

STATE POLICE REPORT

Calendar Year 1956

FOR STATE HIGHWAY

Report Fiscal Year 55-56

July 1, 1956

To the Chairman and Members of
State Highway Commission
Dover, Delaware

Gentlemen:

I respectfully submit herewith a report of the activities of the State Police Division for the calendar year 1955.

The report includes the important items in each of the State Police Divisions.

The excellent support and assistance rendered by the members of the State Highway Commission is sincerely appreciated.

Very truly yours,

COLONEL HARRY S. SIEW
Superintendent

SECTION I.

ADMINISTRATION — 1955

The year 1955 brought about many changes within the administrative division as well as every other division of the State Police. These changes represent progress and enable the Department to keep abreast of what is generally accepted to be the most modern police methods, techniques and administrative policies. To this end it is felt that at the year's ending, the year 1955 could be reflected upon with a great deal of satisfaction but knowing that the Department must aspire to even greater progress in 1956 in all areas of law enforcement.

One of the advances made was the appointment by the State Highway Commission of chaplains as members of the Department. The Commission authorized the appointment of two chaplains with the honorary rank of Captain—one to represent the Protestant faith and the other a Catholic Priest. Colonel Shew selected, with the approval of the Catholic Bishop of Wilmington, Reverend Francis J. Desmond. At the same time, Reverend Brooks E. Reynolds was appointed by the Wilmington Council of Churches. On August 19, 1955 the two above mentioned clergymen were administered the oath of office by the Honorable Judge Herrmann of the Superior Court of the State of Delaware. The duties of the chaplains will be to work with the members of the Department and to be available for consultation involving personal problems, morals, etc. Their acceptance within the Department has been very good and in a few months, several of the men sought interviews with them on problems they felt the chaplains could be helpful.

The 118th General Assembly approved sufficient monies for the expansion of the State Police to the strength of 180 men. Training of the new recruits will commence the early part of 1956 and should be completed by June 30, 1957. These additional officers, it is hoped, will do much to reflect a reduction in the accident experience particularly in New Castle County. They will also provide additional police services in the rural sections of not only New Castle County, but Kent and Sussex Counties.

A portion of the construction funds appropriated for the State Highway Department, has been set aside for the construction of a new Troop #3 and Headquarters building at or near Dover. It has long been felt that the most desirable

location for State Police Headquarters should be at the seat of the State government. This would enable the Department to work in closer conjunction with the heads of other State agencies. Plans for the troop and new Headquarters building are now being prepared and construction should begin in 1956.

On August 17th, his Excellency Governor J. Caleb Boggs received a plaque for outstanding traffic law enforcement in the nation during 1954. This award is annually presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. It was received by Governor Boggs who in turn presented it to the Delaware State Police. This is the fifth straight year the Delaware State Police has received an award for outstanding

During the year 1955 several members of the Department were advanced in rank. The following commissioned and non-commissioned officers were named:

William M. Short, Troop 3, Dover, to the rank of Captain.

Edgar D. Morris, Troop 3, Dover, to the rank of Lieutenant.
Detective Sergeant Maurice F. Fitzharris promoted to the rank of Chief Investigator.

Corporal Carl Derrick, Troop #1, to the rank of Sergeant.
Detective C. E. Hughes, Troop #1, to the rank of Detective Sergeant.

Corporal L. Clark Ellis, Jr., Troop #2, to the rank of Sergeant.
Detective B. F. McCoy, Troop #3, Dover, to the rank of Sergeant.

Detective George F. Schmalhofer, Troop #4, to the rank of Detective Sergeant.

Det. Allen J. Wentz, Troop #5, Bridgeville, to the rank of Sergeant.

Corporal Hugh T. Collins, Troop #5, Bridgeville, to the rank of Sergeant.

Sergeant J. D. Joseph, Troop #1, promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Sergeants Harvey Blood, Troop #1; Charles Dolan, Troop #3; W. W. Hutchison, Troop #3; Horace B. Willey, Troop #3; from the rank of Corporal to the rank of Sergeant.

The 118th General Assembly authorized appropriation of additional monies to make available to all employees a 10% pay raise effective July 1, 1955. While this pay raise provided a considerable increase in the salaries of the members of the Department, the pay scale still remains considerably below that of many other State Police organizations in this section of the country.

New laws that had the approval of the State Highway Commission were enacted. These laws will greatly facilitate

the State Police in their accident prevention program and in other instances, act as a deterrent to criminals. Among some of the laws enacted were the chemical test law providing for a breath test of alcohol content, in which .015% of blood alcohol is prima facie evidence of intoxication. The "Peeping Tom" law, using obscene language over the telephone, and others were also passed which should further the traffic and criminal enforcement in our State.

Although the year 1955 resulted in many accomplishments within the Department, the year was saddened by the untimely deaths of a member and a former member of the Department. Trooper First Class William F. Mayer was fatally injured as a result of a traffic accident on Route #13 at Duck Creek, Smyrna on August 7th, 1955, when he was struck by a truck and crushed between the truck and patrol car which was parked along side the road. Trooper Mayer was appointed to the Department January 31, 1949 and assigned to Troop #3, Dover. He was promoted to the rank of Trooper First Class on October 1, 1952, which rank he held at the time of his death.

Trooper Mayer held the respect of all the men who worked with him and all those with whom he came in contact. He will long be remembered for his friendly attitude and always being ready to lend a helping hand when one was in need.

Many of the older members of the Department were saddened by the death of Joseph Bonifacino, Jr. who was stricken with a heart attack on May 20th, 1955. Trooper Bonifacino was one of the original members of the Department and was the first to retire under the State Police Pension Plan; retiring on January 31, 1941. "Jumbo," as he was fondly called by his fellow workers, will long be remembered for his dry wit and his sympathetic understanding for his fellow workers.



SECTION II.
TRAFFIC BUREAU
1956

It was all believed to have started when in September, 1899, a Mr. H. H. Bliss stepped off a trolley car in New York City, and turned to assist a woman to alight. Just then, a horseless carriage came along and ran over him. A doctor at the scene administered first aid, and Mr. Bliss was removed to the Roosevelt Hospital. He died the next day, and achieved the tragic distinction of becoming the first person to be killed by an automobile.

