

STATE POLICE REPORT  
CALENDAR YEAR 1953  
FOR STATE HIGHWAY  
REPORT—FISCAL YEAR 52-53

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June 1, 1953

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

Gentlemen:

I respectfully submit herewith a report of the activities of the State Police Division for the calendar year 1952.

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.

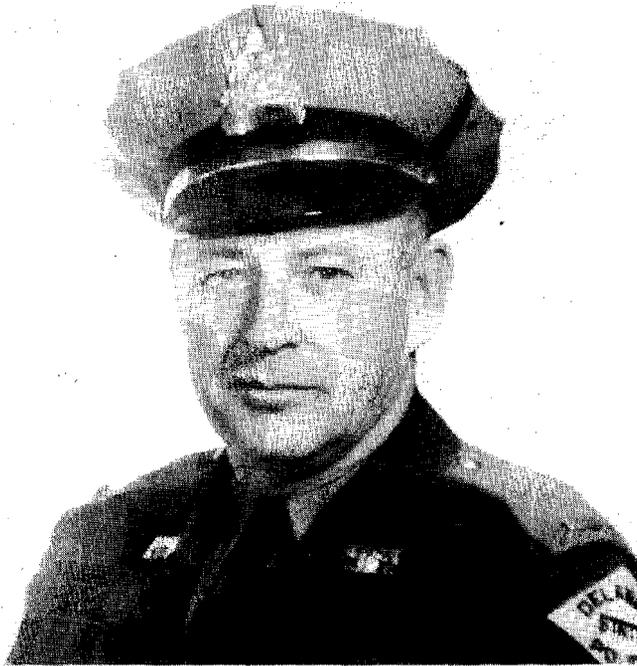
Very truly yours,  
COLONEL HARRY S. SHEW  
Superintendent

## ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

During the year 1952 the Delaware State Police Department showed a decided increase in both criminal and traffic activity. The reasons are many. This is especially true in New Castle County. The greatest single contributing factor in the increased volume of traffic carried by the Delaware Memorial Bridge has resulted from the opening of the New Jersey Turnpike, which took place during the early part of 1952. Also responsible for the increase is the rapid growth of population in the rural areas. Very few rural areas are incorporated. As a result they require the services of the State Police for both traffic and criminal law enforcement.

In the traffic field, the increase in volume at the peak periods was so great that on week-ends and holidays during the summer months the services of many Troopers were required for manual traffic direction at several intersections on Routes #40 and #13. The over-all increase in traffic throughout the State during this year was 17.28 per cent, as compared with 1951 statistics.

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CAPTAIN GEORGE E. MINNER

On December 23, 1952, the Department mourned the passing of one of its retired members, Captain George E. Minner, who died at his home following a heart attack.

Captain Minner was first appointed to the Department on May 5, 1927. He left the Department for a period of four years and returned July 7, 1933, at which time he was assigned to Troop #5, Bridgeville, where he was stationed during most of his time with the Department. He was first promoted on January 8, 1940 to the rank of Investigator; from that to the rank of Corporal on May 1, 1942; and rose steadily until on May 15, 1949 he was promoted to the rank of Captain and Troop Commander at Troop #5, the position he held until he was retired on disability pension, May 1, 1950.

Captain Minner was respected by all those with whom he worked, and those with whom he came in contact. He will long be remembered as one who had a sincere interest in the Department and the State.

Several promotions were effected during the year 1952. Promotions within the administration division were: Lieutenant Carl L. Lawrence, Director of the Criminal Division, to the rank of Captain on May 1; Lieutenant C. Preston Poore, Director of the Driver Improvement and Driver Licensing Bureau, to the status of Captain on August 1; Sergeant John P. Ferguson, Chief Statistician and Assistant Director of the Traffic Bureau, to the rank of Lieutenant on April 1, Sergeant Cazenove C. Seitz, Director of Training, to the rank of Lieutenant on April 1; Sergeant Sterling E. Simonds, Director of the Identification Bureau, to Lieutenant on June 1.

In addition, a new rank was created within the Criminal Investigation Division, that of Chief Investigator. As a result, the following officers were promoted from the rank of Detective Sergeant to Chief Investigator on March 1: Joshua Bennett, Maurice F. Fitzharris, Eden F. Jones, Edward H. McCabe, William T. Sweeney, and Willard J. Thompson.

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Other promotions were as follows: Corporal John D. Joseph to the rank of Sergeant, Shift Commander; Corporal Eugene B. Ellis to the rank of Sergeant; Troopers First Class Joseph B. Allen, Thomas J. Carney, Allan C. Field and James P. Gunning to the rank of Corporal on October 1; Trooper First Class Clement C. Schilling to the rank of Detective on January 15; Troopers Joseph B. Ferguson, William W. Mayer, Millard F. Murray, III, Norvel R. Robinson, Charles L. Sipple, Jr., Edward M. Smith, Charles W. Warren and William J. Warren, Jr. to the rank of Trooper First Class on October 1; and Trooper John F. Herbert, Jr. to the rank of Trooper First Class on November 1.

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During the year several members of the Department attended schools other than those conducted by the State Police. Chief Investigator Eden F. Jones attended a seminar on Arson Detection and Investigation at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana; Captain C. Preston Poore attended a three-weeks course at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, on Driver License Examination; Lieutenant Cazenove C. Seitz and Detective George F. Schmalhofer attended a State Police Seminar on Homicide Investigation, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts; Lieutenant Charles M. Cullen and Trooper First Class Leslie M. Logue

attended a two-weeks course in Emergency Traffic Control conducted by the Federal Civil Defense Administration at Olney, Maryland; Chief Investigators Joshua Bennett and Eden F. Jones attended a three-day refresher course for graduates of the Harvard Associates in Police Science at Baltimore, Maryland; and Chief Investigator Maurice F. Fitzharris and Detective Joseph L. Eckrich attended the Fourteenth Seminar in Homicide Investigation at Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts.

The commissioned officer's uniform was changed so it could readily be discerned from the Trooper's uniform. The Sam Brown belt was discarded and the sidearm worn under the blouse. The blue woolen shirt was discontinued and replaced by a white poplin shirt. The overcoat of the commissioned officer is full length instead of the usual three-quarter coat worn by the Troopers. The headgear of all members of the Department was changed from the cap to the large Stetson hat.

As part of the public relations program of the Department a series of six half-hour telecasts were presented over Channel WDEL-TV. These telecasts were designed to show the functions and activities of the various divisions and services rendered to the public by the police.

