



DeWitt Police Chief Charles Anderson in "Unusual Uniform" —State Journal Photo

Grabs His Gunbelt...

DeWitt Police Chief Has 'Easy' Hard Job

By PAT MURPHY
State Journal Staff Writer

Being chief of the DeWitt Police Department is probably the easiest hard job in the world. Or at least in Clinton County.

Just ask Charles C. Anderson, 41, who has held that job for almost eight years.

About 6 p.m. Monday, Anderson finished dinner, took off his shirt and tie and settled on the couch for a nap. He had just dozed off, when a call came in about a family fight on the south side of DeWitt.

"I didn't have much time," Anderson said, "so I just grabbed my gunbelt and ran."

T-SHIRT

Garbed in uniform trousers, T-shirt and gun belt, Anderson hurried to the scene of the family squabble just as it fizzled out.

"I must have looked strange answering a call in my T-shirt," Anderson said, "but if I'd have stopped to get a shirt and tie, I'd have lost a few moments."

"And while it didn't matter this time, those few minutes could have been valuable during an emergency."

While Monday's squabble didn't rank among the major crimes in Clinton County, Anderson said he feels that it was

DEWITT

somewhat typical of his activities as DeWitt's police chief, as well as the town's only full-time officer.

"We get a few major crimes," Anderson said, "such as the bank robber we had two years ago and the narcotics busts we made last month."

"But the bulk of my activity concerns traffic violations and routine matters such as the family fight I answered tonight," he continued.

"I know everybody in town," Anderson said, "but that has its disadvantages as well as good points."

"I might have to give a guy

a ticket one day and drink coffee with him the next," he said.

Anderson said he left his DeWitt police job once to try something different.

CAME BACK

"But I came back because I missed the contact with people and I missed being a policeman. This is the only job I really enjoy."

"It isn't the most exciting job in the world, but it's one of the most satisfying."

"Most of my friends on the State Police say they wouldn't want to be a small town law officer."

"But that makes us even, I wouldn't want their jobs either."

Besides Anderson, the DeWitt police department has three part-time uniformed patrolmen and a part-time police woman.

She's Mrs. Anderson who gets pressed into duty whenever the department works with a female suspect or crime victim.