip and Bates demonstrated his friendship by buying the lad sweets and drinks during the outings.

The boy's parents took him to RAF Wittering and had no worries when Bates invited him to his cottage at Thornhaugh, Mr Fennell told the court.

MAGAZINES

The following morning, as the boy was cooking breakfast at the cottage; Bates is alleged to have put his arm on the boy's shoulder and touched his body.

Mr Fennell also alleged that Bates showed the youth and a friend "girlie" magazines at his cottage on another occasion, and playing cards depicting men and women in various sexual positions.

The court was told that Bates tried to touch and undress the boy, beginning his alleged advances each time by pretending to fight the boys in play.

Mr Fennell said Bates moved into a flat at 3 Gore Lane, Spalding, in January 1977 and befriended another boy after joining the St Mary and St Nicolas church choir.

The lad, who was 15 at the time, was described as "a shy and reserved person by nature."

The court heard that Bates met several other boys through his work as a policeman and scout leader, and showed some of them "blue" films and "girlie" magazines at his home.

One boy was said to have had a "mixture of admiration

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Mother (49) collapses in kitchen

A post-mortem examination has revealed that 49-year-old Mrs Joyce Eileen Williams, of Chalk Cottage, Chalk Lane, Sutton Bridge, died of natural causes.

Mrs Williams was found collapsed in her kitchen by her 13-year-old son when he arrived home from school on Monday afternoon.

She would have been 50 yesterday (Thursday).



Weather

Some rain at times, with a fair amount of dry weather and sunny intervals. Max temp 19C (66F), min 8-10C (50-46F).

£20,000 damage in garage blaze

A Spalding garage owner stood helpless—beaten back by flames and the fear of an explosion—as fire swept through his one-man business on Monday evening.

Mr Les Philpots managed to save two cars and gas welding bottles from his burning workshop at Double Street before the building became too dangerous to enter.

Eighteen firemen fought for over an hour to control the blaze, which caused damage estimated at well over £20,000.

Mr Philpots, who lives at 12 St Anne's Way, Spalding, was welding a customer's car when he noticed it was on fire.

As he watched firemen damp down his badly damaged workshop Mr Philpots described what happened.

He said: "I was welding a floor panel on a Ford Capri when I saw flames. I tried to put them out with a fire extinguisher and then noticed a fuel pipe had been severed and petrol was leaking out."

"I couldn't put out the flames so I rushed to the phone and dialled 999 for the fire brigade."

"By this time there was no way I could put the fire out so I tried to save what I could and drove an MGB and a Princess out of the garage and two gas welding bottles."

"I could see the fuel was burning—I dare not go in again because I didn't know how much petrol was in the tanks and it could have exploded. Then the fire brigade arrived."

Police cordoned off Dou-

ble Street as firemen tackled the blaze. At one stage water was pumped from the River Welland nearby to quell the flames.

Two tenders from Spalding and one from Holbeach attended the blaze.

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AIMS

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Cool thief walks off with £400

Police are seeking a cool thief who walked into a Long Sutton shop, climbed three flights of stairs and disappeared with over £400.

As a result of the man's visit, Mrs Pauline Luff, had to cut short her holiday in Norfolk to return to her baby clothing shop at 21 High Street.

The thief is thought to have got in by a back door before going upstairs to get the money.

The shop was open at the

time and there was only one assistant on duty.

Later Mrs Luff, said her pet dog was normally on the premises but because she and her husband were on holiday it had been taken away for a week.

On Wednesday police appealed for help in tracing the thief and issued the following description.

The man is 5ft 10in tall, slim to medium build, clean shaven and was smartly dressed with a grey suit.

Doorstep pinta cash warning

Householders who leave milk money on their doorsteps are putting temptation in the path of young people, according to Chief Inspector Sid Tomlinson, head of Spalding police.

And he has warned people to look for alternative methods of giving money to the milkman.

Chief Inspector Tomlinson said it was a "stupid practice" to leave milk money on a doorstep.

He added: "It is so easy for youngsters to steal the money and it leads them into crime."

His warning came after a spate of milk money thefts in the Pinchbeck area over the weekend.

Chief Inspector Tomlinson said: "Leaving milk money on the doorstep really puts temptation in the way of youngsters, such as, paper boys and girls."

Latest winners in Moulton Harrow Bowls club's 500 club competition are G. Haresign of Park Avenue, Spalding, and A. Leverton of 6 Northfields, Bourne.

In Memoriam DOADES. In memory of my parents, Martha and Jack Dogdes, Mum, Martha, passed away June 28, 1976, Dad, Jack, July 12, 1973. There is a world above. Where parting is unknown. A whole eternity of love. Formed for the good alone; And Faith beholds the dying here. Translated to that happier sphere. With love, Ada and Harold, Shirley and Eric.

KEEBLE, Vernon Roland. In loving memory of a dear husband, dad and grandad, died July 2, 1982. A heart of gold, a life so true, Loved and respected by all he knew. Always willing, helpful and kind. What a beautiful memory to leave behind. In loving memory of a dear dad and grandad who died July 2, 1982.

