

of training which I so vividly recall, and there were a number of times when I figured enough was enough and I almost threw in the towel. I hung in there by reinforcing my belief that if the rest could do it, then I could too, but I would do it even better.

If the Force had its way, it might wish you were a robot to be programmed only to do as it says. Although that is not being realistic, the Force will still do the influencing, hoping that its repetitious directions will reprogram your thinking.

It is important not to be too willing a follower of others, unless you are very sure those leaders are on the right track. You will find some troopmates will attempt to take any easy way out, break the rules or bypass authority. When doing so, you may be invited to join the group because they believe there is strength in numbers. Please be cautious of those leaders. Instead, be a willing leader yourself, after thoroughly thinking out a sound approach.

There will be many classes which are boring, as classes were in school, and instead of making the extra effort to pay attention and take notes, daydreaming or a snooze may be an easy way to get through the day. Those who take the easy way, learn too late that the instructor was well aware of their lack of attention and will score the assessment accordingly. Then too, a few questions on the exams regarding the class which was "dozed through" can be the difference between a low grade or a high mark in the final exams.

It is ever so easy to be critical of other troop mates because of their actions, dress, deportment, mannerisms, morals, etc. Weigh your thoughts carefully and make an effort not to take sides. Treat each partner equally, and understand that they have been brought up differently and

think differently. Generally, anyone can be coached into doing what is correct, as opposed to being criticized. It would be the nicest and most rewarding feeling in the world to leave Depot and have trained constables able to honestly say, "Laura really is a true friend."

There may be instructors who select favorites, and as a result some recruits often have the feeling they are penalized. This can be very unfair, annoying, and often, those who fight back the wrong way may be the losers. Be the favorite, but only if the position has been gained honestly and fairly in the eyes of troopmates and instructors. It is not a matter of what is right or wrong, but how it is perceived by others. You know some people have a need to become popular, but often by applying the wrong ingredients! What is even more true is that a bad reputation has a way of following an individual.

When you leave the Academy and get your posting to "Carrot River, Saskatchewan," where there are 1,600 people policed by six members, you will learn that each of them will scrutinize your every move. It will be your obligation to prove your credentials. You may be sure that as a rookie constable, who is new in town, you will be looked at from many angles. You will probably be judged first by your attitude and appearance (because first impressions are so lasting), then by your understanding and willingness to be part of this new team, by your effort, and by your production.

One of the worst characteristics a supervisor has to contend with is "the complaining subordinate", or the one who grumbles when receiving certain assignments and does not carry a share of the load. Those types are out there Laura, far too many of them, I am sorry to say. The statement once made "that a boss