

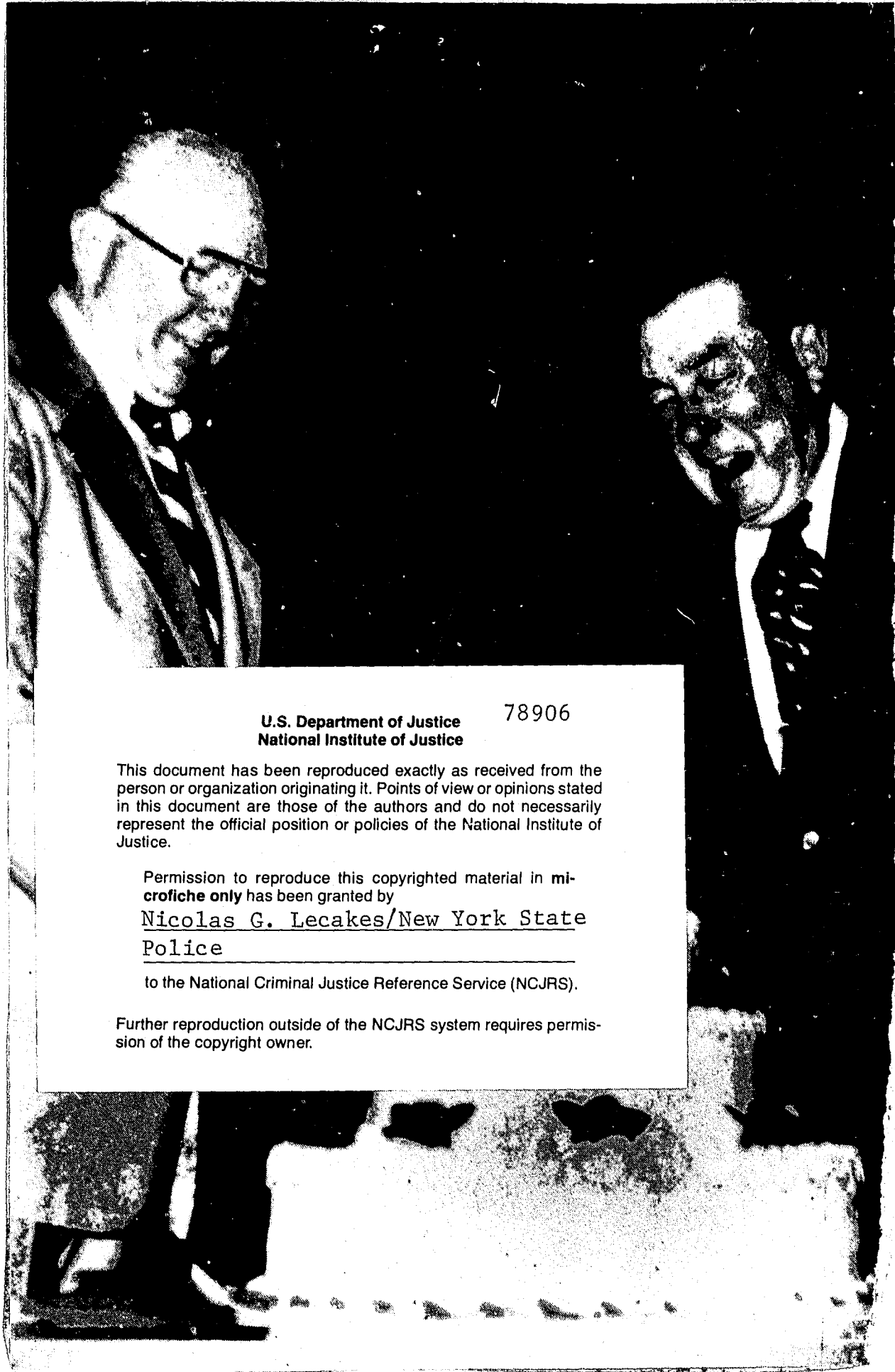
# ANNUAL REPORT

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

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1977





U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice

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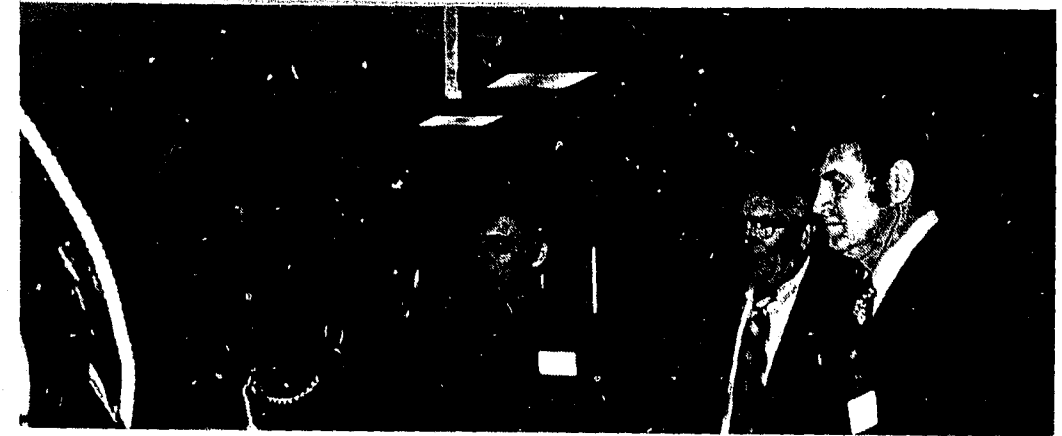
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*Superintendent Connelie is flanked by Assemblymen Andrew D. Virgilio (Monroe County) and James F. Hurley (Ontario, Seneca, Wayne Counties) at the Academy museum during a 60th anniversary legislative open house.*

## **60th Anniversary--1917-1977**

The 60th anniversary of the New York State Police, which fell in 1977, coincided with the New York State bicentennial and gave rise to a long series of celebrations and commemorative activities.

