

Women police promoted to officers

All five women now serving on the Campus Police force have been commissioned as police officers, not policewomen, according to Chief Gail Gade.

Frances Tuttle and Dorothy Spence have been with the force four years but this is the first year they have been officers. Both began as meter maids.

Barbara McGill has been with the force two years and Connie Schwarzkopf, ten months. Connie Felger, another woman serving with the force, was not available for an interview.

When Spence and Tuttle began, they said they had to meet the regular university personnel employment qualifications. Now the officers must pass the Lincoln Police Dept. entrance test, a psychological test, a lie-detector test and a physical before they may be hired.

Six-week course

Sometime during their first year of employment they must attend a six-week course at the State Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island and graduate to remain with the force. Part of this training is in the use of firearms. McGill, Schwarzkopf and Felger already carry guns, and guns for Tuttle and Spence have been ordered.

McGill said she spends most of her time in a cruiser, patrolling or writing tickets. One night a week she works with a student officer checking residence halls.

The four women interviewed said they enjoyed their work and plan on staying in law enforcement as a career.

Store detective

Spence was a store detective prior to joining the force. She said nothing out of the ordinary has happened to her, except that one morning she was followed by a deer on her walk to work.

"Kids in photography classes are always asking to take our pictures," Tuttle said. Both she and Spence said the four-day workweek, which has been on trial for six weeks, is hard on women with a family.

"After ten hours at work, you still have all your chores at home," Tuttle said.

McGill said she likes the idea of having a three-day weekend. She added that both male and female students have said they liked the idea of having women police officers.

Schwarzkopf worked as a dispatcher before joining the force. She said she has been treated well by the students and feels the personality, not the sex, of the officer is the important factor in getting along well with the students.

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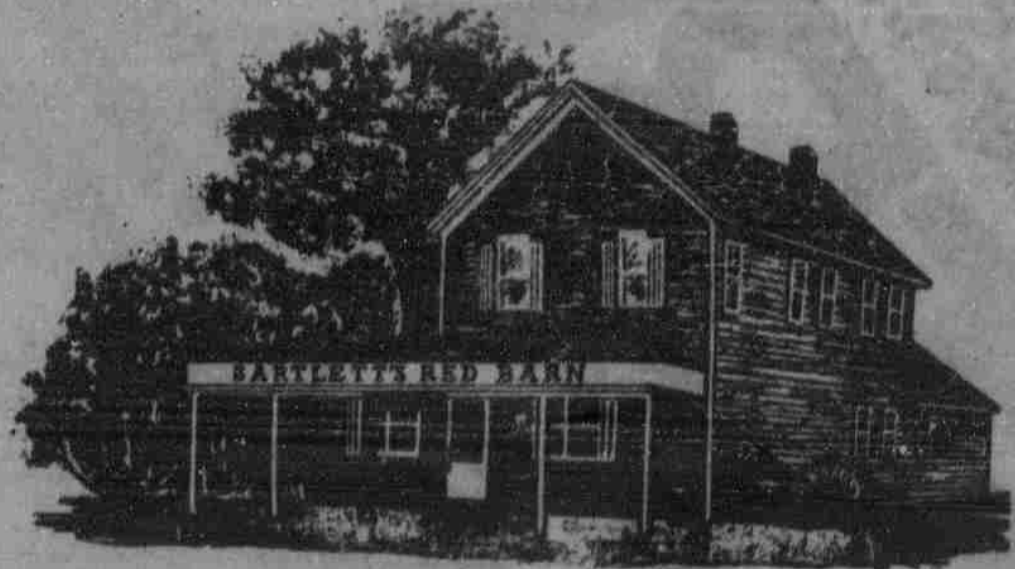
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