KEEBLE, Vernon Roland. In loving memory of a dear dad and grandad who died July 2, 1982. It's not the words, they are few, It's the beautiful memories we have of you. Love Pat, John, Stephanie and

MESSAGE, Don. In loving memory of a dear Dad and Grandad, died July 3, 1981. What we would give to see you again. To sit and talk, just for a while; Have you here in the same old way. Would be our dearest wish to see you here.

STARR, Heather Jayne. Treasured memories of our dear sister and auntie, tragically killed July 4, 1976. A heartache, a tear, for a sister who is dear. Every day of my life I wish you were here. A place in my heart, till the end of time. For a wonderful sister I was proud to call mine.

STARR, Heather Jayne. Treasured memories of our dear sister and auntie, tragically killed July 4, 1976. A heartache, a tear for a sister who is dear. Every day of my life I wish you were here. A place in my heart till the end of time.

STARR, Heather Jayne. In loving memory of a dear sister and auntie tragically killed July 4, 1976. This month comes round with sad regret. It brings back a day we shall not forget. Love from Malcolm, Ann, Kieren and Suzanne.

STARR, Heather Jayne. In loving memory of a dear daughter and niece, tragically killed July 4, 1976. Loved and remembered always, from Grandma, auntie Evie and uncle Ian.

STARR, Heather Jayne. Treasured memories of our dear daughter tragically killed July 4, 1976. To us you were someone special. What more is there to say. We only wish with all our hearts. That you were here today. Love from Mum and Dad.

Thanks HOLLAND, Richard and Lynn would like to thank all their family and friends who attended their wedding and offer their warmest thanks for the beautiful presents.

Congratulations MIKE SMITH of the Lancaster Driving School, offers Congratulations to Martin Maddison, of Tongue End, and Simon Kent of Holbeach, on recently passing the Part 1 motorcycle test at the Deeping Motorcycle Test Centre. "Safe Riding".

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TIME FOR AFTERNOON TEA

Coun David Dewsherry, chairman of South Holland District Council, officially opened the annual Age Concern day held at the George Farmer School, Holbeach, on Saturday. Mrs Alison Hunter, Age Concern chairman for the last 13 years, performed her last duty in presiding over the proceedings. Mrs Hunter is due to retire on Monday.

Mrs Ruth Stainer, divisional adviser for Age Concern, said that two Age Concern days are held each year, one for the southern groups and the other for the northern ones. Clubs bring along their home-made items for judging and there are prizes for individuals and groups. Winners in the section for clubs with over 40 members was the Rutby Club of Spalding. Second was the Sarfleet Club and Holbeach Darby and Loan Club was third.

In the section for clubs with below 40 members Weston-Park Community Centre was the winner, with Weston Hills second and Fleet third. Mrs M. E. Hall, of Weston Hills won the individual prize this year. Pictured enjoying afternoon tea are Stan Wilson and Olive Wilson (left) with Mrs Mavis Richardson, Mrs Joan Rhodes and Mrs Marjorie Brand.

Policeman in court

FROM PAGE 1 and hero worship" for Bates. Mr Fennell said the allegations came to light when a complaint reached the father of one of the boys. He confronted Bates, who was said to be "absolutely shattered" by the accusations.

Bates who was in police uniform at the time. The boy, now 16, said he was often visited by Bates at his home near Spalding where the incident took place.

TV. The Scoutmaster tried to commit a serious offence with him on the settee. Afterwards when the boy had prevented him Bates asked him to share his double bed and another indecent assault took place.

On June 10, 1982, Bates was spoken to by Det Chief Supt Moyes and Det Chief Insp Warner. He said he had touched one of the boys, saying they had a "very close relationship" and added: "I fell in love with him and he loves me." Mr Fennell alleged.

One Friday afternoon after school, as the boy was waiting at Bates' Gore Lane flat, to be taken home by his mother, Bates fondled and kissed him.

Three days before Christmas, Bates arrived at the boy's home in uniform and sent his sister to the shop to buy chocolate. He then took the boy up to his mother's bedroom.

The court heard Bates said he had had homosexual tendencies for about three years. Mr Fennell said Bates told the police he had been sexually assaulted as a boy, but he had never reported the incident.

When the boy was 14 Bates indecently assaulted him — once again while he was in uniform — at the lad's home.

"I said it didn't want to do it any more, but he said it was all right between two people, who liked each other," the youth told the court.

In December, 1981, Bates took the boy to a Scout party in Spalding, and afterwards to a local pub.

They returned to Bates' home then in Pinchbeck Road, where after watching

the fire started was a burned-out shell but five other cars in the workshop were not as badly damaged as first feared.

EVIDENCE

During Tuesday afternoon two of the youths named in the charges appeared to give evidence. Cross-examined about the allegations, the Bourne youth said he did not like Bates touching him but thought he was joking at the time.

The youth, now 20, told Mr Brian Smedley, OC, defending, that he had seen "girlie" magazines before being shown them by Bates. But he denied that Bates was merely being friendly when he put his arm on his shoulder.

The other, whom Bates had befriended at choir practice, told the court Bates had always taken the initiative in their friendship.