Chief among these events were: (1) an anniversary ball, held at the Empire Plaza Convention Center in November, which attracted a huge throng including three of the surviving original troopers, (2) an open house for legislators at the Academy in March at which lawmakers were given a birdseye view of the Division's modern capabilities, and (3) a major exhibit at the "I Love New York" festival in Albany which attracted 100,000 on one October day.

Most occasions in which SP participated during the year--state and local fairs, exhibitions, speeches, job fairs--provided opportunities to remind the public of the multiple services available today through an evolutionary process begun in 1917 with the signing of the State Police bill by Governor Charles S. Whitman and carefully nurtured by the Legislatures and the 11 succeeding governors including Hugh L. Carey and eight superintendents from George F. Chandler to William G. Connelie. Governor Carey proclaimed April 11, 1977, the anniversary of the bill's signing, as New York State Police Day.

A special 16-page anniversary brochure describing the history of the organization was distributed throughout the state, resulting in widespread publicity over TV, radio, and in newspapers about State Police services then and now. ■

**COVER--** At the State Police exhibition at the "I Love New York" festival in Albany, Governor Hugh L. Carey listens attentively as a trooper recounts the days when patrols rode on motorcycles.

**FACING PAGE--** Superintendent William G. Connelie and former Superintendent William E. Kirwan slice the traditional cake during the State Police 60th anniversary ball.

**NCJRS**

JUN 15 1981



*Sixtieth Annual Report  
of the*

**NEW YORK STATE POLICE**

**A Division of the  
Executive Department**

*For the Year 1976*



*Superintendent William G. Connelie*



*Governor Hugh L. Carey*



**1977**

**Reviewing  
the 60th Year**

**D**uring 1977, State Police arrests rose 6.1 percent to 597,199, compared to 562,631 recorded in 1976. The total number of offenses known or reported increased by 46,214 to 696,140, a jump of 7.1 percent in one year. Accident investigations dropped from 51,036 to 49,009.

The general uptrend in most statistical categories is attributable in part to the nationwide upsurge in criminal activity in suburban and rural areas such as those covered by New York State Police. Another leading factor was the formation of the Highway Task Force which concentrates on speed control on all interstate highways.

Increased enforcement of the 55 mph limit saw speeding arrests spiral to an all-time record of 299,169, eclipsing the previous year's high watermark of 277,467. This account-

ed in large part for an increase in the Division's traffic arrests from 519,860 in 1976 to 555,990. Fatal accidents investigated during 1977 declined by 38 to 454.

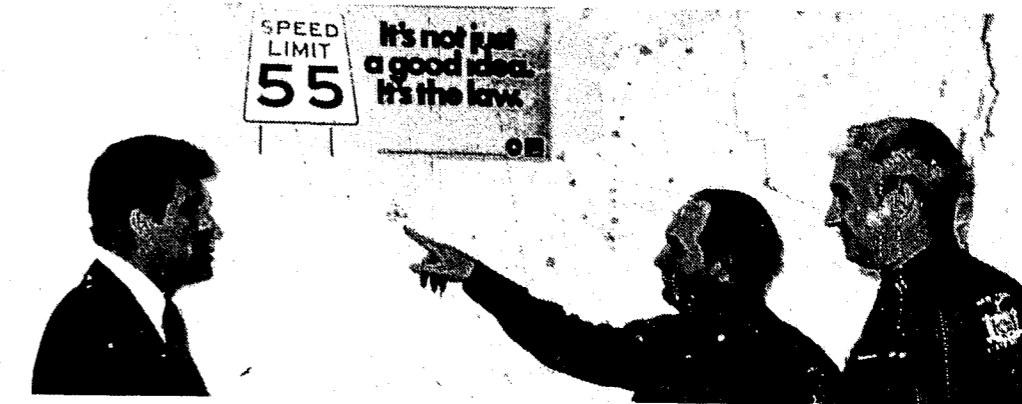
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Highlights of 1977:

- The 60th anniversary of the founding of the Division, marked by celebrations and open houses.

- Following a hiatus of two years, resumption of trooper recruit training with a class of 73 graduating from basic school on July 8 and another class of 156 probationary troopers entering the Academy in September with commencement scheduled for Feb. 3, 1978; still another class of 174 was scheduled to start in February 1978.

- Start of construction of a State Police facility at Ray Brook, the first phase of preparedness for the 1980 winter Olympics at Lake Placid for which State Police will have security and public safety responsibility. The facility will serve as a command center for the Olympics and in 1980 will become the new headquarters for Troop B.



*An administrator for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and two State Police officers locate the spot where an arrest at 116 mph was just made.*



Ten medalists who were among 43 State Police members to compete in the state's Police Olympics in Rochester are congratulated by Superintendent Connelie.

- Institution of an annual Awards Day, combining the highest State Police honor for bravery--the Brummer Award--and the newly-instituted Superintendent's Commendation Awards.

- Completion of a seven-county study to determine the potential benefits of Civilian Band radio for highway safety, in which more than 30,000 requests for assistance were broadcast to State Police by CB operators.

- Completion of the installation

- of new high-speed computer terminals for the NYSPIN system, the State Police-operated statewide computerized teletype network that links more than 300 law enforcement agencies.

- Expansion of the Superintendent's State Police Summer Program to seven weeks, enabling 175 underprivileged boys to attend the Academy during July and August for learning vacations.

- Agreement for the installation in 1978 of Division radios in all



The last surviving black-and-white patrol car is retired. All patrol cars now sport the state's official colors, blue and gold.

Deputy Superintendent Warren B. Surdam watches Director Fred Frank of State Police Electronic Data Processing operate a new computer terminal.



Thruway State Police cars which are now linked to the Thruway Authority's radio network.

- Expansion of State Police satellite offices to 34; this has improved response time, kept patrols on assigned posts, conserved energy by eliminating the need to transport prisoners and complainants to and from control stations, and improved communications between State Police and the public.