The Department was very pleased to receive the First Place IACP Award for traffic law enforcement in the United States. This award was presented to Colonel Shew by Governor Elbert N. Carvel.

Improved working conditions were in prospect as a result of the Commission authorizing the introduction of a bill into the 1953 Legislature calling for a five-day work week and additional Troopers to maintain the Department's standard of efficiency.

The year 1952 was the first full year in which the Polygraph "Lie Detector" was used by the Department. It is felt that many cases would have remained unsolved had it not been for the use of this instrument. Not only was it very useful in obtaining confessions and solving cases as a result of examinations of guilty parties, but in many instances suspects were cleared by the use of this instrument.

There were two cases believed to be of special interest. In the Fall of 1952, a milkman reported he had been held up and robbed at gun point by three men. At this time, three fugitives were at large from the Federal Penitentiary,

who had terrorized the eastern section of Pennsylvania. After being interrogated following the hold-up, the complainant identified photographs of two of the escapees. As a result, one of the largest man hunts in Delaware was inaugurated. Later in the afternoon, because of the seriousness of the complaint, the complainant was examined on the Polygraph. Following the second test he admitted his story was a hoax. It is felt that in this case alone the instrument paid for itself.

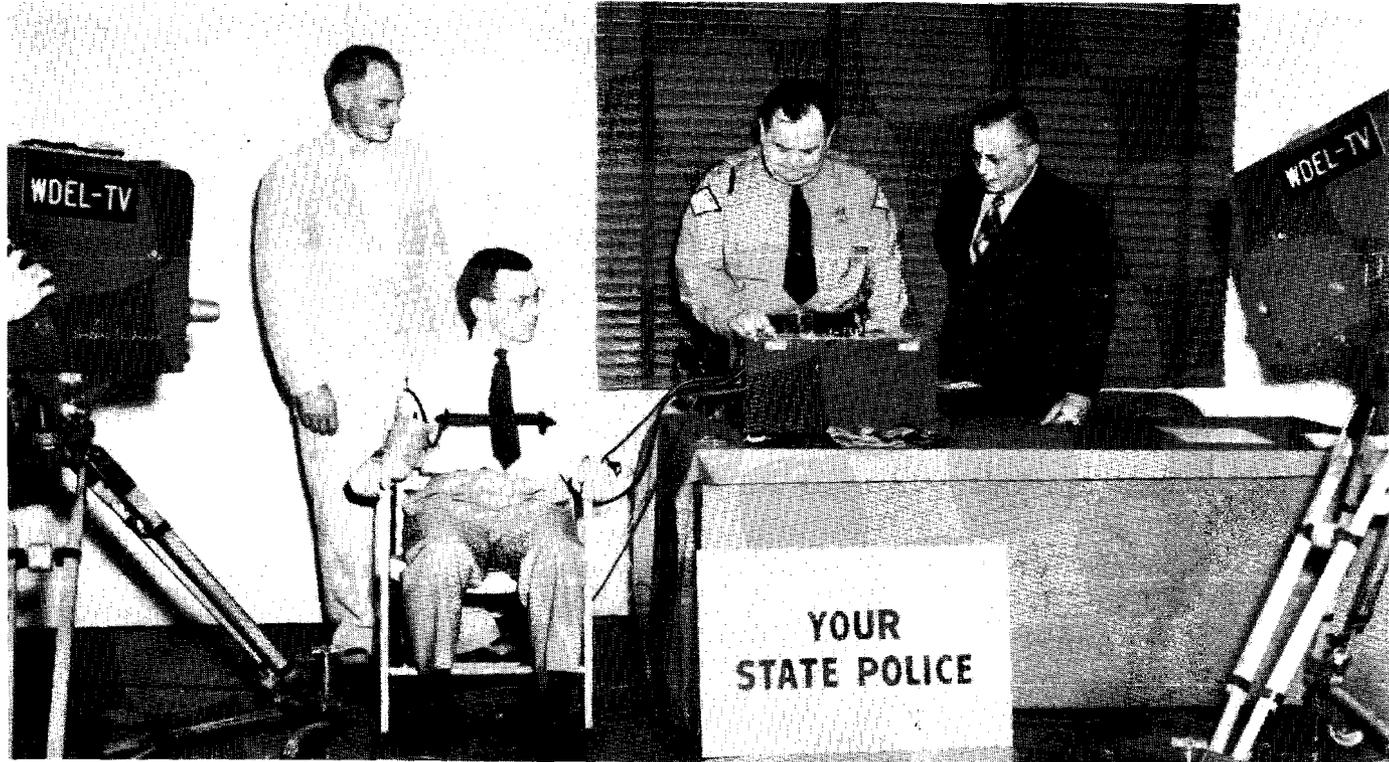
In the second case, a woman in lower Delaware was identified by two merchants as having been responsible for the issuance of two forged checks. As a result of Polygraph examination, examiners advised she was not responsible for passing the forged checks and she was released. The accuracy of the instrument was confirmed when, approximately three hours later, a woman was arrested in Maryland for passing forged checks, who confessed, and it was definitely established she had also passed the ones in lower Delaware. As a result, a great miscarriage of justice was prevented.

The airplane is playing an ever increasing part in law enforcement in this Department as well as in many other law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. A light plane similar to that used by the Armed Forces for reconnaissance, equipped with a small portable radio transmitter and receiver operating on the same frequency as is used by this Department, was used to great advantage on several occasions during the year 1952.

On holidays, during peak traffic periods, the airplane was of inestimable assistance in preventing traffic bottlenecks and in keeping traffic moving smoothly. Because suspicious circumstances can more readily be observed from the air, the plane was very helpful in conducting searches for victims of drowning in the Delaware River as well as escapees from the Sussex County Prison.



THE AIRPLANE PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN SEARCHES AND TRAFFIC CONTROL



THE INAUGURAL STATE POLICE TELEVISION PROGRAM

## COMMUNICATIONS

The year 1952, has once again, been one of expansion and great activity for the Communications Division. To keep our present equipment at top performance, it was necessary to decentralize the service organization and set up repair and maintenance shops in each of the counties. The main repair center as well as the bulk of supplies is still located at the Dover Troop. Under this operational plan, quicker service as well as a more thorough and constant preventative maintenance program can be carried out. Another advancement in the aid to law enforcement, as pertaining to communications, is the practice of immediately assigning a technician to any area where an emergency exists. This enables us to keep all vital equipment at top performance without the officers having to leave the scene to obtain repairs in the event of a failure.

