

Const. Eric Wright retires

By JEAN SAUNTER

BRADFORD—One of the town's most popular policemen will retire this Friday (December 12). Const. Eric Wright has been on the Bradford beat since April 17, 1968.

"What I'm going to miss most is the challenge of the work," he told *The Witness* last week. "One of the pleasures, to me anyway, in a small place like Bradford is, you are exposed to a full range of police work. You never know what's going to crop up in a night."

What he does not mind missing is the shift work. "That will be like missing a good toothache," he commented.

Retirement will also mean an end to writing notes to his wife, Co, a floral designer, when he's on the night shift and she's on days.

BYLAW

Const. Wright, 60, points out he had no choice about retirement. "The town has a bylaw setting the age police and firemen must retire."

The officer wasn't new to police work when he donned the town's police uniform 12 years ago. He had worked as an auxiliary policeman, mainly on weekends, for five years. "I liked it a lot. As soon as a vacancy occurred (at Bradford) I applied for the position and got it."

He remembers he was the first officer hired after Const. Henry Bell. "His number is 40 and mine 41."

In 1963 the County of Simcoe and the

federal government set up the Emergency Measures Organization. "Simcoe bent heavily towards auxiliary police," the officer recalls. He and Henry Bell took their training together in Barrie.

Asked about retirement plans the constable's first response was, "I know I'm going to be busy," and he quickly adds, "but I'll just be coasting this winter."

After a moment's reflection he said with enthusiasm he is looking forward to gardening.

Eric Wright was deeply involved in market gardening after returning from a five-year stint overseas in the Second World War.

INSPECTOR

"I produced 25,000 bushels of turnips one year," he recalls. Also during that time he worked for three years as a fruit and vegetable inspector with the agriculture and food ministry at Bradford and Alliston.

Retirement will mean he will have time for carpentry, too, which he enjoyed years ago. "I enjoy fooling around with wood."

He indicates he is looking forward to having more time for his family and being able to say "I'll be there" for gatherings, without consulting his work schedule.

"The grandchildren like it here. We have a pond," the proud grandfather added.

He beamed as he remarked, "The big thing now is all my weekends are free."

Future plans include a motor trip next



Eric Wright

August to Vancouver and a cruise up the inside passage to Alaska. His policeman friend Henry Bell and wife will accompany Eric and Co.

It is apparent the Bradford policeman will enjoy a busy retirement but a satisfying and relaxing one. With less activity in mind he pointed to his library.

"I'd rather read than watch TV." He likes good quality fiction and English writer Mary Stewart, Daphne De Maurier and Taylor Caldwell, all women, are his favorite authors.

Const. Wright is a friendly, hard-working police officer, who'll be missed.