

Sgt. Stacey now just Mr. Citizen

A familiar face and name will be lost to a certain extent in the Langley area with the retirement of Sgt. William Stacey from the Langley detachment of the R.C.M.P.

Twenty five years have seen Bill Stacey transfer to and from all parts of the province, beginning at his first posting in Burnaby and Vancouver where he was for a little over six years. From there he transferred for two years each in One Hundred Mile House and Nanaimo before a six year stint in Kelowna. He then made a final switch to the Langley Municipal detachment where he was second in command under S./Sgt. Wally McGuire until that detachment amalgamated with the city force to form the present detachment.

Here for the past seven years, Bill has come to meet the full cross section of society from royalty to the ordinary man in the street. After fifteen years on highway patrol his duties became more of an administrative nature from the investigation side of his job. He was responsible for the planning of the security arrangements for the visit in 1971 of the Queen to the area.

What he will miss most of his former life, he says, is the rare close-knit fellowship and friendship that policemen enjoy. His most satisfying feelings came at times when he returned a lost child home to his worried parents, and at the times when he saw the result of police work when a child would be put on the right path, before he needed to be reprimanded in court.

Now happily settled in the village atmosphere of Fort Langley, Bill has decided for the moment to stay, taking the occasional jaunt into the Okanagan to



their property there. In between times, he'll make as many fishing trips as he can, that being his chief outdoor relaxation. Time, though, is taken up on the restoration of old pieces of Canadiana. He has no plans for another occupation, and intends to be his own boss for the next couple of months and take an interesting opportunity when it presents itself. This time will help him make the obvious adjustments to his new retired life, like learning to be addressed as 'Mr.' instead of 'Sgt.'

About the relationship between police and the people, Bill feels that closer communication is needed. Langley, having exploded from a business, residential and population standpoint, will find that the ratio of policemen to populace is now so great, that respect will lessen between the two factors. But, he concluded, Langley is no different from other towns as far as crime is concerned, and the boys are doing a good job of a difficult task.