Stepped up activity has also been necessary in keeping abreast of added demands of the State Department of Civil Defense. These demands are, planning, organizing, training and actually putting into operation nearly all types of communications for Civil Defense. In one instance, to relieve the responsibility of notifying all towns within our State of an impending enemy air attack, it was deemed advisable for this Division to design a system whereby an officer on duty had only to press one button and each town within our State could be alerted simultaneously by an application of radio carrier and tone signaling alert. At the close of 1952, this system is being installed and will soon be a reality.

### COMMUNICATIONS STATISTICS

	Year Ending Dec. 31, 1951	Year Ending Dec. 31, 1952
Radio Messages Sent .....	44,888	58,970
Radio Messages Received .....	182,085	170,203
Teletype Messages Sent .....	1,923	900
Teletype Messages Received .....	23,911	20,442
Fixed Radio Stations .....	5	5
Radio Equipped Cars .....	62	70
Portable Equipment .....	6	6

### TRAFFIC BUREAU

The major function of the State Police is to control traffic so that it may move safely and efficiently through Delaware. We are proud of the past record of the Department and are constantly trying to improve; however, it

is becoming increasingly difficult for the Department with its limited personnel, to furnish the type of service the motorists and public expect.

Each year has brought an increase in traffic volume and vehicle mileage. In the last 10 years, traffic on major highways in Delaware has increased over 100%, with the attendant traffic congestion and increase in accidents.

Traffic congestion on summer week-ends has reached the saturation point on highways leading to beaches and fishing areas. During the summer, on week-ends, the Department has furnished able assistance in directing traffic on congested roads by members of the United States Air Force Police. This program was offered as a training phase for the Air Force Police, who gained valuable experience for themselves, as well as rendering a service to the State Police and the motoring public by assisting in keeping traffic moving smoothly.

There was an estimated increase of 22.2% in miles traveled in 1952. In an effort to control this increase in traffic, the State Police patrolled 2,079,637 miles, an increase of 100,575 miles or 5% as compared with 1951.

### TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

During the year there were 13,901 arrests made for violations of the traffic laws, an increase of 63% over 1951 arrests. Of these 13,345 or 96% resulted in convictions.

Since the primary purpose of traffic law enforcement is to prevent accidents, enforcement was directed toward accident-producing violations. As a result 85% or 11,949 of the total arrests, were for dangerous moving violations, an increase of 1,241 in this type of arrest over the year 1951.

#### ARRESTS MADE FOR DANGEROUS MOVING VIOLATIONS

	<u>Year 1952</u>
Operating under the influence .....	219
Speed violations .....	5,188
Right-of-way .....	309
Wrong Side of Road .....	262
Reckless Driving .....	1,163
Improper Passing .....	637
Failure to Signal .....	179
Disregarded Stop Sign and Signal .....	1,438
Improper Turning .....	234
Assault and Battery by Motor Vehicle .....	32
Manslaughter .....	34
Miscellaneous Dangerous Moving Violations .....	164

**ARRESTS MADE FOR EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS**

	<u>Year 1952</u>
Light violations .....	86
Brake violations .....	290
Flare violations .....	364
Other equipment violations .....	51

**ARRESTS MADE FOR PEDESTRIAN VIOLATIONS**

	<u>Year 1952</u>
Pedestrian intoxication .....	521
Other pedestrian violations .....	64

**ARRESTS MADE FOR LICENSE AND REGISTRATION**

	<u>Year 1952</u>
Driver license violations .....	1,059
Registration and title violations .....	202

**ARRESTS MADE FOR MISCELLANEOUS VIOLATIONS**

	<u>Year 1952</u>
Parking violations .....	350
Oversize and overweight violations .....	513
Leaving scene and failure to report accident .....	312
Operating motor vehicle without consent .....	40
Others .....	199

In many minor violations, or where an arrest would be too harsh a penalty or cause hardship in a family the State Police issue reprimands: 98,733 such reprimands were issued in 1952.

In an effort to reduce the number of pedestrian accidents, the State Police also issued 3,619 reprimands to pedestrians in 1952.

THE ECONOMIC LOSS FROM TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS  
IN DELAWARE FOR THE YEAR 1952

**WILL BUY**

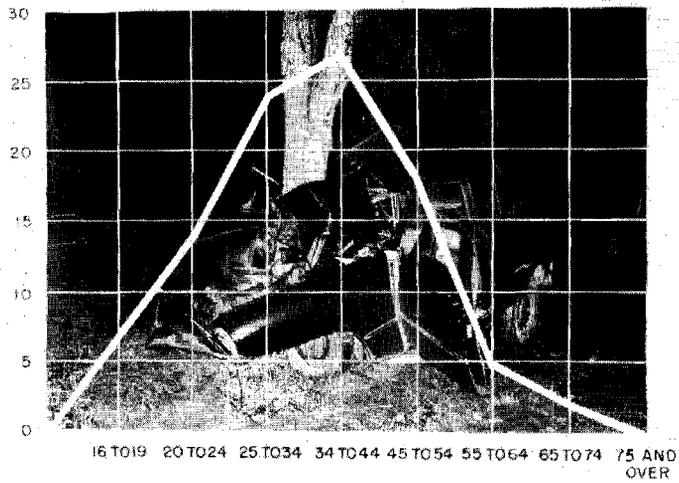
 1000 ELECTRIC RANGES AT \$250 EACH <i>AND</i>	250 FIVE ROOM HOUSES AT \$8,500 EACH <i>AND</i> 	 1000 MENS SUITS AT \$85.00 EACH <i>AND</i>
 1000 REFRIGERATORS AT \$300 EACH <i>AND</i>	695 TELEVISION SETS AT \$199.50 EACH <i>AND</i> 	 1000 WOMENS SUITS AT \$5000 EACH <i>AND</i>

**TOTAL ECONOMIC LOSS**

**\$ 3,948,980**



AGE OF DRIVERS — FATAL ACCIDENTS



## MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

In 1952 there were 4,784 accidents reported to the State Police. An "on the scene" investigation was made on each accident reported.

There were 64 fatal accidents, which resulted in 74 persons losing their lives. It is interesting to note, that although more persons lost their lives in traffic accidents in 1952, Delaware actually had a reduction in the number of fatal accidents, 64 in 1952 and 69 in 1951.