- Added emphasis on participation in sporting events by Division members; 43 participated in the annual Police Olympics in Rochester, winning 10 medals.

- Signing of a "non-resident violators compact" by Superintendent William G. Connelie and DMV Commissioner James P. Melton on behalf of New York State to deal with out-of-state motorists from eight states who ignore traffic citations.

\* \* \* \*

The conviction rate for cases adjudicated from State Police arrests was 87 percent, a significant jump of seven percent, attesting to the high

quality of arrests made by Division personnel. Convictions were obtained in 477,878 cases, compared with 441,616 convictions in 1976.

Fines, fees and the value of recovered property, and the proceeds from the sale of used equipment totaled \$17,715,337, an increase of \$2,449,216 from the 1976 total of \$15,266,121. Division vehicles traveled 51,622,498 miles, approximately the same as in the previous year. ■



Governor Carey leads a State Police detail along New York's Fifth Avenue in heading the St. Patrick's Day parade. Photo by Bob Miazga.



Two mounted troopers at the entrance to the State Police exhibition area at the State Fair. Photo by Doug Dales.

## The Uniform Force

A reporter about to accompany a trooper on a tour of duty asked, "what do you expect to happen today?" The trooper, a sage veteran, replied: "Whatever happens, just call it a routine day."

The workaday world of the road trooper is a crowded swirl of the mundane and bizarre, a mindboggling succession of simple distress and heinous criminality; he emerges from the tumultuous sea of human conflicts with the logical understatement of the perennially harried and helpful: it was a routine shift.

Its unpredictability makes the job of the trooper both an adventure and an imminent danger. When he climbs into his blue-and-gold troop car, he never knows whether he will face an erratic speeder or a dangerous lunatic, a runaway teenager or a drunk bent on mayhem, an escaping felon or a woman about to give birth far from a hospital. He must meet each of these troubled persons with grace, knowledge, and courage—and like a good poker player

not reveal the intestinal knot that may be tightening under his gray uniform.

Two troopers were heading back to their station with two men in tow, one for a knife assault and the other for interfering with the arrest, when they passed a boarding house in flames. They leaped out to awaken the occu-



A three-year-old adventurer who stowed away in a horse van and was discovered far from home is comforted by a trooper.

pants and prevailed on their prisoners to help pull several second story victims to safety. Once firefighters arrived they resumed their trip, only to be waylaid a second time by another fire, which despite their efforts proved fatal to one tenant. They finally arrived at the station to file appropriate charges.

A sergeant and a trooper checked a pedestrian on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge on a hunch. That led to the revelation that he was one of 10 escapees from Matteawan State Hospital—six of them murderers and all convicted for violent crimes—leading to a nationwide manhunt.

Domestic difficulties sometimes require troopers to become involved in great tragedies. A 24-year-old son returned to his parents' fashionable Western New York home, ate, watched TV, and then stabbed his father to death, chased his mother outside, and calmly surrendered later while watching television in a college lounge. In the North Country, a widowed gas station attendant was gunned down by her former brother-in-law while she was pumping gas, leaving 10 children orphaned. In the Capital District, troopers managed to save a woman who stood on a window ledge with a 10-inch butcher knife and threatened suicide to end her marital difficulties;



A trooper is on alert at the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge following a mass escape from Matteawan State Hospital. Photo by Middletown Times Herald-Record.

they first calmed her and then convinced her to reenter her apartment.

By contrast, many suicide attempts are successful and frequently are immersed in grotesque details which troopers must unravel. The three outstanding examples of 1977 are these: a headless body being transported from Ithaca to Brooklyn, discovered when a foot was seen protruding from under blankets during a gas fillup, turned out to be a suicide victim who was quietly being returned home by a funeral director who said he wanted to save the family the stigma of a self-inflicted death; fingerprints revealed the dead man was a rapist, thief, and drug dealer. A man

### COUNTRY & WESTERN WAS HIS SWAN SONG

A speeder from Indiana was cleared by a computer check, but after issuing a ticket and letting the man go, a trooper wasn't satisfied and telephoned to that state. It turned out the speeder had been carrying a false identification, riding in an unreported stolen car, and was wanted for burglary and forgery. The trooper recalled that the culprit had mentioned a liking for country and western music while the ticket was being issued, so he began cruising Buffalo bars featuring that style of music. It took several nights, but the trooper found his man whom he arrested as a fugitive. He was extradited.



reportedly firing a shotgun along the roadway in Central New York was soon found near a high voltage tower, dead of a gunshot wound to the head, with a wired beer can attached to his body which a bomb disposal expert found to be nonexplosive. His pockets were filled with newspaper accounts of suicides, including one in which a Connecticut man had fired shots at police before taking his life. A shooting incident outside an Albany tavern in which two were injured culminated an argument over a pool game and sent troopers and local policemen on the heels of the fleeing gunwielder. When his car struck a tree in a cemetery, he was ordered to surrender, but instead engaged officers in a gun battle which ended in a final, muffled shotgun blast. He had fulfilled a vow he made to acquaintances on losing his job: he said he intended to shoot some people and then take his own life, but he hadn't been taken seriously.

Instantaneous action, often fraught with danger, is called for when a burglary is discovered while in progress. At one such incident, a trooper tracked the fleeing intruder to the roof of a commercial building where the culprit pointed a gun at his would-be captor. The trooper grabbed the weapon by the cylinder, but the thief retaliated

by attempting to push him off the roof before being subdued. In another instance, an alarm sent troopers to a neighborhood grocery store where the burglar, on realizing his capture was imminent, dropped the stolen goods and reached for a revolver which he had swiped in another burglary. It got stuck in his belt and the escapade ended quickly. At another food store, a burglar who had cut a hole through a screen hid in a freezer under packages of meat, then on being flushed out tried to fight his way to freedom without success.

