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at St. Anthony's parish hall

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Monday, Jan. 6, 1997

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

Retiring police chief draws emotions, memories during final days

They stood there, eight officers in uniform. As one, they saluted the man who had been their leader for 35 years.

And when they were done, there was not a dry eye in the house.

That was the scene Friday afternoon as members of the Hoopeston Police Department said good-bye to Chief Orval Kaag.

Kaag, touched by the display, shook each officer's hand, hugged some, then walked away to compose himself before returning to the group.

The emotional display was one none of the officers was comfortable with, but it was the best kind of display: it came from their hearts. And the respect behind the salute and the open display of emotion was well-deserved. Orval is one of a dying breed: a decent person.

I've covered the police department and, in the



process, Orval, for 11 years now. And through those years, we've worked through the police/media suspicion to become something akin to friendly. Of all the police chiefs I've worked with in my 20 plus years in this business, Orval is my favorite, for a lot of reasons.

First, Orval is a good person. In his work, he was kind to people who deserved kindness and tough with those who deserved it. He tried hard to mediate situations rather than push confrontations. In the times I dealt with him on personal matters, he was professional, yet comforting. He was easy to talk to.

Orval has stick-to-it-iveness, a rare quality these days. He took a lot of ribbing for defending the city

See CHIEF on other side

Chief continued from other side

Briefly

Music Booster winners

Drawings for 1997 winners will begin Jan. 6.

Multi Agency van, activity schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency senior van is: Monday, Hoopeston shuttle; Tuesday, Champaign; Wednesday, Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, Danville.

To make reservations or for more information, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

Activities at the center include: Monday, ladies' bridge, noon; Thursday, men's coffee, 9:30 a.m.; Senior Citizen Potluck, noon; men's euchre, 12:30 p.m.; Friday, unemployed worker discount program, 1-3 p.m.

Change in meeting

The Grant Township United Way board of directors will meet at noon Wednesday at K&G Family Restaurant, 728 W. Penn and not at Crunch's as originally announced.

School back in session

Area schools will be back in session today after a two-week Christmas break.

This is also report card week for Hoopeston Area schools. Report cards will be sent home Friday.

Meetings scheduled

The Hoopeston city council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the city building

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Police News



Donald C. Witty Jr., 208 N. Third St., reported Thursday that someone threw raw eggs on his 1992 Chevrolet pick up truck damaging paint on the hood, fender and driver's side door.

The truck was parked at 502 E. Penn when the damage occurred.

A **man's blue** Linde Star ring was found Friday in front of Casey's General Store on East Penn.

The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

A **1994 Ford Ranger**, owned by the city of Hoopeston, was struck by an unknown vehicle Friday. The accident occurred while the truck was parked at city hall.

Richard Smith, 516 E. Young, reported Saturday that someone took a bicycle from his front porch.

The bicycle is chrome and black Mongoose BMX with spoked wheels and is valued at \$200.

Christine A. Rhodes, no age given, of #39

against tall weeds and junk cars, yet he drove ~~through Hoopeston day after day eliminating these~~ eyesores from the city.

He is also quite a teller of stories. He has the ability to take the most mundane incident and make it come to life. He could have listeners rolling with laughter or wanting to sob.

There are other, little things Orval did that speak volumes about the man, Every morning, I'd hear him say over the scanner that he'd be out and then he would list four numbers. It wasn't until recently that I discovered he was having coffee with his mother. That says a lot.

So does the fact that he believed in courtesy, holding doors and offering seats to women, and trying his best in every situation.

Orval retires at a time when he and the criminal justice system seem to be at cross purposes. More liberal laws have made it tough for Orval, and men like him, to do their jobs. So did his lack of political correctness. If you asked Orval a question that required an opinion, what you got was his opinion, plain and unvarnished.

Orval was never hesitant to share his opinions. In

Parkview Court, was arrested at 4:49 p.m. Saturday on a warrant.

She was released on \$290.

George Fowler, 612 E. Honeywell, reported Saturday that an unknown vehicle hit his car.

Fowler's car was parked in the 300 block of East Maple at the time of the accident.

Obituaries

DILLEY - Mae L. Dilley, 65, of Hoopeston, died at 11:20 a.m. Friday, Jan. 3, 1997, at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the Westside Church of the Nazarene or St. Vincent Hospital.

fact, those opinions, while they made him an interesting chief to talk to, made it difficult to write stories based on what he'd said. His language could be, uh, "colorful," and his opinions strong.

Today, life goes on. Orval is at his new job at Schumacher Electric and the officers are back on the street. To the casual observer, it would be hard to tell any change had taken place. But those who are there and those of us who have dealt with the department for many years, can sense the difference. And it's going to take some getting used to.

Good luck, Orval. It won't be the same without you.

Weather



Partly sunny, cold today. High in the mid 20s. Tonight, clear. Low in the low teens. Tomorrow, dry. High near 25, low near 15.

JUST THE FACTS

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