The Twentieth Century brought with it transformation of the horseless carriage into the present luxurious and high speed automobile. With this transformation, our nation has built up a death toll of over one million persons. It also brought a change of attitude on the part of the general public toward the law enforcement profession. The police officer who had been looked up to as the protector of the weak and the innocent, suddenly became the "Traffic Cop" who did not play fair. Traffic laws were held in a different light; it was all right to break them if you didn't get caught. Parents would violate the laws in the presence of their children, and then wonder why the children viewed law and order so lightly.

These and many other problems involving the motor vehicle continued to make the traffic function the most important phase of police work.

It is the aim of the Delaware State Police to bring all drivers to a sane and safe level of operation, so that all citizens—motorists and pedestrians alike—will not sacrifice their lives on the altar of haste, carelessness and discourteousness.

If everyone would start immediately to practice the Golden Rule (that is, accord to everyone the courtesy they would like to receive), then, I am sure, it would result in everyone experiencing a genuine pleasure drive.

The fatalities for 1955 rose to 104 in rural Delaware, an increase of 25.3%, the second highest year in the history of the Department. While this Department is not satisfied with this increase, it is not as bad as it appears, when one considers the increase in vehicles using Delaware Highways which are from other states, as well as the increase in motor vehicle registration in Delaware.

One very important factor to be considered is the fact that added criminal work plus various special duties resulted in a sharp decrease in patrol time. In 1954, this Department spent 81,793 hours of traffic patrol as against 65,167 hours in 1955, a decrease of 16,626 hours, or 20.4%.

SECTION III.

TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

1955

The news that the Delaware State Police had, for the fourth time in the past seven years, received the award for outstanding traffic supervision for the past year filled us with pride.

The award is for excellence in traffic work, with 20% weight given to police traffic supervision reports, and 80% on actual police traffic supervision performance. It is based on the recommendations of the Traffic Supervision and Enforcement Committee of the White House Conference on Highway Safety and those of the Traffic Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Since the primary purpose of traffic law enforcement is to prevent accidents, our program was pointed toward dangerous moving violations, or violations that produce accidents. As a result, 14,077 arrests were for violations of this type. The enforcement index, which is the ratio between convictions for dangerous moving violations and the number of fatal and personal injury accidents, was 11.1 for 1955.

The decrease in patrol time for 1955 was reflected in the enforcement program, as there was a decrease of 8.8% in traffic arrests for the year. During the year, there were 16,567 arrests made by the State Police for violations of the traffic laws; of these, 16,081, or 97% resulted in convictions, with the imposition of \$202,089.00 in fines.

In many instances where an arrest would be too harsh a penalty, or in such instances where it is believed that the calling an error to the violator's attention would correct it, the State Police issue written warnings. There were 99,438 such warnings issued during the year.

In an effort to control and educate pedestrians, the State Police issue written warnings for unsafe walking practices. During 1955, this Department issued 2,613 warnings. 426 persons were arrested for walking on the highways while under the influence of liquor and 85 for other pedestrian violations.

The list of offenses and the number of arrests for each is as follows:

ARRESTS MADE FOR PEDESTRIAN VIOLATIONS

Pedestrian Intoxication	426
Other Pedestrian Violations	85

ARRESTS MADE FOR LICENSES AND REGISTRATIONS

Driver Licenses Violations	1,405
Registrations and Title Violations	282
Operation During Period of Suspension or Revocation	348

ARRESTS MADE FOR MISCELLANEOUS VIOLATIONS

Parking Violations	552
Oversize and Overweight	112
Leaving Scene and Failure to Report Accident	386
Operating Motor Vehicle Without Consent	28
Others	152
Throwing Rubbish on Highway	6

ARRESTS MADE FOR DANGEROUS MOVING VIOLATIONS

Operating under the Influence	371
Speed Violations	8,199
Right-of-Way	246
Wrong Side of Road	253
Reckless Driving	989
Improper Passing	514
Failure to Signal	80
Disregarded Stop Sign or Signal	1,111
Passed Stopped School Bus	9
Improper Turning	164
Assault and Battery by Motor Vehicle	30
Manslaughter	43
Miscellaneous Dangerous Moving Violations	173
Following Too Close	214

ARRESTS MADE FOR EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS

Light Violations	23
Brake Violations	229
Flare Violations	121
Other Equipment	146



SECTION IV.

MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

1955

In 1955 there were 5,712 traffic accidents reported to the State Police. An "on the scene" investigation was made of each accident reported.

There were 91 fatal accidents, which resulted in 104 fatalities. In comparison with 1954 figures, it appears that the ratio of fatalities and injuries did not remain constant. In other words, while there was an increase of 11 fatalities in 1955, there was a decrease of 13 persons injured for the year. There were 1,640 persons injured in 1955 and 1,653 in 1954.

The large amount of transient traffic is reflected by the fact that 30.0% of the drivers involved in fatal accidents, and 31.6% of the drivers involved in all accidents, were residents of other states.

In 1955, the State Police made a determined effort to obtain either a blood or breath sample, for chemical testing, from every driver involved in a fatal accident. While we were not successful in obtaining a sample in every case, it was determined either by investigation or chemical test that as the severity of an accident increases, so does the frequency of the drinking driver factor.

The following summary is the result of the chemical test program.

**SUMMARY OF THE ALCOHOL FACTOR
IN FATAL ACCIDENTS FOR DELAWARE
(EXCEPT WILMINGTON)**

1955

Total number of accidents	91
Number of drivers drinking	54
Number of pedestrians drinking	3
Number of drivers who refused test known to have been drinking	3
Number of drivers who were drinking and no test made due to injuries	14

One accident where driver was a 15 year old and person who should have been driving was .242—could be the indirect cause.

Results of tests:

Pedestrian Fatalities:

.248
 .217
 *.021 made 12 hours after accident.

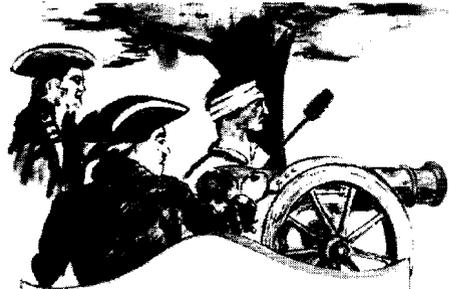
Drivers:

.08	.032	.328	.278
.271	.353	.11	.098
.154	.191	.169	.231
.164	.212	.188	.171
.136	.381	.201	.191
.116	.187	.083	.126
.236	.21	.134	.02
.152	.196	.139	.148
.284			

*Delayed tests:

.125	3½ hours after accident
.154	4 hours after accident
.102	2 hours after accident
.139	2 hours after accident

*Note: It has been estimated that a person throws off from .012% to .02% per hour; by adding this amount to the delayed tests, it is possible to estimate the approximate blood alcohol content at the time of the accident.