Many lives are saved each year by the thoughtfulness and quick action of troopers. One man in gray trekked a long distance through high snows to reach an isolated cottage in which an old man was believed to have been trapped by the elements; he hadn't come down the mountain to pick up his mail for a month. The trooper found him nearly frozen, his food supply gone, then after acquiring proper attention located his son, a law student who hadn't seen his father in five years. A hysterical mother notified police that her 12-year-old son had grabbed electrical wires outside their home while adjusting the TV antenna and was being electrocuted. One trooper kicked

#### BURGLARY AS A TRUE ART

One compulsive burglar was a real artist—and that's how he was eventually identified. Over two years, he invaded 30 camps and unoccupied houses around the Cayuga Lake area, usually leaving some of his art work behind. Despite a sketchy description, he couldn't be identified. One day a trooper casually discussed the burglar's unusual style with a guard at Tompkins County Jail, who mentioned that a current inmate was adept at painting on glass. The styles turned out to be similar, and the man readily confessed, saying that he broke into out-of-the-way locations so he could paint and as a parole violator "get away from people and stay out of trouble."

him free while another grabbed him to prevent his falling off the roof. A mother drove to a State Police station screaming that her six-month-old baby was choking and hemorrhaging; a trooper began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while two other troopers drove to the hospital where physicians were able to restore normal breathing.

Often, attempted rescues place troopers in great personal jeopardy. One trooper, inching along ice to reach a man who had fallen into a lake, found himself in the frigid waters when the surface gave way 40 feet from his goal. Volunteer firemen with ladders and a boat saved the trooper but the flailing man could not be reached. When one of two cars involved in a crash was knocked on its side, a trooper managed to extricate two occupants, but the third was trapped and unconscious. Even though gas had spilled from both tanks and a smoldering fire had started under the seat, the



*A cache of recovered jewelry is inventoried by troopers. The burglars of a Cortland specialty shop were arrested.*

trooper remained in the fume-filled car and placed a barrier across the back window allowing it to be knocked out so that the woman could be removed. Another trooper, aided by a passerby, climbed into a burning overturned truck following a fatal head-on collision



*A herd of runaway horses is corralled by a trooper. Troy Times-Record photo by G. M. Dzaman.*



*A lieutenant and investigator examine the wreckage of a light plane in which five persons perished.*

and snatched the trucker from certain death. In a similar incident, a trooper and deputy sheriff pulled an unconscious motorist from his car after it burst into flames on striking a tree; his only concern on regaining consciousness was that his insurance rates might go up.

Information garnered from tipsters who have been developed as part of police work often proves invaluable in the solution of criminal matters. A sketchy tip regarding the theft of microwave ovens started a trooper on a long night's surveillance. That resulted in a second piece of information that the haul was about to be moved. Another midnight vigil ended when a caravan of cars and trucks pulled up to a house surrounded by abandoned farm buildings and the loading of large boxes began. The conspirators were surrounded. In all, 10 persons were seized and 122 ovens worth over \$60,000, which had been hijacked in New Jersey, were recovered. Another bit of information enabled a trooper to crack what was described as the

largest burglary in Wayne County history consisting of \$40,000 in cash and \$20,000 in securities. The youthful intruders who got away with the bountiful haul began to make expensive purchases and to brag about their enterprise. One youth gave a trooper an inkling of the misdeed, and soon 12 young culprits were in tow.

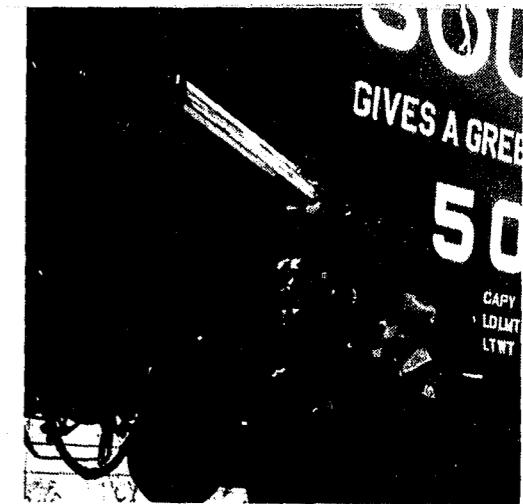
A trooper must be swift afoot when the occasion demands. It did the day two bandits robbed a supermarket manager of \$32,000. One was quickly captured, but the other ran through Monroe County Fairgrounds and over snow covered fields, with two men in gray hot on his heels. Several miles later the exhausted robber surrendered. Two other troopers ran around a lake and a mile through woods to catch up to two of four persons who had snatched 37 breeder brook trout from a state fish hatchery. Not only were they fined \$785, but were told that the hatchery water had been treated with antibiotics and ingestion of the fish would have caused intestinal distress.

Sex crimes are increasingly claiming the time and efforts of troopers as reflected in these cases: A trooper alerted to a bike lying in the road arrived in time to hear screams from a bush. The cycle hadn't been knocked over in an accident as suspected; a rapist had waylaid the comely cyclist and dragged her away, only to be caught in the sex act. He ran off but was swiftly caught. Four women abducted in NYC managed to jump out of a car and flee from a quartet of kidnapers on the Thruway when they stopped at a comfort station. Their screams attracted troopers who pursued the men to a toll barrier where they were apprehended. Five prostitutes working an I-84 rest area for several months

were pinched following a two-month investigation during which it was noted that they plied their trade using Civilian Band radios over which they identified themselves by such endearments as "Sugar Momma," "Tiny Tears," and "Desert Flower." Their average weight was 250 pounds.

Mindless cruelty, to humans and animals, can cross the path of a trooper unexpectedly. A girl covered with bruises was found to have been beaten by a rubber hose, with soda bottles, and forced to eat until she vomited—all with regularity—by her mother, stepfather, and brother. The child was removed from the house and the trio was taken to court. Many cruelty to animal cases involve merciless cramming in vans on the way to the slaughterhouse. In a parallel situation, a farmer arrested for confining 150 cats and dogs in tiny cages where they died of starvation said merely that he was raising them for laboratory research; the barn was so infested with disease that troopers had to destroy all clothing they wore on the investigation by orders of the veterinarian.