There were 1677 persons injured in 1952 as compared to 1521 in 1951 an increase of 10%.

The large volume of transient traffic continues as a problem in accident prevention. In 1952, 32% of the drivers involved in all accidents and 39% of drivers involved in fatal accidents were from other states.

In 1952 in an effort to reduce speeding and thereby reduce the severity of accidents the State Police experimented with radar speed control. Although it was used very little it was the opinion of trained observers that drivers generally reduced their speed during the period it was known to be in operation.

In order that the State Police might have some legal basis in using the machine for enforcement, Colonel Shew asked Attorney General H. Albert Young for his opinion on the legality of radar for speed control.

The following are excerpts from the opinion of Attorney General Young:

"This mechanical device tends to remove the element of personal opinion out of an estimate as to how fast a vehicle is traveling. A speed measuring device, such as the radar scope which I saw demonstrated appears to be a reliable scientific apparatus, and is not a gadget designed to trap the unwary law-abiding motorist."

"While courts have viewed with some skepticism methods which are suggested as a substitute for sensory perception, they have done so on the ground that the accuracy of the instrument has not been established."

"Thus, if it can be established that the device used fulfills the function for which it was designed and is mechanically efficient at the time it is used in the motorist's ap-

prehension, it is my opinion that such evidence is admissible and a conviction on such evidence will be sustained."

Following the opinion of the Attorney General the State Highway Commission authorized the purchase of 2 radar units to be placed in operation as an aid in speed control.

### CRIMINAL DIVISION

Following is the thirteenth annual report of the Delaware State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification covering the calendar year, January 1, 1952 to December 31, 1952.

Crime in rural Delaware increased 9.3% over the 1951 total. A total of 5,696 cases were investigated by the State Police, of which 83.2% were cleared by either arrest or investigation.

Auto thefts increased with a total of 95 cars being stolen in rural Delaware; 89 of these were recovered by the end of the calendar year.

The increase in the number of cases, investigated by the State Police from year to year, creates a larger burden on the Criminal Division. Detectives are working long hours on investigations and their interest in their work is very commendable. Only by this interest, hard work and ability is it possible for the State Police to show the fine percentage of cases cleared; which incidentally, is well above the National figure.

The type of efficient criminal investigation conducted by Detectives of the State Police can well be shown by the apprehension of subjects involved in the following two rape cases.

On February 13, 1952, a white man forced his way into the home of an elderly lady in Kent County and committed the crime of rape. In a matter of a few hours, a suspect was arrested, subsequently tried and convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

On February 19, 1952 in New Castle County, a 12 year old white girl was raped by two white men. Within three hours after the State Police knew the girl had been assaulted, two suspects were apprehended in another State. These subjects were tried, convicted and are now serving a life term in the New Castle Country Workhouse.

These are just two of the many cases investigated which required long hours of hard and efficient work in gathering evidence in laboratory analysis and in preparing the case for Court in order to obtain a conviction.

Scientific aids have also played an important part in the investigation of many cases, especially the KEELER Polygraph which has been of great value to the Criminal Division. With the aid of the KEELER Polygraph the Criminal Division has cleared many cases which otherwise might have gone unsolved. This investment has paid tremendous dividends.

In 1952 the Criminal Division also purchased two Army Mine Detectors to be used in searching for metal objects which might be buried under the ground, under water or hidden in a building. This would include firearms or knives used in committing a crime or jewelry and other metallic objects which might be stolen and hidden.



DETECTIVES USE A MINE DETECTOR TO SEARCH FOR A BURIED WEAPON

**CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952**

Class 1	9.3 increase
Class 2	23.2 increase
Class 3	9.1 increase

**CASES CLEARED**

	<u>Class 1</u>	<u>Class 2</u>	<u>Class 3</u>	<u>Average</u>
1952	47.8%	84.1%	94.5%	83.2%
1951	41.8%	89.0%	91.7%	74.2%

**VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED**

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Total value of property stolen .....	\$191,749.36	\$201,907.97
Total value of property recovered .....	120,348.93	130,543.20
(a) Recovered (Delaware State Police) .....	62,415.00	33,995.00
(b) Recovered (other jurisdictions) .....	32,400.00	37,515.00
(c) Recovered otherwise .....	4,595.00	2,185.00
Percent of stolen property recovered .....	62.7%	64.6%
Value of property recovered for other jurisdictions .....	140,993.30	65,940.75
Total value of property recovered by Delaware State Police .....	224,512.23	192,983.95

**RELEASED TO OTHER AUTHORITIES**

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Army .....	35	31
Court of Common Pleas .....	0	1
Delaware Colony .....	0	6
Dover Police Department .....	0	4
Family Court .....	29	15
Federal .....	23	8
Ferris Industrial School .....	25	38
Gov. Bacon Health Center .....	0	2
Harrington Police Department .....	0	1
Juvenile Authorities .....	0	30
Kent County Jail .....	1	0
Kentucky .....	0	1
Kruse School .....	0	3
Maryland .....	40	45
Massachusetts .....	2	0
Middletown Police Department .....	0	1
Navy .....	7	7
New Castle Police Department .....	0	1
New Castle County Workhouse .....	3	1
New Jersey .....	10	9
New York .....	2	2
North Carolina .....	2	0
Others .....	2	0
Parents .....	95	34
Pennsylvania .....	23	48
Postal Authorities .....	0	10
Seaford Police Department .....	0	1
State Hospital .....	1	7
Sussex County Prison .....	1	0

Virginia .....	1	1
Wilmington Police Department .....	76	49
Woodshaven School .....	11	2
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	<u>389</u>	<u>358</u>

### DISPOSITION 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.

- 906 Defendants had fines imposed totaling \$14,243.50.
- 177 Defendants were sentenced to 97 years, 9 months and 9 days.
- 3 Defendants were sentenced to Life imprisonment.
- 88 Defendants were sentenced in default of fine.
- 8 Defendants had sentences suspended.
- 18 Defendants had cases Nolle Prossed by Attorney General.
- 53 Defendants had cases withdrawn by Complainant.
- 82 Defendants had cases dismissed by Magistrate.
- 38 Defendants had cases dismissed by Family Court.
- 1 Material Witness was dismissed.
- 4 Defendants had cases dismissed by Court of Common Pleas.
- 50 Persons paroled for 53 years.
- 1 Person paroled for an indefinite period.
- 1 Person committed to State Institution.
- 389 Persons released to other authorities.