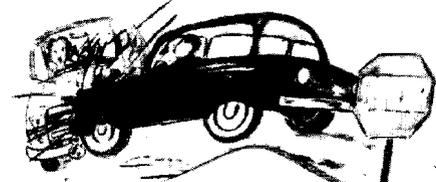
1775 - 1955
1,130,393
**AMERICANS DIED
IN ALL THE U.S. WARS**

REVOLUTIONARY WAR	4,435
WAR OF 1812	2,260
MEXICAN WAR	13,283
CIVIL WAR	529,332
SPANISH AMERICAN WAR	2,446
WORLD WAR 1	116,563
WORLD WAR 2	407,828
KOREAN WAR	54,246

WILL YOU
BE



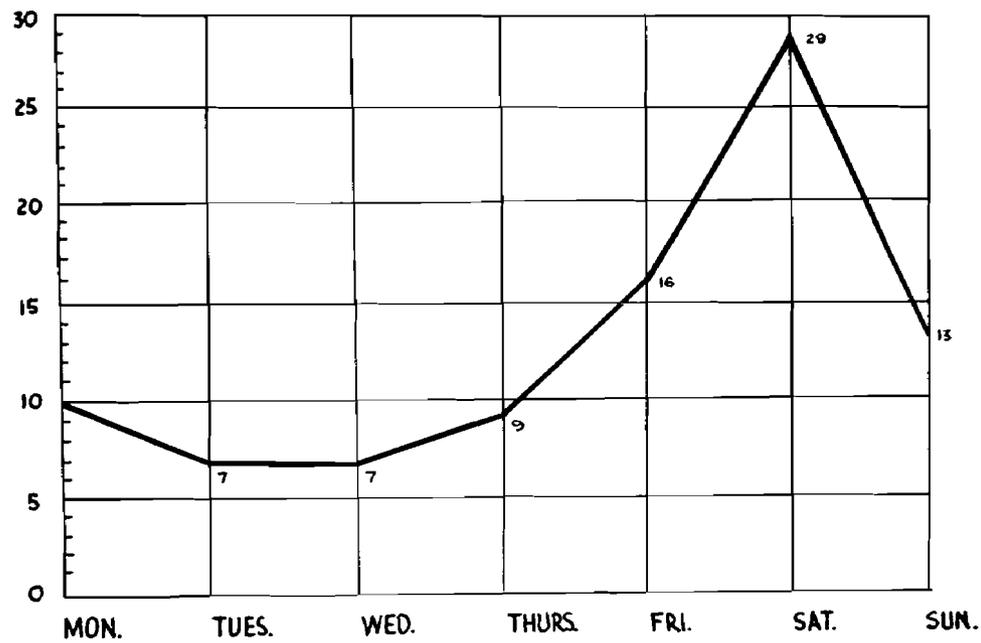
NEXT?



1900 - 1955
1,149,414
**AMERICANS DIED
IN
U.S. HIGHWAY
ACCIDENTS**

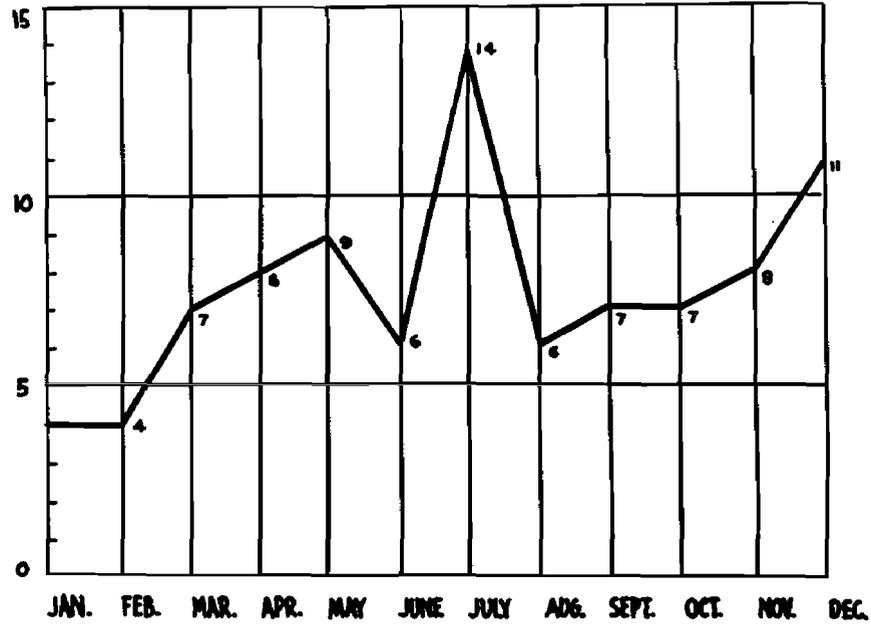
By 1955 MORE PERSONS WERE INJURED ON U.S. HIGHWAYS THAN WERE WOUNDED ON ALL THE BATTLEFIELDS OF THE NATIONS HISTORY