On Wednesday morning Mr Smedley said the choir-boy had made up the accusations "to get his own back" as he was jealous of Bates' other friendships in Spalding.

But the youth, now 21, said: "I wouldn't do that. I wouldn't go through all this just to get my own back."

At the start of the proceedings the jury was not allowed to return while legal points about the films were discussed. Later in the morning the jury was instructed to leave while a further discussion on the films took place.

A local youth told the court on Wednesday afternoon how, when he was aged 11, he had been assaulted by

Mr Fisher, who had been ill for two weeks, died at his home on Wednesday week, aged 85. Only son of the late John William and the late Emma Jane Fisher, he was born and educated at West pinchbeck. He worked as a warehouseman at C. F. Turner, for 38 years.

During the First World War he served in the Army and was awarded the Military Medal as well as being mentioned in despatches.

Mr Fisher was a member of the Royal British Legion and played football for West Pinchbeck in his younger days. He was a keen supporter of Spalding United for many years, and a keen gardener.

Mr Fisher is survived by his wife, the former Miss Gladys Hargrave, of Pinchbeck whom he married in 1925; four sons, Roland, Geoffrey, Terence and Gerald; three daughters, Mrs Betty Clark, Mrs Heather Baldwin and Mrs Pauline Collins; twenty grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by two sons, Tony and Barry.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. D. Hill and organised by Mr K. North. Mourners were Mrs Gladys Fisher (widow), Mr and Mrs E. Clark, Mr and Mrs R. Fisher, Mr and Mrs J. Baldwin, Mr and Mrs D. Collins, Mr and Mrs Geoff Fisher, Mr and Mrs T. Fisher, Mr and Mrs Gerald Fisher, Michael Fisher, David Fisher, Brianne Fisher, Geoff Baldwin, Janet Green, Alison Baldwin, Mr and

Mrs Clara Redmile has died at her home at Quadring Eudyke. She was 82. She had been a widow for many years. The funeral was at St Margaret's church, the service conducted by the Rev E. Chapman.

Mourners included Mr G. W. Parker, Mrs M. Bennett, Mr E. Williams, Mr and Mrs C. Wells, Mrs J. Haig, Mr E. Staples, Mrs L. Stillman, Mr R. C. Casswell, Mr R. Bradley, Mr and Mrs C. Arden, Mr and Mrs R. F. Mews, Mr and Mrs L. Parker, Mr and Mrs D. F. Hemstock, the Rev P. Robinson, Mr and Mrs G. Crawford, Mr H. Plummer, Mr J. F. Tuffnell, Mr E. Clark and Mr E. Stanley and many others.

Mr E. W. Smith The Rector of Crowland, the

Court case to question former Registrar at Peterborough

The Registrar at Peterborough Barrington of a former Spalding printer to stand appeared confused and distressed

Mr Fathers, of 3 Ayscough Avenue, told the Registrar, Mr G. A. Whitehead, that he suffered from a heart complaint. The Registrar intervened after Mr Fathers had answered a question about his domestic affairs. He said he had a wife and three dependent children in answer to the Official Receiver Mr Barry Laskey. But Mrs Renee Fathers explained that her husband might not be able to do justice to the questions.

ORDER

Their children, she said, were all grown up. Mr Whitehead wondered at that stage if they ought to proceed with the hearing of Mr Fathers' bankruptcy, inviting the Official Receiver "in the circumstances" not to take the proceedings any further. If there were any discrepancies they could be dealt with at a later date, Mr Whitehead said.

When the Official Receiver agreed Mr Whitehead made an order dispensing with a public examination but did not make an order for an automatic discharge in five years. Mr Fathers left the court with his wife looking pale.

Remand in custody

A 19-year-old Spalding youth was remanded in custody for seven days to Lincoln prison on Tuesday when he appeared before Spalding magistrates on five charges. Paul Featherstone, of 61 Chestnut Avenue, is charged with entering the home of Peter Dexter Duck at 31 Hereward Road, Spalding, with intent to steal and armed with a .177 air pistol; scaling 540 from Peter Dexter Duck; possessing a loaded air weapon with ammunition in a public place; assaulting James Adamson Durrant, causing actual bodily harm; and entering 25 Brownlow Crescent, Pinchbeck, with intent to steal.

The offences are alleged to have occurred on four separate dates between May 3 and June 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let us pray Sir — Lord, make sure the council does God's will. Let not the Devil find a place to lurk. Divine inspiration come flow with ease. Right ho! Councilors down on your knees. Mix religion and politics, folly at best. They fail God's most important test. Christ's words 'suffer little children come unto me' they'll do better there than with the SHDC. JOH

10 Tolls Lane, Holbeach

Sir — I was very pleased to read in the Spalding about the Council having prayers before each meeting. I think the council do magnificent work and prayers to help to support their valuable work anyone not in favour to think again with God then.

The Bungalow, 24a Chestnut Avenue, Spalding

Disturbing thought

Sir — It was disturbing to read the headline Guardian concerning the council chamber prayer meetings. I sincerely hope that the members do not insist on their knees at their devotions in the allowances.

170 Woolram Wygates, Spalding