### AUTO THEFTS AND RECOVERIES

	1952	1951
Number of car thefts (Rural Delaware) ..	95	90
Total Recovered (Item 1) .....	89	82
(a) Recovered (State Police) .....	65	51
(b) Recovered (other jurisdictions) .....	22	24
(c) Recovered otherwise .....	2	7
Percent of stolen cars recovered (Rural Delaware) ....	93.8%	92.2%
Automobiles recovered for other jurisdictions .....	77	37
Automobiles recovered for Wilmington Police Dept. ....	32	25
Total cars recovered by Delaware State Police ..	198	144

### AUTO THEFTS BY TROOPS

<u>TROOP</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Thefts .....	8	41	11	20	15	95
Recovered (State Police) .....	4	24	8	18	11	65
Recovered (Other Jurisdictions) .....	2	8	3	13	1	27
Recovered Otherwise .....	8	23	1	0	0	32
Recovered for Wilmington Police Dept. ..	17	40	10	6	4	77
Recovered for Other Jurisdictions .....	3	13	2	2	2	22
Cars Remaining Stolen .....	0	4	0	0	2	6

OFFENSES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES AND MINORS

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Adultery .....	2	2
Arson .....	2	0
Assault .....	3	3
Assault & Battery .....	36	27
Bastardy .....	1	1
B. E. & Larceny .....	112	119
C. C. D. W. ....	9	5
Discharging Firearms .....	0	1
Disorderly Conduct .....	43	42
Disturbing the Peace .....	1	0
Drunk & Disorderly .....	1	7
Escapee .....	12	33
False Pretense .....	5	0
Federal .....	20	14
Forgery .....	16	9
Fugitive .....	38	25
Gambling .....	3	8
Indecent Exposure .....	0	1
Incorrigible .....	1	2
Larceny .....	104	119
Larceny Motor Vehicle .....	20	26
Malicious Mischief .....	49	6
Material Witness .....	20	1
Miscellaneous .....	12	14
Non-Support .....	2	0
Parole Violator .....	5	4
Rape .....	1	1
Receiving Stolen Goods .....	6	1
Robbery .....	5	4
Runaways .....	57	34
Threats .....	2	7
Toying Female Minor .....	1	3
Trespassing .....	22	17
Vagrancy .....	3	1
Violation Age of Consent .....	0	2
Sodomy .....	1	1
TOTALS .....	<u>615</u>	<u>540</u>

MINOR AND JUVENILE ARRESTS BY AGE

<u>Age</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
8-11 .....	18	19
12 .....	13	6
13 .....	16	20
14 .....	48	34
15 .....	89	55
16 .....	91	60
17 .....	92	86
18 .....	104	106
19 .....	88	84
20 .....	56	70
TOTALS .....	<u>615</u>	<u>540</u>

**NIGHT PATROLS—1953**

<u>Troop</u>	<u>Number</u>
#1 .....	13,139
#2 .....	25,486
#3 .....	14,413
#4 .....	15,104
#5 .....	11,500
TOTAL .....	79,642

**BURGLARIES**

This offense increased 19.8% over 1951, with 459 cases being reported as compared to 383 in 1951. A total of 41.3% of the cases were cleared through investigation or arrest.

<u>1952</u>		<u>1951</u>	
Cases	459	Cases	383
Cleared	41.3%	Cleared	37.7%

**BY TROOP**

<u>Troop</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Number of Cases .....	84	210	37	88	40	459
Number cleared .....	34	85	9	41	21	190
Percentage cleared .....	40.4	40.4	24.3	46.5	52.5	41.3

**LARCENY**

Larceny increased 2.6% during 1952, with 49.0% of the cases being cleared.

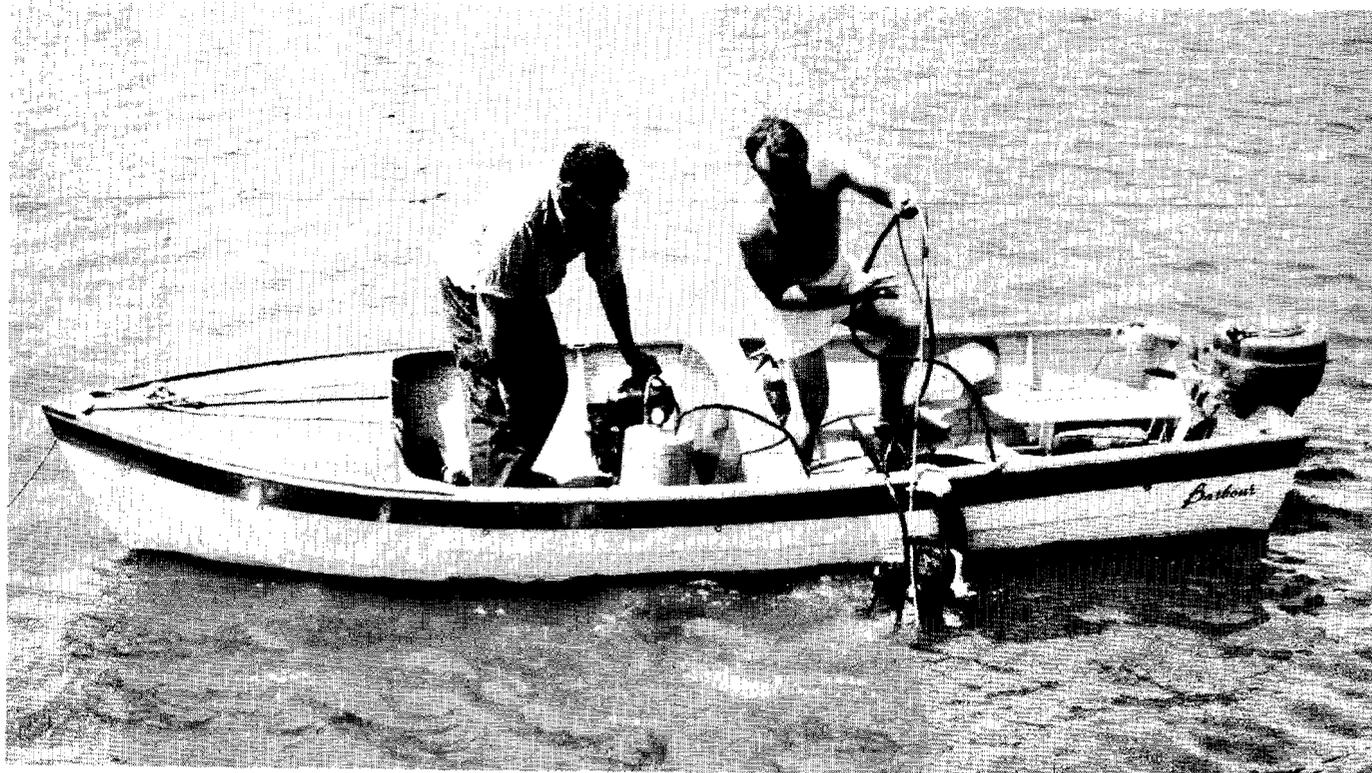
<u>1952</u>		<u>1951</u>	
Cases	648	Cases	631
Cleared	49.0%	Cleared	37.8%