1955 FATAL ACCIDENTS BY DAY



TOTAL FATAL ACCIDENTS 91

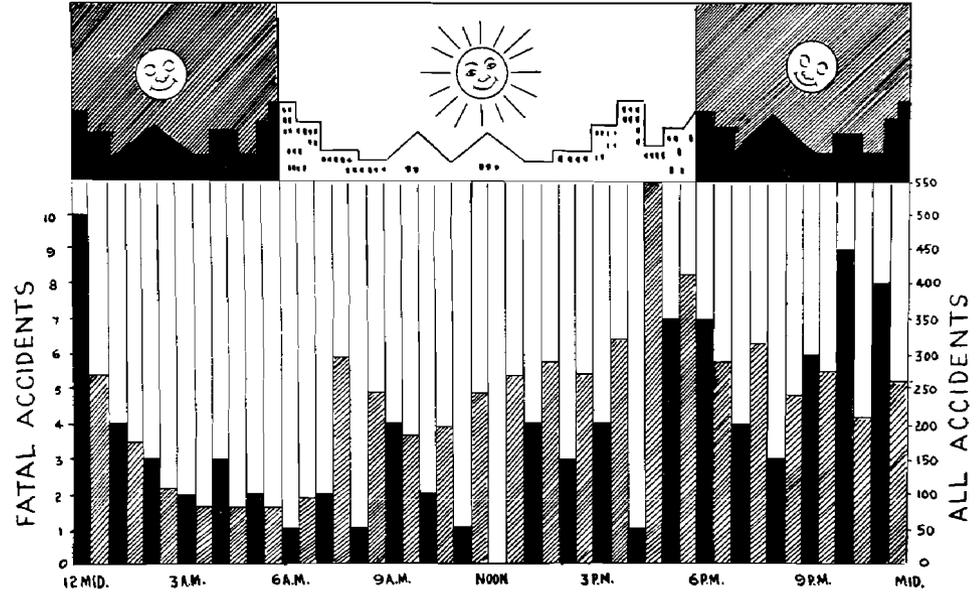
1955 FATAL ACCIDENTS BY MONTH



TOTAL FATAL ACCIDENTS 91

COMPARISON FATAL & ALL ACCIDENTS

BY TIME OF DAY - 1955



TOTAL FATAL ACCIDENTS 91
 TOTAL ALL ACCIDENTS 5712



SECTION V.

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

1955

The following is the Sixteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification covering the calendar year January 1, 1955 to December 31, 1955.

Crime in rural Delaware increased 27.6% over the 1954 figure. A total of 8,055 cases were investigated by the State Police of which 6,987 or 86.7% were cleared either by arrest or investigation.

In comparison of percent of cases cleared by the Department with those of other Departments on a National basis, we find that the Delaware State Police is far above the National average.

The Department feels that the success of the Criminal Division can be attributed to the method of training the officer receives and the ability to do their job well.

AUTO THEFT:

Auto thefts increased 10.5%. 116 auto thefts reported during the year 1955 as compared to 105 for the preceding year. There were 109 of the 116 cars recovered and as in previous years there is no doubt that others will have been recovered after this report goes to press.

ROBBERY AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS:

Robbery cases have decreased compared to the year 1954. Cases reported this year total 18 as compared with 21 for the year 1954.

Aggravated Assaults also decreased in comparison with the year 1954. A total of 34 cases were reported for the year 1955 against 40 for 1954.

RAPE:

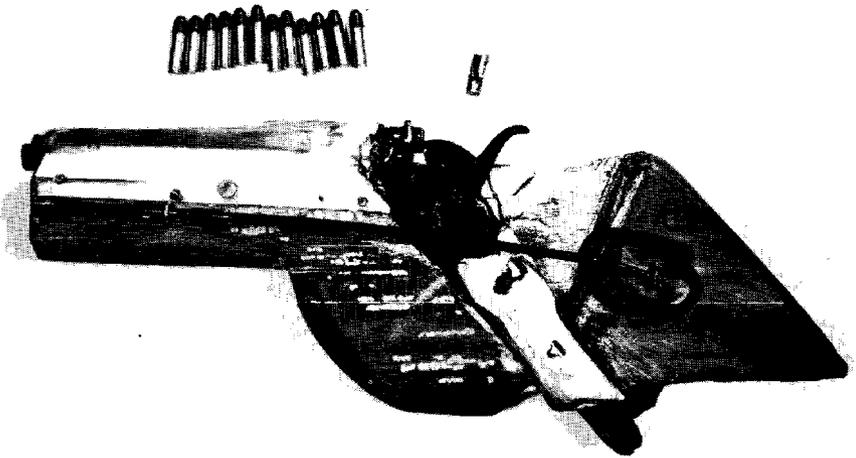
Rape cases increased over 100% in 1955. A total of 13 cases compared to 6 in 1954.

BURGLARIES:

Burglaries increased almost 18% over the year 1954. A total of 598 cases reported in 1955 as compared to 508 for the preceding year.

Comparing the over-all picture in Criminal Activities for year 1955 as to 1954, we find a decided increase in crime. The increase of 27.6% is an alarming figure, but when the increase in the population of the State of Delaware is taken into consideration, crime has actually decreased. It has now become apparent that the Delaware State Police are called upon to do a city police job rather than a rural police job.

When we consider all the new building developments and industry especially in New Castle County, plus the population moving into these developments which makes the population of New Castle County exceed the population of the City of Wilmington one can imagine the potential complaints coming to this Department which indeed reflects on the increase of crime reported to the Delaware State Police.



DEADLY WEAPONS

It is becoming more apparent each year that the criminal element is resorting to carrying deadly weapons. Weapons taken from criminals by officers of this Department include revolvers, pistols, all sorts of knives, from butcher knives to switch blade and hunting knives, black jacks, brass knuckles, and even home-made so-called "zip guns." Above is a photograph of such a gun designed to fire .22 calibre bullets.

On the night of February 19, 1955, a State Trooper was assigned to a complaint and while in the process of apprehending subject involved the weapon in the photograph was fired at the officer. The subject was quickly subdued and the gun taken from him.

DISPOSITIONS OF CRIMINAL ARRESTS

The following are dispositions of arrests exclusive of persons arrested for more than one offense: released to other authorities, released to juvenile authorities, etc.

- 1101 Defendants had fines imposed totaling \$25,203.00.
- 208 Defendants were sentenced to 204 years, 11 months and 10 days.
- 1 Defendant was sentenced to Life Imprisonment.
- 138 Defendants were sentenced in default of fine.
- 40 Defendants had cases withdrawn by Complainant.
- 87 Defendants had cases dismissed by Magistrate.
- 149 Defendants had cases dismissed by Family Court.
- 40 Defendants had cases dismissed by Court of Common Pleas.
- 77 Persons were paroled to 181 years and 3 months.
- 55 Persons committed to State Institutions.
- 591 Persons released to other Authorities.

