Chief Likes His Job

By STEVE ROBERTSON
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Horry County's newest police chief has always been known as a man who can be called upon for help.

As a policeman, that's his duty. As a citizen, that's Herman Enzor's way of contributing to the county he grew up in.

"I hope I will be able to improve the department and help it serve the community better," Enzor said last week during an interview. "I think I can help."

A native of Floyds, Enzor has made police work a lifetime occupation and his quick smile and firm handshake have become familiar around the county.

He received the biggest calling of his career about a year ago when he became acting chief after George "Buddy" Fowler stepped down.

Last month, Enzor's reign as acting chief appeared to be over when the Horry County Police Commission appointed Willis Gause to become permanent chief.

The appointment of Gause as chief ended about four years of operation of the county police under an acting chief. At the time of his appointment, Gause and Enzor agreed that a permanent chief would be a big asset to the department.

Enzor was scheduled to step down as acting chief and assume his duties as the department's first captain.

Gause, however, declined to accept the job only a few days after his appointment and once again Enzor was called upon. It didn't take long for the police department veteran to accept the job as permanent chief.

According to Enzor, being permanent chief is much like being acting chief except that he wields more authority.

"I have a few more powers as permanent chief. I can take disciplinary action against a man if he isn't doing the job. I think my being permanent chief draws more respect from the men," said Enzor.

Since becoming chief, Enzor has made only one major change but he thinks it is a significant improvement in the department. He said beginning this week the department will run a day shift and a night shift.

In the past, county police have been on patrol during the day and have been on call during the night.

"A lot of people don't realize how many hours we put in," Enzor said.

On a more serious note, he said that having two shifts should be a strong deterrent to crime. He said his men will still be on call but will have a little more free time than they used to have.

"I think the men will like it (two shifts)," Enzor said.

The new police chief also said he would like to have patrolmen in every section of the county. He said the major population centers, Conway, the Grand Strand, Loris and Aynor, are adequately staffed but he would like to see more men patrolling in the rural area.

Enzor's concern for the rural areas comes honestly. He was born and raised on a farm in the Floyds area and did some farming before becoming a magistrate's constable.

When the county police department was organized in 1956, Enzor joined as a patrolman. He worked his way steadily through the ranks from patrolman to corporal, to sergeant and to lieutenant.

He is married and has two children.