**BY TROOP**

<u>Troop</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Number of cases .....	218	199	41	119	71	648
Number of cases cleared .....	104	88	16	65	45	318
Percentage cleared .....	47.7	44.2	39.0	54.6	63.3	49.0

**HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION—1952**

<u>Troop</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Cleared</u>	<u>Arrests</u>
Troop #1 .....	0	0	0
Troop #2 .....	3	3	3
Troop #3 .....	1	1	1
Troop #4 .....	8	8	8
Troop #5 .....	4	4	4
TOTALS .....	16	16	16



DIVING OPERATIONS IN SEARCH FOR STOLEN GOODS  
THROWN OVERBOARD

**DELAWARE STATE POLICE**  
**CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR 1952 AND 1951**  
**Number and Disposition of Offenses Known to the Police**

	Offenses Known		Offenses Cleared By Arrest		Offenses Cleared By Investigation		Persons Arrested	
	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951
<b>UNIFORM CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES</b>								
<b>Part I Classes</b>								
1. Criminal homicide:								
(a) Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	13	11	12	11	1		12	11
(b) Manslaughter by negligence	3		3				4	
2. Rape	7	3	4	3	2		5	2
3. Robbery	14	27	9	12	3	3	13	18
4. Aggravated assault	22	28	18	20	1		25	20
5. Burglary - breaking and/or entering	459	383	166	127	24	14	247	228
6. Larceny - theft (except auto theft):								
(a) \$25 and over in value	90	215	14	57	9	14	20	92
(b) Under \$25 in value	558	416	210	129	85	39	273	170
7. Auto theft	102	90	26	33	21	29	35	36
8. Arson	15		6		2		6	
Total, Part I Classes	1,283	1,173	468	392	148	99	640	577
<b>Part II Classes</b>								
9. Forgery and counterfeiting	85	37	55	21	3	1	77	24
10. Embezzlement and fraud	36	40	34	31	2	1	38	41
11. Stolen property - buying, receiving, possessing	12	7	15	7			22	15
12. Prostitution and commercialized vice		1		1				2
13. Sex offenses (except 2 and 12)	50	41	27	26	8	6	34	37
14. Federal Violations	116	113	47	43	63	60	64	52
15. Fugitives	163	136	90	104	45	39	136	124
Total, Part II Classes	462	375	268	233	121	101	371	295

**DELAWARE STATE POLICE**  
**CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR 1952 AND 1951**  
**Number and Disposition of Offenses Known to the Police**

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	Offenses Known		Offenses Cleared By Arrest		Offenses Cleared By Investigation		Persons Arrested	
	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951
<b>UNIFORM CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES</b>								
<b>Part III Classes</b>								
16. Other assaults	469	416	278	254	170	144	352	269
17. Weapons—carrying, possessing, etc.	31	14	31	14	1	..	35	19
18. Offenses against the family and children	67	23	39	21	28	2	48	28
19. Narcotic drug laws	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	2
20. Liquor laws	2	9	2	13	..	..	7	14
21. Drunkenness	137	85	105	74	33	8	120	88
22. Disorderly conduct	481	511	249	220	228	215	327	281
23. Vagrancy	54	40	47	24	3	..	64	36
24. Gambling	15	38	15	39	8	1	68	57
25. Missing persons and runaways	372	237	33	56	244	137	63	37
26. Insanity cases handled	13	9	3	2	12	6	3	..
27. Suicide cases investigated	30	23	..	..	31	19	..	..
28. Sudden deaths investigated	61	109	..	2	59	98	..	1
29. Noncriminal complaints investigated	48	42	..	1	47	41	1	1
30. Escape	85	..	7	..	91	..	7	..
31. All other offenses not listed	2,086	2,070	402	293	1,570	1,633	537	286
Total, Part III Classes	3,951	3,619	1,212	1,015	2,526	2,304	1,634	1,119
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>5,696</b>	<b>5,167</b>	<b>1,947</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>2,794</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>2,643</b>	<b>1,991</b>

### AUTO THEFTS AND RECOVERIES

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Number automobiles reported stolen (except Wilmington) .....	95	89
Total recovered (of item #1) .....	89	82
(a) Recovered by investigators .....	2	18
(b) Recovered by Troopers .....	63	33
(c) Recovered by other jurisdictions .....	22	24
(d) Recovered otherwise .....	2	7
Total recovered (stolen other years) .....	0	1
Percent of stolen cars recovered .....	93.6	82.
Automobiles recovered for other jurisdictions .....	77	37
Automobiles reported stolen in Wilmington, Del. ....	230	84
Automobiles recovered for Wilmington Police Dept. ...	32	25

### VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Total value property stolen (except Wilmington) .....	\$ 90,034.36	\$120,503.97
Total value stolen property recovered of Item #1) .....	21,103.93	46,993.20
Percent of stolen property recovered .....	23.4	38.9
Value of other property recovered .....	165.00	3,500.00
Value of property recovered for other jurisdictions (automobiles included) .....	140,993.30	65,940.00
Total value of stolen automobiles (except Wilmington) .....	101,715.00	81,405.00
Total value of stolen automobiles recovered (of Item #6) .....	99,245.00	80,050.00
(a) Recovered by Delaware State Police .....	62,250.00	33,995.00
(b) Recovered by other jurisdictions .....	32,400.00	37,515.00
(c) Recovered otherwise .....	4,595.00	2,185.00

### BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION

The continued expansion in industry and the National Defense effort in Delaware in 1952 is reflected in the statistics of the Bureau of Identification which show an increase of nearly 3,000 in the number of persons checked for criminal records. All other services of the Bureau show a similar increase over 1951.

