



STATE POLICE DIVISION

The Delaware State Police literally took to the air in 1959.

They did it in a dozen different ways.

They did it literally by buying a Cessna 175 to give permanent wing to their aviation section.

They did it figuratively by continuing to set a pace as one of the top State Police organizations in the country.

This point was underlined impressively by the fact that for the seventh time in the last nine years the Delaware State Police received the "Outstanding Achievement Award" for police traffic supervision from the International Association of Chiefs of Police, one of five states so honored in 1959.

During the same year, the State Police of Delaware showed why they rate as one of the nation's best as they set a safety pattern no state can yet match.

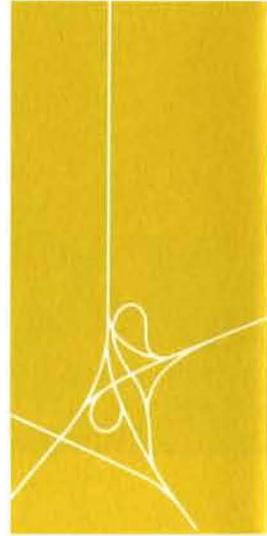
Operation Roadcheck, a program inaugurated in 1958 and carried over into 1959, saw Delaware statistics register only one traffic fatality more than the preceding year even though traffic increased at an abnormal rate for the same period.

A department is only as good as the men who make it up and the high caliber performance of the organization as a whole was easily reflected in the honors accrued by some of its individual officers.

For instance, Colonel John P. Ferguson, Superintendent, was elected regional chairman of the North Atlantic Region, State and Provincial Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Major Sterling E. Simonds, executive officer, was elected president of the Southern Police Institute Alumni Association.

Both men are now in key posts in organizations which





Governor Boggs presenting keys to new State Police plane, a Cessna 175, to J. Gordon Smith, Chairman of State Highway Commission.

(Left to Right) Major George F. Schmalhofer, Field Force Commander, J. Gordon Smith, Chairman of Highway Commission, J. Caleb Boggs, Governor, State of Delaware, Sgt. Charles R. Skinner, Pilot.

promote better state police cooperation between the states and foster the exchange of law enforcement ideas and methods.

And it's the adoption of these latest methods of law enforcement that continually keep the State Police of Delaware in the forefront of their brother organizations.

One such method was the Canine Corps, introduced in 1958. It paid off dividends in 1959 by keeping the lid on an interracial squabble in Collins Park when a Negro family moved into the white community. The dogs cowed the crowds, keeping them under control.

The dogs also exerted this same quieting influence on prisoners, helping break a sit-down strike at the New Castle County Correctional Institute.

The need to expand was the obvious fact of 1959, brought out in a "Manpower and Facility Survey" conducted by the Department. The State Police has to expand and continually revise its present manpower and equipment levels in order to continue doing its superior job.

The survey recommended that personnel be increased from 180 to 250 men, a new troop be established in the Price's Corner-Newark area, establish a county-wide detective division for New Castle County, revise troop area patrols, replace one troop building, expand two other troop buildings and improve the telephone facilities at still another.

The Department immediately moved into action with a bill presented to the Legislature for author-

ization to increase the manpower. Construction for the needed troop building is almost complete as of this writing.

No department to let dust accumulate under its feet, the Department bought its own plane . . . and this at no cost to taxpayers. The money came from within the budget from money saved. On June 20, 1960, the Department accepted delivery of a Cessna 175 Skylark, giving Delaware its first State Police airplane.

The Department long has felt the need for an airplane. In the past it had been forced to rent planes when they were needed. But this often proved unsatisfactory, as the craft was seldom properly equipped.

Today the fledgling aviation program is making news as the airplane is kept busy with aerial traffic control, mercy flights, routine river and bay patrols and returning prisoners from other states.

But though it looked to the air to keep pace with the future, the State Police realized its biggest job was on the ground. And this it did effectively as the Department's Traffic Bureau won the International Association of Chiefs of Police Pedestrian Safety Award for the second straight year and for the fourth time in eight years.

In its drive to keep down the ever-climbing accident rate, the Department again found that speed and the drinking driver were responsible for the heaviest share of the fatal accidents that marred the safety record in the State.

Speed violations were present in 42% of all

accidents and drinking drivers were involved in 48% of the fatal accidents.

A study showed that 84% of the drinking driver fatal accidents took place between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

The Department, faced with this information, intensified its crackdown against the drinking driver. It used selective enforcement as one way. Selective enforcement is a process by which the Department, through a long correlation of statistics, can pinpoint the likely spots and times and days on which accidents usually happen. Forearmed is forewarned and selective enforcement has enabled the Department to prove the drinking driver presents a special problem and that there is an urgent need for ways to remove him from the highway.

One of these is chemical testing. It has been utilized for several years now with great effect and has been a law since 1955.

The disrupting tendencies of alcohol do not escape the pedestrian and the Department registered the taking into custody of 643 intoxicated pedestrians who could have caused accidents.

Another method of combating the increasing number of unsafe drivers was radar. Its share was 4,001 of the 9,837 drivers arrested for excessive speeding. Speed arrests, it's worth noting, accounted for 44% of the total traffic arrests.

In addition 180,084 reprimands were issued for unsafe driving practices of a minor nature or for equipment found to be defective. Pedestrian reprimands were issued to 5,299 persons who were found to be walking on or along the highways in some unsafe manner.

Traffic and the highway are interrelated and the State Police Traffic Bureau, well aware of this, set up a liaison between the State Highway Department and the Bureau. As a result over 90 traffic conditions were submitted to the Traffic Bureau and coordinated with the State Highway Department, which, aware of many of the situations, was effecting remedial action wherever it could.