On occasion, an apparently minor request for assistance can mushroom into a frightening experience. This occurred when a trooper was summoned to a motel where two lodgers were involved in a dispute with the manager over the checkout time. The



*A rail pierces two freight cars in a freak derailment.*

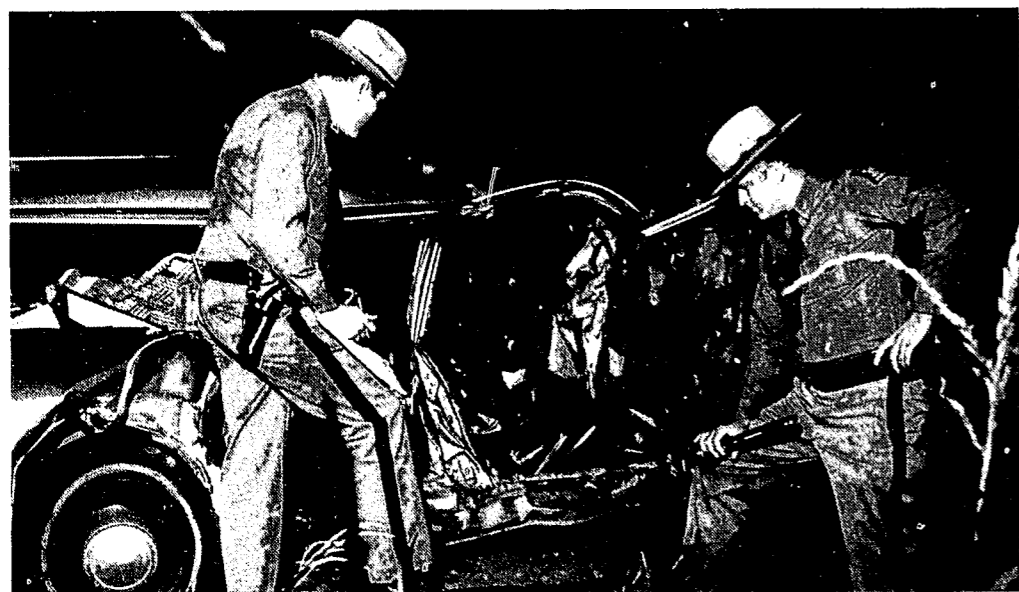
matter was apparently resolved, but when an employee was sent to the room to make certain nothing was stolen, he failed to return. The trooper went to the room and was greeted by one of the men who pointed an automatic at his head, then disarmed, searched, and handcuffed him. The motel manager was also taken hostage along with the employee, who was already bound. The trooper managed to free himself and overpowered one of the men, but the other was already in the troop car and sped away. Before he was captured in New Jersey, he had exchanged the troop car for another vehicle and taken four hostages en route.

Of all encounters during 1977, perhaps the one with which the greatest empathy was felt involved a husband who had beaten up his wife because her pet dog had eaten his income tax form which he had laboriously prepared. ■

#### **HE'D DO ANYTHING TO AVOID GETTING A TICKET**

It appeared like just another tragic fatal accident, with the driver dead behind the wheel and the slightly injured passenger sitting in the front seat. But a trooper's investigation determined that following the one-car crash, the body of the dead man, who had actually been the passenger, had been pulled behind the wheel by the survivor in an attempt to avoid a traffic ticket.





After prying an accident victim free, two troopers assess the damage. Utica Press photo by George Widman.

## Highways And Byways

"Today you probably saved the life of our son when you stopped him in his van to issue him a summons for going 86 mph. We are writing to thank you for that life!"

So starts a letter written by parents in southern New York to a trooper who is one of 150 troopers and 20 supervisory personnel engaged in an intensive statewide effort to enforce the national 55 mph speed limit: a Task Force that began on February 21 to focus on speeders on interstate highways under a three-year \$6 million federal matching grant.

The extent to which motorists disobey the speeding law is manifest in the record 299,169 violators caught by Task Force personnel and other troopers during 1977, eclipsing the previous high of 277,467 set in 1976. (The Task Force accounted for 105,000 of these arrests).



The Task Force, the outgrowth of a 1976 Speed Enforcement Team of 22 troopers working under a federal grant, is continuing the dual objectives of saving lives and fuel; nearly one of every seven accidents in the state occurs on an interstate highway, with a greater chance of severity because of the high travel speeds.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration now lists New York State as being third in the nation in motorists' compliance with the speed limit, a testimonial to the State Police enforcement effort.

These are some of the speeders who met up with troopers: a Toronto motorist zipped past a State Police station while a trooper was demonstrating radar for a large open house audience. A young man sped by radar

### LUSH TALES OF THE HIGH LIFE

Three of the most unlikely drunk driver arrests of the year made by troopers were these: a motorist who by profession operates a breath test for jockeys at a racetrack and flunked his own, a patient who said he had to get drunk when he learned that day he was suffering from severe liver damage caused by alcohol, and an inveterate imbiber who struck two parked cars while weaving his way toward a state driver improvement clinic.

twice on the Northway because he had gotten lost and wanted to get a dead chicken in his trunk home in time for supper. A trucker whizzed by at 87 mph carrying 50,000 pounds of steel because he didn't think a trooper busily writing another speeding ticket would bother him. A woman barreled past radar and not only rolled her car over onto a center mall, but then locked her doors, closed her windows and while singing arias refused to come out until forcibly removed. A man ignored a stop sign at high speed and killed three occupants of a second car, leading to manslaughter and criminal negligence charges.

Of the 454 fatal accidents investigated by State Police during 1977 (down from 492), speeding was the principal cause in the most—111. Next in line was alcoholic involve-

ment with 99. Adding to the toll of human misery were 49,009 accidents involving personal injuries and property damage (down from 51,036) in more than one-fifth of which speed was a factor and in nearly one-tenth of which alcohol was a contributor.