DELAWARE STATE POLICE
CRIMINAL STATISTICS

	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
PART I CLASSES								
1. Criminal homicide:								
(a) Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	5	13	5	12	0	2	4	11
(b) Manslaughter by negligence	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
2. Rape	13	6	5	2	7	3	4	3
3. Robbery	18	21	7	9	5	0	16	17
4. Aggravated assault	34	40	31	33	2	0	33	41
5. Burglary—breaking and/or entering	598	508	242	185	16	46	457	353
6. Larceny— theft (except auto theft):								
(a) \$100 and over in value	158	130	40	24	14	8	67	39
(b) Under \$100 in value	608	444	207	215	63	23	425	361
7. Auto theft	116	97	42	28	18	7	78	57
Arson	3	15	2	5	0	6	8	4
Total, Part I Classes	1554	1274	582	513	126	95	1093	886
PART II CLASSES								
8. Forgery and counterfeiting	39	6	25	50	4	3	32	47
9. Embezzlement and fraud	82	134	65	73	2	9	97	89
10. Stolen property—buying, receiving, possessing	5	15	5	11	0	4	12	19
11. Prostitution and commercialized vice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Sex offenses (except 2 and 11)	60	51	45	32	5	2	54	58
13. Federal Violations	27	34	21	19	5	5	18	31
14. Fugitives	604	441	211	131	277	226	252	228
Total, Part II Classes	817	735	372	316	293	249	465	472
PART III CLASSES								
15. Other assaults	553	427	347	344	209	167	353	400
16. Weapons—carrying, possessing, etc.	36	26	35	26	0	0	40	31
17. Offenses against the family and children	82	54	18	14	64	39	20	11
18. Narcotic drug laws	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
19. Liquor laws	14	9	13	8	1	2	38	10
20. Drunkenness	207	145	170	117	37	27	173	123
21. Disorderly conduct	627	534	322	254	304	269	318	328
22. Vagrancy	61	89	61	72	0	1	63	87
23. Gambling	37	7	36	15	1	0	113	15
24. Missing persons and run-aways	272	315	48	50	216	228	58	82
25. Insanity cases handled	15	1	3	0	12	0	3	1
26. Suicide cases investigated	35	42	1	0	34	42	0	0
27. Sudden deaths investigated	83	82	0	0	83	84	0	0
28. Noncriminal complaints investigated	3	31	1	0	2	18	0	0
29. All other offenses not listed	3659	2466	610	337	2985	2138	549	389
Total, Part III Classes	5684	4228	1666	1237	3948	3015	1728	1477
GRAND TOTAL	8055	6237	2620	2066	4367	2259	3286	2835

AUTO THEFTS BY TROOP

1955

Troop	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Thefts	19	54	13	13	11	110
Recovered (S.P.)	10	42	13	8	6	69
Recovered (Other Jurisdictions)	7	11	0	2	3	23
Recovered Otherwise	2	0	0	0	0	2
Recovered for Wilmington P.D.	8	13	2	0	1	24
Recovered for Other Jurisdictions	17	33	8	0	2	60
Cars Remaining Stolen	0	1	0	3	2	6

RELEASED TO OTHER AUTHORITIES

1955

	1954	1955
Army	19	10
Court of Common Pleas	31	39
Dover Police Department	1	1
Family Court	76	53
Federal	7	10
Ferris Industrial School	52	19
Governor Bacon Health Center	15	6
Maryland	43	43
Massachusetts	—	5
Navy	4	5
New Castle County Workhouse	1	—
New Castle Police Department	1	1
New Jersey	7	4
New York	5	3
North Carolina	—	3
Others	3	272
Parents	48	31
Pennsylvania	14	29
State Hospital	25	13
Virginia	4	4
Wilmington Police Department	56	61
Woodshaven School	6	6
Newark Police Department	—	1
Connecticut	—	1
Florida	—	2
TOTALS	418	622

AUTO THEFTS AND RECOVERIES

	1954	1955
Number of car thefts		
Rural Delaware	105	110
Total Recovered (Item 1)	105	105
(a) Recovered (State Police)	76	77
(b) Recovered (Other Jurisdictions)	29	26
(c) Recovered Otherwise	—	2
Percent of stolen cars recovered		
Rural Delaware	100.	96.1
Automobiles recovered for other Jurisdictions	15	65
Automobiles recovered for Wilmington Police Department	13	25
Total Cars recovered by Delaware State Police	133	25

OFFENSES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES AND MINORS

	1954	1955
Adultery	0	0
Arson	1	0
Assault	2	8
Assault and Battery	37	20
Assault W/I Rape	0	0
Bastardy	0	0
B E — I,	149	140
C.C.D.W.	6	4
Discharging Firearms	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	44	29
Disturbing the Peace	1	9
Drunk and Disorderly	3	3
Escapee	23	20
False Pretense	1	0
Federal	10	16
Forgery	3	4
Fugitive	20	33
Gambling	3	1
Indecent Exposure	0	0
Incorrigible	4	2
Larceny	100	133

Larceny Motor Vehicle	23	32
Liquor Laws	0	0
Malicious Mischief	25	31
Material Witness	3	6
Miscellaneous	14	34
Non-support	0	0
Parole Violator	1	0
Rape	2	0
Receiving Stolen Goods	1	1
Robbery	2	7
Runaways	49	36
Threats	4	1
Toying Female Minor	1	3
Trespassing	18	16
Vagrancy	4	3
Violation Age Consent	0	4
Sodomy	15	0
Worthless Checks	0	0
Other Sex Offenses	0	2
TOTALS	569	598

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

1955

Troop	Cases	Cleared	Arrests
Troop #1	0	0	0
Troop #2	0	0	0
Troop #3	2	2	2
Troop #4	2	2	2
Troop #5	1	1	1
TOTALS	5	5	5

MINOR AND JUVENILE ARREST

BY AGE

Age	1954	1955
8-11	32	17
5-7	0	5
12	17	16
13	23	39
14	44	62
15	80	90
16	104	90
17	67	76
18	73	90
19	100	79
20	50	47
TOTALS	590	611

LARCENY

Larceny increased 13.7% during 1955, with 42.2% of the cases being cleared.

1954		1955	
Cases	674	Cases	766
Cleared	41.8%	Cleared	42.2%

BY TROOP

Troop	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Number of cases	188	298	40	173	67	766
Number of cases cleared	77	112	30	59	46	324
Percentage cleared	40.9%	37.5%	75.0%	34.1%	68.6%	42.2%

BURGLARIES

This offense increased 16.7% over 1954, with 598 cases being reported as compared to 508 in 1954. A total of 43.1% of the cases were cleared through investigation or arrest.