In keeping with the practice of providing the best equipment possible, all old fingerprint kits were called in and new thoroughly-equipped kits were issued to each Troop. These kits contain everything necessary to enable the Detectives to secure latent and other types of fingerprints during an investigation.

One of the instruments contained in the kit is known as a "spoon", and is used to obtain fingerprints from broken or crippled fingers or in the fingerprinting of an unidentified body.

During the summer of 1952, the body of an unidentified man was found floating in the Delaware River near Wilmington. Examination of the body was made difficult by the fact that it had apparently been in the water about two weeks and was badly decomposed. Fingerprints were taken by using a "spoon", and sent to the F. B. I. laboratory where a search disclosed the subjects identity and also next of kin.

The value of fingerprints in identification was aptly demonstrated in one case handled by the Identification Bureau during 1952. The Bureau received a missing person circular from the Veterans' Hospital, Perry Point, Maryland describing a subject who had been missing for nearly a year. As the circular contained a set of fingerprints these were classified and searched through the Bureau files. This search disclosed that the missing person had been picked up by the State Police at Dover and found to be a mental case. As the subject was unable to give any information concerning his home or family, he was confined in the Delaware State Hospital at Farnhurst. Within a short time after receiving the missing person report, the Bureau of Identification had notified the Delaware State Hospital and the Veterans' Hospital so that proper disposition could be made of this case.

**IDENTIFICATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR OF 1952**

1. Applicants .....	7
2. Personal fingerprint cards received .....	1
3. Wanted circulars received .....	1,258
4. Wanted circulars cancelled .....	1,234
5. Criminal fingerprint cards and their contributors:	
Troop #1 ..... 120    Rehoboth PD. ....	6
Troop #2 ..... 446    Newark PD. ....	22
Troop #3 ..... 317    Dover PD. ....	355
Troop #4 ..... 598    Smyrna PD. ....	19
Troop #5 ..... 407    N.C.C. PD. ....	2
Sussex Co. Prison .... 26    Del. Mem. Bridge PD. .	2
N.C.C. Workhouse .... 764    Other PD.'s .....	5
TOTAL .....	3,089
6. Criminal fingerprints by race and sex:	
White Male .....	1,679
Black Male .....	1,182
White Female .....	97
Black Female .....	130
TOTAL .....	3,089
7. Previous arrest: .....	1,079

8. Indices checked for other investigating agencies ..... 11,191

9. Photographic Service:

Department Name	Negatives Developed	Photos Printed	Photostatic Copies Printed	
Headquarters .....	436	1,192	66	
Troop #1 .....	103	121		
Troop #2 .....	258	268	37	
Troop #3 .....	181	275		
Troop #4 .....	226	183	3	
Troop #5 .....	156	175	8	
	<u>1,360</u>	<u>2,214</u>	<u>114</u>	
TOTALS .....				3,688

10. Rogues Gallery:  
 White Race ..... 520  
 Colored Race ..... 294 814

11. Firearm Registration:  
 Revolvers and Pistols ..... 217  
 Shotguns ..... 7  
 Rifles ..... 14 238

12. Stolen Firearms ..... 2

**TOTAL IDENTIFICATION DATA ON FILE AS OF DEC. 31, 1952**

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
13. Criminal Fingerprints .....	57,009	60,098
14. Criminals with Previous Records .....	27,325	28,404
15. Personal Identification Fingerprints .....	16,058	16,059
16. Firearms Registered .....	2,973	3,211
17. Rogues Gallery:		
White Race .....	9,756	10,276
Colored Race .....	8,095	8,389

**COMPARISON OF 1951 AND 1952**

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
1. Personal identification fingerprints received .....	0	1
2. Wanted circulars received .....	1,177	1,258
3. Wanted circulars cancelled .....	1,242	1,234
4. Criminal fingerprints .....	2,825	3,089
5. Previous arrest .....	1,317	1,079
6. Indices checked for other agencies .....	8,798	11,191
7. Photographic service .....	3,178	3,688
8. Rogues gallery .....	736	814
9. Firearm registered .....	145	238
10. Stolen firearms .....	41	2
11. Applicants .....	1,262	7

## TRAINING DIVISION

Although the Training Division has, on several occasions, conducted town police schools in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies, in 1952 for the first time members of an outside agency, the Delaware Memorial Bridge Police, were trained in our regular Recruit School. Because this was a new police agency, many problems developed concerning the establishment of a police system, and the training of personnel in actual bridge policing was limited. These men were given basic police instruction on all traffic problems and general police duties as well as firearms, first aid, and allied subjects; however, instruction in criminal law and investigation was not extensive.

During 1952, two State Police Recruits were trained at the same school the Delaware Memorial Bridge Police attended.

For the eleventh consecutive year the Department conducted the Annual In-Service Training Schools. As in the past, many outside instructors, who were specialists in their fields of endeavor, lectured. The Department was very fortunate to secure the services of: Mr. William P. Frank, News-Journal Company; Lieutenant J. Wesley Lyle, Police Academy, New York City Police Department; Mr. Hudson Hamm, Traffic Institute, Northwestern University; Mr. Walter G. Allen, L. G. Balfour Company; Dr. Charles J. Katz; Scott S. Alden, Special Agent in Charge, Baltimore Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Mr. Vincent A. Theisen, Chief Deputy Attorney General, State of Delaware; Mr. Glenn Perry, Assistant Director, Public Relations, E. I. duPont de Nemours & Company; Mr. Baldwin S. Brown, L. G. Balfour Company; Mr. Alexander W. Rand, Director, Safety Services, Delaware Chapter, American Red Cross; The Honorable H. Albert Young, Attorney General of the State of Delaware; The Honorable P. Warren Green, Judge, Court of Common Pleas, New Castle County, State of Delaware; Mr. Januar D. Bove, Jr., Deputy Attorney General, State of Delaware; and Mr. David Coxe, Attorney at Law.

## FIREARMS DIVISION

A practical firearms training program is an important phase of police work. The officer's life, as well as the lives of others, might someday depend entirely upon the officer's skill with a revolver, machine gun or riot gun.

Before entering in service as a Delaware State Trooper a recruit is put through intensive training for 18 weeks.

An important part of his course of study is, "Firearms Training." He is taught not only how to use and care for firearms but also when to use them.