State Police continued its stress on removing drunk drivers from the roads before they could injure themselves or others. DWI arrests totalled 10,840 (down from 11,980) of which the courts convicted 4,088 of driving while intoxicated, 4,329 of driving while their ability was impaired, and 2,633 on lesser charges. About one of every nine drivers arrested for an alcohol-related offense refused to submit to a chemical test, subjecting them to revocation of their licenses. The majority, 9,196, opted for the breath test, while 570 submitted to a blood test and 11 chose to give urine specimens.



An overturned truck and its spilled cargo of tomato cans closed part of I-81 for 18 hours causing State Police a monumental traffic control problem.

One car driven by a drunk driver hit a culvert, flew through the air, bounced off a parked car and landed in an apple tree injuring a passenger. Exactly a week later, another inebriate struck the same culvert, skimmed the roof of the same parked car, and ended up suspended in the same tree, but this time his passenger perished. Another airborne car struck center guardrails and landed atop a car in the opposite lane, trapping a couple and their one-month-old baby. A blood sample was taken from the intoxicated driver who was fatally injured when ejected; it read .24, proof of extreme drunkenness. A car weaving past a station where two troopers were filling their gas tank was stopped and the driver arrested for drunk driving; he turned out to be one of three convicted murderers who had just escaped from a New Hampshire prison. His cohorts were cornered at a nearby motel. One drunk driver sent troopers on a unique search: his injured victim in a collision had lost six inches of an upper arm bone and surgeons asked for a search of the accident area; the troopers found the segment, which was reinserted in a five-hour operation.

Traffic arrests totaled 555,990, a notable rise from the 519,860 in



A trooper helps carry away the body of an intoxicated driver following a crash. Photo by Elmira Star Gazette.



A scales detail trooper checks that a truck doesn't exceed the legal load limit. Plattsburgh Press-Republican photo by Steve Frazier.

1976. Arrests for hazardous violations—those that can lead to an accident—numbered 405,765, compared to 384,810 the previous year. Nonhazardous arrests, which range from blown mufflers to no insurance, rose from 135,050 to 150,225.

Road checks mandated under the Vehicle and Traffic Law totaled 1,867, which led to 20,905 arrests of which 418 were of a criminal nature. The 25 State Police portable scales teams made 9,758 arrests for overweight infractions. ■

#### NO TIME LOST

The quickest State Police arraignment of the year took place in the living room of a Steuben County town justice; that's where a careless driver landed when his car flew off the road directly into the house. ■



Five troopers autograph the cast on the leg of a truck driver whom they carried to a Buffalo hospital during the Blizzard of '77. Buffalo Evening News photo by Robert E. Stoddard.

## Blizzard Of '77

The Blizzard of '77, which buried western New York under tons of snow early in the year, serves as an example of the extraordinary demands often made upon the Division of State Police when the whims of nature become devastating.

Early in the storm, State Police disseminated road and weather information, helped direct traffic, and aided motorists whose cars were bogged down. But quickly, as the situation worsened, a full commitment was needed that saw members team up with snowplows and tow trucks to remove wrecked and abandoned cars, find shelter for stranded motorists, keep main roads open, and assure medical assistance for those in need.

As conditions worsened, food had to be delivered to marooned families. The Division helicopters entered the picture, and under coordinated police direction, volunteer groups of snowmobilers and four-wheel drive cars were organized for a massive relief effort. State Police escorted convoys of trucks carrying foodstuffs into the

afflicted areas and supervised evacuation from heatless homes.

Acts of unselfish aid to the public by State Police in the face of personal risk were legion. These are but two:

Five troopers, coming upon a trucker whose leg was fractured in a chain-reaction crash on the Thruway, carried the man to a stalled ambulance, then literally pushed the ambulance along, clearing a path past half-buried vehicles. When five-foot drifts made further progress impossible, the troopers carried the man a quarter mile to the hospital after immobilizing his leg and taking turns in breaking a path through the white barricade. The trucker and his rescuers were all treated for exposure.

In a second life-saving maneuver, two troopers drove a 10-week-old baby to a Buffalo hospital where it was placed on a kidney machine in time. What would have been a 20-minute drive normally turned into a five-hour ordeal in which the troopers fought zero visibility, snow-clogged arteries, and abandoned vehicles, often pushing disabled cars from their path. ■

## Danger Lurks

Behind the statistic that during the year 665 members suffered injuries while on duty lies the acknowledged potential dangers inherent in even the most routine assignments.

Tpr. William H. Bender could hardly have guessed that a request to intervene in a dispute in which a landlord was attempting to evict a tenant for refusal to get rid of a dog would nearly cost his life. But the tenant wielded a shotgun which the trooper ordered him to drop. Instead the tenant whirled and fired, the blast striking the trooper's face, head, and hand. A second blast missed and as the wounded trooper crawled into his car, the crazed man attempted a third round at point-blank range but the weapon jammed. An off-duty policeman made the arrest right after the trooper was able to get off a message to his station, "Send help, I've been shot!" A lengthy hospital stay led to a recuperation at home. The trooper, who lost his trigger finger which was holding his sidearm at the ready when the shotgun blast was fired, said he did not shoot first because of the presence of many bystanders, including several children.

A 240-pound speeder, stopped by a Thruway trooper after a short pursuit, refused to produce a license. When he shifted into gear, the trooper reached into the car to turn off the key only to have the man pull him into the vehicle. During a struggle, the trooper sustained injuries and his service revolver was dislodged from its holster. Two truckers who stopped to assist secured the weapon and helped the trooper in removing the heavy weight from the car.

When a second trooper arrived and attempts were made to handcuff the assailant, he became violent, kicking the second trooper. Following arrest on numerous counts, it was learned that the battler had a lengthy record of assaults in Vermont where he was wanted.