1954		1955	
Cases	508	Cases	598
Cleared	45.4%	Cleared	43.1%

BY TROOP

Troop	1	2	3	4	5	Totals
Number of Cases	148	276	58	82	34	598
Number cleared	54	142	14	30	18	258
Percentage cleared	36.4%	51.4%	24.1%	36.5%	52.9%	43.1%

CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

1955

Class 1	21 %	Decrease
Class 2	11.1 %	Increase
Class 3	34.4 %	Decrease

CASES CLEARED

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Average
1954	47.7%	76.8%	99.8%	86.9%
1955	45.5%	81.3%	97 %	86.7%

VALUE PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED

	1954	1955
Total value of property stolen	108,344.38	102,492.44
Total value of property recovered	25,915.42	66,288.80
(a) Recovered (D.S.P.)	67,495.00	78,290.00
(b) Recovered (Other Jurisdictions)	30,410.00	29,290.00
(c) Recovered Otherwise		1,550.00
Percent of stolen property recovered	23.9	64.6
Value of property recovered for other jurisdictions	58,288.18	60,960.00
Total value of property recovered by D.S.P.	151,698.60	210,423.80

NIGHT PATROLS

CHECK OF BUSINESS PLACES

1955

Troop	Number
#1	43,596
#2	39,220
#3	10,707
#4	12,680
#5	13,083
TOTAL	119,286

SECTION VI.

THE BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION

1955

A comparison of the Identification Bureau statistics for 1955 with those of 1954 reveals an increase of over 8% in the number of fingerprints processed and an increase of 14% in the work of the photographic laboratory. This annual increase closely follows the crime and accident rate for Delaware.

This year equipment was purchased to set up a criminal photograph or "mug" camera at one of the troops on a trial basis. The experiment was very successful and proved so valuable that additional equipment is being secured for all troops.

One of the many functions of the Bureau is the comparison of fingerprints which are found at the scenes of crimes with those of suspects whose fingerprints are in the bureau files. If there are no suspects it is practically impossible to make an identification. As an answer to this problem a new file known as the "Practical Fingerprint File" was started. For this file the hands are printed separately on a card form. These prints are then given a numerical classification and filed in sequence. An unknown fingerprint can be quickly searched through this file for an identification as more and more prints are added to this file it will increase in value.

The following interesting cases are from the bureau files:

In August, 1954, an unknown body was found floating in the Nanticoke River near Seaford. Due to the advanced stage of decomposition it was impossible to identify the victim by sight. The investigators were able to slip the skin of one hand like a glove and ship it to the Bureau for processing. The Bureau was able to obtain a good set of fingerprints from this and a search through the files resulted in a positive identification of the victim.

On a night in June, 1954, the Rosedale Beach Hotel was broken into by two men who stole a quantity of liquor. Being unable to carry all the liquors away at one time they hid several bottles in some bushes nearby. A thorough search of the crime scene and surroundings disclosed the hidden bottles. Even though they had been exposed to the weather for 24 hours the Bureau was able to develop and photograph legible fingerprints from the necks of the bottles. Two suspects were found and upon questioning denied all knowledge of the crime. However, their fingerprints matched perfectly with the prints from the bottles. When confronted with this evidence they both admitted their guilt in Court and were sentenced to prison.

IDENTIFICATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR OF 1955

1. Applicants: 89
2. Personal identification fingerprint cards received:.... 3
3. Wanted circulars received: 1002
4. Wanted circulars cancelled: 1238
5. Criminal fingerprint cards and their contributors:

Troop #1 167 County Police 1
Troop #2 677 Milford P.D. 120
Troop #3 444 Rehoboth P.D. 13

Troop #4 512 Phila. P.D. 1
Troop # 5 301 Bridgeville P.D. 3
N.C.C.W. 1030 Sussex Co. Pr. 129
Dover P.D. 378 D.M. Bridge 30
Newark P.D. 24 Jersey City, N.J. 2
Smyrna P.D. 23 Del. Liquor Comm. 4

3859

5. Criminal fingerprints by race and sex:

White Male 2099
Black Male 1468
White Female 123
Black Female 169

3859

6. Previous arrest:

1256

7. Indices checked for other investigating agencies:..... 3587

With Record:..... 122

8. Photographic Service:

.. Department Name	Negatives Developed	Photos Printed	Photostatic Copies Printed
Headquarters	265	767	76
Troop #1	142	158	14
Troop #2	322	343	51
Troop #3	168	164	11
Troop #4	259	218	8
Troop #5	170	186	—
TOTALS	1326	1836	160

9. Rouges Gallery:

3322

White Race 622

Colored Race 449

1071

11. Firearm Registration:

Revolvers and Pistols 101

Shotguns 12

Rifles 10

303

12. Stolen Firearms:

15

**TOTAL IDENTIFICATION DATA ON FILE
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1955**

	1954	1955
13. Criminal Fingerprints:	66909	10768
14. Criminals with Previous Records:	30859	32115
15. Personal Identification and Applicant Fingerprints:	16180	16272
16. Firearms Registered:	3601	3904
17. Rouges Gallery:		
White Race	11308	11930
Colored Race	9170	9619

COMPARISON OF 1954 AND 1955

	1954	1955
1. Applicants:	5	5
2. Personal Identification Fingerprints Received:	1	3
3. Wanted Circulars Received:	1026	1002
4. Wanted Circulars Cancelled:	1218	1238
5. Criminal Fingerprints:	3572	3859
6. Previous Arrest:	1291	1259
7. Indices Checked For Other Agencies:	5539	3587
8. Photographic Service:	2917	3322
9. Rouges Gallery:	962	1071
10. Firearms Registered:	169	303
11. Stolen Firearms:	82	15

SECTION VII.

TRAINING

1955

The establishment of a State Police Training Academy in 1955 was the culmination of many years of planning by the Training Division. The academy is the building located on the site of the Delaware Memorial Bridge and was used by the engineers during the bridge's construction. The building is being renovated following which it will be used for recruit training schools which will commence January, 1955. Renovation was delayed during three (3) weeks of in-service training.

It has long been the desire of the Training Division to have its own building for training purposes and to concentrate all training material and equipment in a central location. Under the present plans the recruits will be fed and quartered in the building and it is believed that the discipline established during this seventeen (17) week training period will be of great value. Also, the esprit-de-corps developed under these circumstances will be reflected in better intra-departmental relations.

In-service training schools were conducted during the weeks of November 7th to 11th, November 28th to December 2nd, December 5th to 9th, Human relations and Supervision being the theme of the course. This course was conducted by members of the Department which permits a varied discussion of supervision's problems, reactions of the personnel to supervision's treatment and many other phases and areas of human relations and supervision.