The ammunition reloading program which was started by this Division last year has been very successful. During the spring and summer of 1952 over 80,000 rounds of re-loaded .38 Special Caliber ammunition were used in training and qualifying all State Police personnel. This was done with a saving of over \$5,000.00 for the year.

The outdoor firearms program was conducted under more favorable conditions due to the improvement of the range near New Castle and the newly constructed range located at Redden Forest in Sussex County. Under departmental regulations, all officers are required to shoot for qualification each month from April to October. The course used for this is known as, "The Practical Pistol Course", and is shot outdoors using a silhouette target. This course teaches the officers how to shoot under conditions which might be encountered during an emergency.

During 1952 a classification system was set up whereby all officers would be grouped according to the average score they made during the outdoor shoots. There were 4 classifications, MASTER, EXPERT, SHARPSHOOTER and MARKSMAN. Each officer was awarded a gold plated bar with the inscription, "Delaware State Police," encircling the State of Delaware seal at the top of the bar and his classification in raised letters on the bar. This award is worn on the upper right side of the blouse over the pocket.

The indoor shooting program from October to April was held on the ranges at State Police Headquarters and the Armory in Georgetown.

A firearms display which created much favorable comment was placed in the DuPont Experimental Building. This display showed the various types of weapons used by the State Police in combating crime and protecting the public.

Firearms exhibitions by members of the State Police Pistol Team were put on several times during the summer, for the benefit of the boys at Camp Barnes. These were received with such enthusiasm that the team has been requested to return next year.

The Firearms Division purchased 16 Colt Cobra .38 Special Caliber revolvers which were issued to Commissioned Officers to be worn with the new winter uniform. They

are carried in a quick-draw holster which is worn on the left side of the trouser belt under the blouse.

The 3rd Annual Delaware State Police Pistol Match was held on September 13, 1952 at the police range near New Castle, Delaware. This match has become so well recognized by other police departments throughout the neighboring states that it was impossible to accomodate all the shooters who attended. There was a record crowd of 317 participants but as the range had only 16 firing positions, a large number of men were unable to shoot. However, a new and larger pistol range having 40 firing positions has been started near the Delaware Memorial Bridge and it is hoped that it will be completed in time for the next annual pistol match.

The Delaware State Police Pistol Team won the Sgt. Tom Lamb Trophy again for the second consecutive year. This trophy must be won three times to become a permanent possession.

Following are the averages for Headquarters and the Troops during the winter and summer shoots.

WINTER SHOOT		SUMMER SHOOT	
Headquarters .....	276	Headquarters .....	80.4
Troop #1 .....	257	Troop #1 .....	60.9
Troop #2 .....	252	Troop #2 .....	66.1
Troop #3 .....	261	Troop #3 .....	76.7
Troop #4 .....	264	Troop #4 .....	77.5
Troop #5 .....	260	Troop #5 .....	77.0



THE 1952 PISTOL TEAM AND TROPHIES

## **SAFETY EDUCATION**

Traffic safety is everyone's business, since no one who rides in a motor vehicle or walks upon the streets or highways is immune from traffic hazards.

The Safety Education Division of the State Police engages in a program designed to educate the public in the fundamentals of Highway Safety.

In planning such a program, a determined effort is made not to overlook a single segment of the population. Every medium of public information is employed to the best possible advantage. Many organizations in the State, including civic, school, church, fraternal, professional, patriotic and commercial groups are visited each year by members of the State Police who give safety talks and show the latest traffic films. No stone is left unturned to bring the importance of preventing traffic tragedies to the attention of everyone.

Members of the Department assisted in conducting bicycle rodeos throughout the State and participated in many other safety projects.

The State Police, having received many favorable comments on the safety posters distributed each month, continued with this program. During 1952, 15,000 posters were distributed throughout the State, calling attention to new motor vehicle laws or to violations which daily are responsible for causing accidents.

Traffic safety was featured on many local radio and television broadcasts; safety exhibits and posters were extensively used in display windows throughout the State.

The sole purpose of this program is to save life, limb and property that would otherwise be wasted through traffic accidents.

## **SUPPLY DIVISION**

The purchasing of all supplies and equipment used by the Department is done by the Supply Division, which is located at Headquarters. An adequate stock of all items used in the operation of the Department is maintained and dispensed to the various Troops as needed. This stock includes such items as uniforms, boots and shoes, photographic equipment, janitor supplies, and departmental forms. Automobiles and auto replacement parts, likewise, are purchased by this Division.

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**IT'S YOUR DUTY**  
 TO IMMEDIATELY DRIVE TO THE RIGHT HAND EDGE OF THE HIGHWAY AND **STOP**. UPON THE APPROACH OF ANY POLICE CAR, FIRE APPARATUS OR AMBULANCE, GIVING AN AUDIBLE SIGNAL BY BELL, SIREN OR EXHAUST WHISTLE.

**GIVE THE RIGHT OF WAY TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES**  
 Failure to Comply  
 \$100 - \$200

**DELTAWARE STATE POLICE**

**DO YOU KNOW**  
 FOLLOW A FIRE APPARATUS TRAVELING IN RESPONSE TO AN ALARM CLOSER THAN 500'  
 PARK WITHIN 500' OF APPARATUS OR DRIVE OVER ANY LINE OF WORK  
 PENALTY \$10 - \$100 FINE OR 10 - 30 DAYS SUSPENSION

**STOP this KILLING**  
**DRIVE SAFE**

**HELP THE DELAWARE STATE POLICE TO SAVE YOUR LIFE...**

**DRINKING WHILE DRIVING**  
**PASSING ON A HILL**  
**WRONG SIDE OF ROAD**  
**SPEED**  
**DANGERS OF WINTER**  
**WARRANTY PROBLEMS**

TRAFFIC SAFETY DISPLAY IN DOWNTOWN WILMINGTON

In addition to making purchases this Division is also responsible for keeping records of attendance of all employees, records of all expenditures, and payroll records.

The Maintenance Division (automobiles) also comes under the supervision of the Supply Division. It consists of Mechanic and a Mechanic's Helper located at State Road, and two (2) Mechanics and two (2) Mechanic's Helpers located at Dover.

Inspections of all Troops are held every three (3) months to see that proper care is being taken of all Departmental equipment and buildings.

There were 67 vehicles in operation December 31, 1952, all of which are radio equipped. These vehicles travelled a total of 2,519,509 miles during the year, which is an increase of 85,868 miles over 1951. The cost of replacement parts installed totalled \$7,918.28 or an increase of \$1,084.66 over 1951.