When an 18 year old organized a nocturnal beer party at only \$2 per person, he quickly found 400 thirsty youthful patrons on his hands. The festivities soon became disorderly, and one of the troopers who arrived to restore order was struck in the chest, sending him to a hospital for treatment. The sponsor and the beverage supplier were soon under arrest, together with some of the more obstreperous party-goers.

An apparently innocent interview with two pedestrians near Binghamton turned into an ugly struggle in which a sergeant found his revolver torn from its holster by one of the pair. He was shot in the hand and leg, but later made a satisfactory recovery. Two troopers from a nearby loadometer detail responded in time to subdue the assailant and prevent further injury. A charge of attempted murder was filed.

The Berkshire Spur was the scene of a chemical spill from a truck. The trooper who responded to reports of a noxious odor became ill from the fumes which turned out to be a form of formaldehyde. He required hospitalization and a week's sick leave.

Even when they are not on duty, troopers are not immune to injury in attempting to help others. One trooper and his wife were injured during a field day in Oswego County in trying to assist a fireman during a disturbance. The trooper's foot was broken and both suffered bruises. ■



An investigator dusts a cash drawer while other officers confer after two masked robbers held up a bank. Middletown Times Herald-Record photo by Al Green.

## The B. C. I.

The disappearance of a corporation president's wife in Greene launched one of the most intensive investigations of the year which did not end until her body was found in woods a week later and her accused killer was traced to Tennessee where he was arrested. The entire Bureau of Criminal Investigation of Troop C entered the case, complemented by more than 100 troopers, scuba divers, bloodhounds, and Division helicopters, as well as the FBI and local police. Investigators managed to locate witnesses who had seen a car near the woman's estate and in creating a composite of the car, came up with a likely suspect even before the shot-gunned body was found trussed and gagged. When the victim was identified, the man was already under surveillance

and his arrest and extradition followed quickly; he had apparently been in the process of burglarizing the house when he was discovered.

The murder was one of 62 investigated by the BCI during the year and was among 47,811 cases to come to the attention of this detective arm of the State Police. More than one-quarter of the state's criminal cases occurring outside cities are investigated by State Police, and the most serious of these come within the purview of the BCI.

The BCI was established in 1935 to investigate serious and complex crimes, and since murder heads any year's listing of heinous criminal activity, here is an additional sampling of cases the BCI helped to solve:

### CATTLE KILLER HAD A STRANGE REASON

The bizarre deaths of livestock—they were struck down with heavy instruments and hung from rafters by chains—sent an investigator to a Monroe County farm. The resolution was as grotesque as the crime. The 22-year-old son and partner of the owner, finding that young calves were dying mysteriously of natural causes, killed them at night to make it appear that an intruder was slaughtering them; he was afraid his father would think he was negligent in the care of the cattle.

### A KIDNAP PLOT TURNS INTO A MURDER

A Sullivan County housewife who returned from work to find her husband and his business partner bound and blindfolded on the floor was abducted at gunpoint. Her father, a prominent businessman, was called that night with a demand for \$1 million ransom for his daughter's life. BCI investigators were able to track down the kidnaper who told them the woman was buried alive, in good health, in a dynamite storage magazine in a mountainous region of Ulster County. Investigators rushed to the site too late; the woman had asphyxiated, even though the abductor had made air holes in the wooden magazine cover by discharging his rifle several times.

● The slaying of two Westchester County housewives by a trio of house burglars who were captured when they returned their van to a Connecticut rental agency.

● The disappearance of a young Cornell University coed whose skeletal remains, found eight months later, were identified by dental charts; her killer was a paroled rapist who was arrested in jail where he had been returned on another rape charge.

● The killing of an Onondaga County car dealer in his office and the discovery that the operator of a stake-rake truck was the probable murderer; the finding of a shotgun shell combined with a shell obtained from a previous owner of the missing murder weapon led to a finding that both were chambered and fired by the same weapon, resulting in an accusation and grand jury indictment.

● The rape-strangulation of a cook at Attica Correctional Facility whose body was stuffed in a meat cooler; investigators penetrated the inmates' code of silence and identified the murderer within 12 hours based on voluntary information from five witnesses.

BCI investigators encounter the broad range of criminal activity, as evidenced by this sampling taken from among the 23,261 cases closed by arrest and 15,663 closed by investigation during the year:

Investigators, tipped to a group of people looking for quality paper for a counterfeiting operation in Steuben County, managed to make a \$2,000 buy and then 10 days later purchased \$304,000 in phony \$20 bills. The BCI and Secret Service agents then rounded up two brothers and a girl friend and closed down a print shop they were running.



The accused killer of a corporation executive's wife is led to his arraignment.



BCI investigators and Secret Service agents examine some \$304,000 in counterfeit \$20 bills.

A coordinated raid in which federal and local law enforcement officials participated rounded up 24 persons, including a legislator, an assistant DA, and several Western New York crime figures, who dealt in stolen merchandise among which was a \$250,000 Rembrandt painting stolen in France in 1971.

The arrest of a former New Jersey police officer, his son, and a friend solved a bank robbery which had taken place in Orange County eight months earlier; the trio took off with \$14,000 after appearing in ski masks, gloves, and sneakers, wielding a sawed-off pump shotgun.

An investigator's sketch of a rapist, based on a description by the hospitalized victim, led to an unexpected culmination: the assailant had apparently committed suicide by jump-

ing nude from the eighth floor of an office building, but it required the woman's positive identification at the funeral home to close the case by exceptional clearance.

The night manager of an Amsterdam supermarket disappeared the same time that deposits of \$31,000 were reported missing. It was determined that, plagued by financial and marital problems, the manager had rushed to Las Vegas and after blowing his entire stake wired home for \$600 for a return ticket. The BCI charged him with grand larceny.