With the exception of the Honorable Joseph Donald Craven, Attorney General for the State of Delaware, all the instruction was handled by members of the Department. Mr. Craven spoke on criminal case participation. The following subjects were also covered:

- Descriptions
- New Laws
- Duties of Shift Commander
- Intoximeters
- Signs and Signals
- Traffic Reports
- Criminal Reports
- Fingerprinting and Photography
- Communications
- Driver Improvement and Road Blocks

For the first time our Chaplains visited each training school and discussed their role as members of the Department and their willingness to help in any way possible in any personal problems the men might have.

During the year 1955, several members of the Department received specialized training in some of the outstanding schools of law enforcement. Lieutenant Simonds, who graduated from Southern Police Institute, was honored by being elected President of his class and Valedictorian.

The Training Division was called upon again this year to organize and recruit additional men and women to serve as Civil Defense Police who in cases of emergency, would aug-

ment the Delaware State Police throughout the State. At the year's end, one class of approximately forty (40) additional persons had been trained and others were being recruited.

During the week of April 19th through 22nd, the State Police, in connection with the Wilmington Bureau of Police and Town Police Departments conducted a school for Town Police. This school was held at the Robbins Hose Company Fire House, Governors Avenue, Dover. Twenty-four (24) men were graduated from the course on April 22, at which time His Excellency Governor Boggs awarded the certificates for the successful completion of the course.

On August 10, 1955 word was received from Northwestern Traffic Institute that Corporal Leo E. Dancy had been awarded a Fellowship by the Traffic Institute made available by the Kemper Foundation. This course is a nine (9) month course conducted at the Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. Corporal Dancy will commence in early September.

In early September, Detective Burrill F. McCoy completed an eight (8) week course of training at the Keeler Polygraph Institute in Chicago, Illinois. He is the third member of the Department to receive this training in the use of the lie detector.

The Training Division, as well as other divisions of the State Police, were complimented again in that they were selected by the International Police Services to guide Too Sek Kim, Superintendent and Commanding Officer of the National Police of the Republic of South Korea, for a period of ten (10) days. During the ten (10) day stay, Chief Kim had an opportunity to observe and visit all Departments of the State Police.

SECTION VIII.

SAFETY EDUCATION

1955

It is generally conceded that the public generally will not arrive at a point of high individual responsibility without good reason and strong stimulation. To bring the public to this point calls for continuing education. Traffic safety must be taught, and developed in the individual; they must be told what is expected of them. As Legislature enacts new laws affecting the motorist and pedestrian, these new laws must be brought to their attention. The plan must be organized and cooperative using every available medium of public infor-

mation. The information must be factual, understandable, and used in such a way as to afford convincing reasons for individual effort to eliminate traffic accidents.

The State Police, in cooperation with other interested agencies, participates in all phases of highway safety. Speak-

ers trained in the problem are furnished business and professional groups, local civic and service organizations, schools, etc. In addition the latest films depicting traffic problems and highway safety are shown.

The Department worked in close cooperation with the joint Legislative Committee on problems generally affecting the motorist and pedestrian.

In 1955 State Police Personnel participated in 185 speaking engagements. The Department also participated in the "Slow Down and Live" campaign and S. D. Day.

A member of the Department made weekly broadcasts from Radio Station WILM on their Delaware Lifeline Program. This program covered all related fields in police work. Numerous newspaper releases were prepared by the Department bringing to the motoring public's attention traffic safety and new laws. It is the aim of the Safety Education Division to bring to the general public's attention every possible means of reducing highway accidents.

SECTION IX. FIREARMS DIVISION

1955

In the very near future the Delaware State Police intends to train its entire compliment of personnel in skeet shooting. In shooting at moving targets the police officer is afforded additional gun handling techniques. The Connecticut State Police now have this type of training for each officer in its Department.

The purpose of this training is to teach the officer proper handling of the shotgun, stance and body position, mounting the gun to the shoulder, the aim and actual firing.

The personnel of the New Castle County Police and Newark Police Department were trained in the classroom at the Delaware State Police Academy in firearm safety. Afterward they were taken to the pistol range and executed what they had learned in the classroom.

Firearms equipment was inspected at all Troops throughout the year and was found to be in excellent condition. Two new Emerson Resuscitators were purchased and issued to Troop #2 and Troop #4 to replace the obsolete E. & J. Resuscitators.

The Sixth Annual Delaware State Police Pistol Match was held October 1, 1955 and October 2, 1955 with great success. It was found necessary to hold this match two days due to the large attendance which is increasing every year.

Following are the averages made during the year on the Army "L" and the Practical Pistol Course.

Possible score for Army "L" — 300		Possible score for P.P.C. — 100	
Army "L"		P.P.C.	
Headquarters	275	Headquarters	84.9
Bridge	262	Bridge	81.2
Troop #1	263	Troop #1	83.1
Troop #2	266	Troop #2	77.2
Troop #3	268	Troop #3	81.0
Troop #4	265	Troop #4	82.1
Troop #5	260	Troop #5	83.1

SECTION X.
SUPPLY DIVISION

1955

An important function of an efficient organization is the procuring and dispensing of material and equipment to the men in the field. This must be done economically and yet in such a manner that everything is furnished so the men can properly perform their job.

It is the duty of the Supply Division to:

1. Assist in the preparation of the biennial budget requests.
2. Maintain records of all expenses.
3. Keep personnel attendance records.
4. Process all invoices.
5. Inspect and keep maintenance records on all motor equipment.
6. Inspect and maintain all buildings and their equipment.
7. Many other duties which are routine but time consuming.

An adequate stock of office supplies is maintained and dispensed to the Troops upon requisition of the Troop Commander. Janitor supplies and articles of wearing apparel (uniforms and equipment) are likewise issued.

A large percentage of the various forms used by the Department are printed on the Multilith machine at Headquarters, thus effecting a great saving.

Quarterly inspections were held in March, June, September and December, with the purpose of seeing that all Departmental buildings are kept in good repair, and to see that proper care is being taken of vehicles and personal equipment.

During the summer, five air-conditioning units were installed at Headquarters for the comfort of the personnel. Similar units were likewise installed at Troop #2. It is planned to install units at the various Troops as the monies become available, with the exception of Troop #3. There, such installation will not be necessary, since the new Troop #3 building, which is to be erected in the near future, will be air-conditioned.

During the year it was necessary to make certain repairs and improvements. Two buildings were painted, the interiors of the Headquarters building, and Troop #4, Georgetown, with improved toilet facilities also being added at Troop #4.