Everything was on the increase in 1959 . . . traffic, as well as crime.

The Bureau of Criminal Investigation in its twentieth annual report to the Department reported criminal activity in the State had reached another high for 1959 . . . with the greatest increase in the more serious crimes.

Over 3,700 major criminal offenses were investigated in 1959 as compared to 3,273 the previous year. Of these 1,513 were cleared either by arrest or investigation, a bit better than the year before and somewhat of a miracle considering the increase in the crime rate.

New Castle County, by virtue of its heavy population concentration, accounted for 75% of all the criminal offenses investigated by the Department.

In a statistical breakdown, the Bureau reports 5,258 were arrested in 1959, an increase of 7.3% over the 4,899 arrested in 1958.

In keeping pace with the increase in crime, the State Bureau of Identification received and processed almost ten per cent more fingerprint cards in 1959 than it did in 1958 for a total of 8,103. In 1959 the total number of fingerprint cards in the Bureau's files passed the 98,000 mark.

A highlight of the year's processing was the fact latent fingerprints accounted for the solution of four separate crimes as prints found at the scenes were later matched up with prime suspects.

Everything was on the increase.

Increased crime, increased traffic, increased statistics called for an ever expanding, ever alert Department of well-trained personnel.

On November 9, 1959, a class of 14 recruits and one Memorial Bridge patrolman successfully completed a 25-week training program at the training academy to bring State Police manpower up to its ceiling of 180 officers.

This class was unusual in it reflected new training procedures that were designed to equip patrolmen with the background necessary to face ever widening responsibilities.

Training wasn't limited to new recruits.

Everyone in the Department was undergoing some facet of training during the year. The 18th annual In-service Training School



covered every conceivable subject from traffic reports to aliens and immigration problems as well as pilot rescue in jet crashes.

The Department sent men to advanced police schools in other states including the FBI National Academy.

Even the now-famed and well respected Canine Corps was busy training recruits as Jet, a black Belgium sheep dog, and Rocky, a German shepherd, passed the dog training program successfully and brought the amount of dogs available for duty to five.

The Training Division reports 24 captains, lieutenants and shift commanders attended a class at the Tide-



Police problems—heavy traffic, needless death.

water Refinery on how to handle liquid propane gas incidents.

Thirty-eight municipal police officers completed a 36-hour training course conducted by the division with the assistance of a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Two detectives from the Department attended the Harvard Medical School's Spring Seminar in Homicide Investigation.

To cap its training year, the division instituted a training bulletin which goes to each member of the Department. This monthly report conveys information that will help the men keep abreast of new changes in laws, procedures, and techniques.

The Firearms Division also kept the eye of the State Trooper sharpened as the policy to have each trooper qualify once a month with a revolver was continued.

The riot gun, machine gun, gas gun and gas grenades were some of the weapons with which members of the State Police had to familiarize themselves in a schedule set down by the Firearms Division. In addition, they kept their pistol eye sharpened as they continued to qualify once a month with the revolver.

The annual intertroop match was again conducted on the practical pistol course and was won this year by the team representing Troop #4, Georgetown.

The State Police pistol team walked off with two trophies and ten individual medals after attending ten pistol matches in neighboring states. And finally, in the realm of the sharpshooter, the 10th annual Delaware State Police pistol match drew 300 individual entries from other Police Departments.

By the end of the year the Delaware State Police had 180 members and 42 civilians on its payroll.



The increasing demands on this relatively small corps was seen by the fact that the men who make up the five troops and the headquarters company of the State Police put in a total of 26,136½ hours of overtime, an average of 147 hours overtime per member during the year . . . for an increase of over 6,600 hours over the calendar year 1958.

The Department continued its mass trade-in method in replenishing its 104 motor vehicle fleet. It traded in 70 old vehicles for 70 new ones at a considerable saving to the taxpayers.

It also turned to compacts for the first time. Twenty of the new fleet of 70 were of this type. It's hoped an additional saving will be accrued from the expected increase in gas mileage as a result of using these.

The Division of Safety Education, Public Information, and Youth spent a busy year which saw it cover 271 speech assignments exclusive of youth officer activity and Canine Corps demonstrations.

Over 22,600 Delawareans from all walks of life heard members of the Department speak on traffic, safety, criminal matters and other police subjects.

The Youth Bureau officers also addressed 310 groups which total 15,344 children and adults of school, church, and youth organizations. The Canine Corps performed in 15 major dog shows throughout the State before an estimated 12,000 spectators.

Emphasizing its youth program, the Department staffed the Youth Bureau with four officers, a director, and an administrative officer. While the Youth Bureau officers didn't devote all of their time to youth activities, all the programs initiated by the Bureau were carried out.

Parent-Juvenile conferences, which helped cut down the possibilities of repeated offenses, and letters to parents from the Department were again carried out with newer techniques and refinements added to improve their effectiveness.

With every bureau and division of the State Police Department feeling the impact of increased workloads, changes could be seen everywhere going into effect immediately.

But no division had to face the burden imposed on the Communications Division.

It met a 10-fold demand on its resources with increased expenditures for additional equipment.

It had to purchase 30 mobile radios to enable the Department to change to the much needed new, narrow band specifications set forth by the Federal Communications Commission.

New radio remote control units were purchased for all troops with additional remotes for Troops 2, 3, and 4. These extra remote units carry the tone for sounding the attack warning sirens, improving the reliability of the sirens in all three counties.

The intra-state teletype system's traffic grew to a point where it now exceeds the capacity of the system. The division and the telephone company are now working on new proposals for using both the intra- and inter-state teletype systems in a way that will help alleviate the heavy traffic load.