The platform scales at Troops #1 and #5 were overhauled with a new platform being installed on the scale at Troop #1.

The neon signs at the various Troops were re-lettered, and their color changed from blue to red in order to improve visibility.

For the convenience of the mechanics at Troop #2 and Dover, wheel balancers and tire mounting devices for tubeless tires were purchased.

During the year, thirty (30) cars were traded in for new models. Following is a break-down of the motor vehicle equipment of the Department.

Number of cars in operation	87 units in fleet
Average mileage per gallon	11.9 miles
Number of miles driven	2,439,933
Cost of tires and tubes	\$6,734.17
Cost of replacement parts	10,346.26



January 22, 1957

To the Chairmen and Members of the
State Highway Commission
Dover, Delaware

Gentlemen :

I respectfully submit herewith a report of the activities
of the State Communications Division of the State Highway
Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956.

Respectfully,

S. H. P. STANT, Staff Captain
Director, State Police
Communications Division

SHPS:c

STATE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Fiscal Year 1955 - 1956

This fiscal year is one in which tremendous strides were made in communications and one in which Delaware can rightly take credit for another first. With the establishment of the State Communications Division under the jurisdiction of the State Highway Department this was the first state to recognize the tremendous importance communications play in our everyday endeavor.

The background of the establishment of this new division includes months of intensive study by all department and division heads of State agencies together with representatives of State firemen organizations who made use of radio in their everyday activities. A working agenda listing every desirable facility this division could incorporate was used as a basis, and concurrence by the majority on each item appearing in the enactment was obtained.

In August an administrator was appointed and given authority to establish and organize this division. By September necessary personnel were hired, together with absorbing all existing parts, supplies and equipment, and the transferring of technicians from the State Police Division to this division. Necessary procedures and policies were formulated; and by June 1956 the division was not only well under way with 57 active accounts, but was also being recognized as a very much needed, economical, and successful operation.

One of the first tasks undertaken was a complete inventory and cataloguing of all State-owned equipment. After this was done, a breakdown was made on a "per unit" basis to determine the exact workload of each technician and the types as well as quantities of various repair parts, tubes, etc., needed for an average twelve-month supply. By purchasing in quantity and by competitive bid, even a greater saving has been realized by all State agencies. An example of proportions of various parts, tubes, etc., required was determined by actual records maintained by the State Police Division over a period of five years. In tabulation of the above the following equipment and their equivalents were as follows:

TABULATION No. 1
EQUIPMENT BY DEPARTMENTS
BEGINNING OF YEAR

Department	Mobile	Base Sta.	Pack Set	Remote Control	Coord. Rec.	Inter-Comm.	Towers	Radar Units	Public Addr. Sys.	Misc.
State Police	91	6	6	9	7	19	5	2	3	
Highway ...	44	2	—	4	1	13	1	—	—	
Highway Planning	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Crossing Div. (Hwy.)	11	1	1	—	—	11	—	—	—	
Civil (Org.)										Tone Alert
Defense Control Centers	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
State Fire Net	60	3	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	
*Volunteer Fire Co.	71	5	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	
*Volunteer Ambulances	*10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Forestry	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Fish & Game	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	317	23	21	17	21	43	15	3	3	6

EQUIPMENT IN USE THE END OF FISCAL YEAR

Crossing Division	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Vol. Fire Co.	50	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Fish & Game	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Grand Total	376	38	21	17	21	43	15	3	3	6

* Not State owned

TABULATION No. 2

The following equivalents for maintenance comparisons:

Base Station	=	2	Mobile Units
Pack Sets	=	1	" "
Remote Control	=	1/2	" "

Coordinated Receivers	= 1/2	"	"
Intercommunications Units	= 1/3	"	"
Radar Units	= 1	"	"
Public Address Systems	= 1/2	"	"
Tone Alert Units	= 1/2	"	"

TABULATION No. 3

Equivalent number of Mobile Units and Accessories

Department	Beginning July 1, 1955		Approximate Equipment In Use June 30, 1956	
	Mobile	Towers	Mobile	Towers
State Police	126.5	5	126.5	5
Highway	54.5	1	60	1
Highway Planning	3	—	3	—
Crossing Div. (Hwy.)	18	—	19	—
Civil Defense (Org.)	5	—	5	—
Control Centers	29	9	29	9
Fire Net	70	—	70	—
Volunteer Fire Co.	89	—	169	—
Vol. Ambulance	12	—	12	—
Forestry	13	—	13	—
Fish & Game	5	—	12	—
Total	425	15	518.5	16

The next study made was to estimate the cost to various agencies and advise them on the amounts to set aside from their budget for this purpose. The following tabulation indicates those amounts recommended to be set aside to meet these expenses and the actual amount charged for the entire period from September 1, 1955, to June 31, 1956.

Agency	Estimated Amount of Money Recommended	Actual Charges Made
*State Police Department	\$ 6,610.00	\$ 6,732.67
Department of Civil Defense	1,862.10	721.20
(Fire Net)		
*Highway Department	3,203.52	1,014.40
*Highway Planning	87.95	45.49
*Crossing Division	525.35	529.75
Civil Defense (Organizational)....	290.82	23.97
*Civil Defense Control Centers.....	441.48	842.34
**Volunteer Fire Companies	4,443.75	3,556.31
*State Forestry Department	220.20	316.50
Game and Fish Commission	331.80	298.98

* These totals do not include charges made for painting towers, painting of Police Troops, additional intercom units and installation of same, six to twelve volt conversions, repair for hurricane damage, which in part was reimbursable by insurance, etc.

** This total includes charges made for volunteer ambulances.

In addition to the purchasing and stockpiling of tubes, equipment, etc., through the facilities of this Division, complete operational and procedure manuals were prepared in quantity for the State Police Division, State Highway Department, and volunteer fire companies, the expense of which was wholly borne by this Division.

Further planning for the coming fiscal year includes in part:

Expansion of repair facilities.

Expansion of the Highway Department radio system to a complete State-wide network.

Frequency change for the State Police Division to that part of the radio spectrum where their radio communications network will be comparatively free from interference.

Planning modern communications facilities in the new State Police Administration Headquarters, so they will be second to none.

And last but not least: continual critical scrutinization of our entire operation with the thought of additional economy as well as better service to all State agencies.

Very respectfully submitted,
STAFF CAPT. S. H. P. STANT