Two "sting" operations were penetrated and broken by undercover investigators in Niagara and Buffalo. Both involved improvised stores behind apparently legitimate streetside facades from which stolen merchandise was sold at cut-rate prices. Together, 49

### OLD WOMAN SEARCHES FOR HIT MAN

A 72-year-old Montgomery County woman, who had repeatedly asked a young man to murder her husband for money, was introduced by him to an investigator in the guise of a professional assassin. The woman offered \$500 for the hit job which she wanted done immediately. The entire episode was recorded on tape and photographed; just before her arrest she pleaded with the "assassin" not to disfigure her spouse's face because she wanted to have an open casket funeral.

### THE BOARDERS BOARDED HER UP

In a virtual enactment of the noted play, "Kind Lady," three student boarders kept a Brockport widow a virtual prisoner inside her own home while systematically stripping her of her life savings. While they handled all her shopping and banking, they syphoned off her savings in ever-increasing amounts by making withdrawals and redeposits, verifying transactions via rigged telephone conversations between the "invalid grandmother" and bank officials and later through forged letters bearing her signature. When the woman's attorney became suspicious, the BCI launched an investigation that culminated in arrests just after some \$8,000 had been transferred into a joint checking account for the woman and her "grandson."

persons were nabbed and \$270,000 in stolen merchandise was seized; one braggart, calling himself and his friends "the biggest thieves in the area," peddled a grandfather clock which had stopped just 15 minutes before—when it was stolen.

\* \* \*

BCI investigators don't wear uniforms. They perform undercover work that often leads to major arrests and scrutinize backgrounds of potential future troopers and prospective leading State appointees. To keep up with the sophisticated modern criminal, specialization has become a mainstay of the BCI. These are examples of specialized functions within the bureau:

**GAMBLING:** During summer, multiple felony gambling counts were brought against 18 persons to put a crimp in a flourishing policy network stretching from Westchester County to New York City that grossed \$1 million annually.

**AUTO THEFT:** Three Schenectadians, involved in an intricate series of schemes that involved not only the theft of cars but false proofs of ownership from out of state, phony insurance

claims, and the destruction of cars by burning following alteration of vehicle identification numbers, were rounded up by Auto Theft Unit specialists.

**IDENTIFICATION BUREAU:** Partial fingerprints were lifted from loose skin found still intact on a decomposed body off the Thruway. A lead that the remains were those of the girl friend of a man whose body had been discovered a half year earlier led ID investigators to the missing girl's New York City house where her mother permitted dusting. Some six-year-old high school notebooks were treated with a special chemical that raised a latent print which led to a positive identification and the initiation of investigative attempts to catch her killer.

**POLYGRAPH:** An Albany area man whose car was wired to explode but failed to detonate confessed during polygraph interrogation to numerous robberies and burglaries. Further interviews with his wife resulted in her arrest for convincing her boyfriend to rig the car so that it would eliminate the husband. ■



## Drug Traffic

The brutal execution of a cocaine dealer near Kingston, whose bullet-punctured body was found wedged in a bridge abutment weighted by concrete blocks chained to his legs, set in motion an investigation that led to arrests in Kingston and Boston. That ended a major cocaine deal with an additional motive in the slaying being revenge over disputes in past drug transactions.

A number of unusual spots were raided by State Police Narco Unit specialists in shutting down clandestine factories for manufacturing controlled substances illicitly: In Gouverneur, a converted bomb shelter served as a lab for making amphetamines. A ski chalet in Fleischmanns camouflaged the concoction of phencyclidine. A Dutchess County trailer park housed what was classed as the largest LSD operation uncovered in the Eastern United States in 15 years. And a red house outside Port Jervis, the key direction to which was a potato chip billboard at a nearby intersection, had been converted to a speed lab by convicted drug peddlers from three states.

These are among the 5,299 cases involving controlled substances, more than one-third of them felonies, to confront State Police during 1977.

A total of 5,111 persons were arrested, a continuing decline since the all-time high of 9,462 arrests was logged in 1973. Among the reasons for the decreases are the changing New York State drug laws; four years ago more stringent penalties were meted out for serious drug crimes and during 1977 possession of small quantities of marijuana for private use was



With marijuana growths as a backdrop, two troopers guard the cultivator following his arrest.

decriminalized.

Some other noteworthy drug cases are these:

A trunk containing 150 pounds of marijuana was seized at Buffalo Airport as it was being loaded from a cargo plane onto a truck, and with a series of arrests a wholesale drug trafficking operation between Arizona and Western New York was wiped out.

An investigator had to quickly engage a plumber when a haul of cocaine and \$900 in buy money was flushed down a toilet in Chemung County. He recovered most of the money as it floated toward the city's sewer system, including a \$50 bill, the torn corner of which was found in the drug seller's pocket.

Three cocaine dealers, unwittingly drawn into a \$30,000 deal with undercover officers, finally made the exchange in a Rochester motel room. Analysis after arrest determined that the package purchased with the flash roll would bring in more than \$250,000 on the street. ■



## Training

For the first time in over two years, the Academy was authorized to conduct basic schools for recruit troopers. July 8 marked graduation day for 73 tyros at the completion of 20 weeks of training and on Sept. 20 another 156 new troopers were sworn in by Superintendent Connelie with graduation scheduled for Feb. 3, 1978. Each training session includes a week of field training in which recruits ride with senior troopers; this offers the trainees practical experience which reinforces Academy instruction and gives the newcomers the chance to relate training to actual police situations.

Both this class and one scheduled to form on Feb. 20, 1978 were authorized under a \$1.9 million supplemental budget allocation recommended by the Governor and approved by the Legislature.

The men in gray were joined by the men in green in the cooperative use of Academy facilities. More than 112 conservation officers and 140 forest rangers, all assigned by the Department of Environmental Conservation, completed training programs during the year; included was a 16-week basic school for conservation officers.

The Academy also hosted two training programs in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice in which 132 police officers attended sessions presented by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

A novel presentation, a one-day Senior Crime Institute, offered 300 senior citizens who were bussed to the Academy a program of techniques and countermeasures to protect themselves



A course in crash injury management is hosted by State Police.

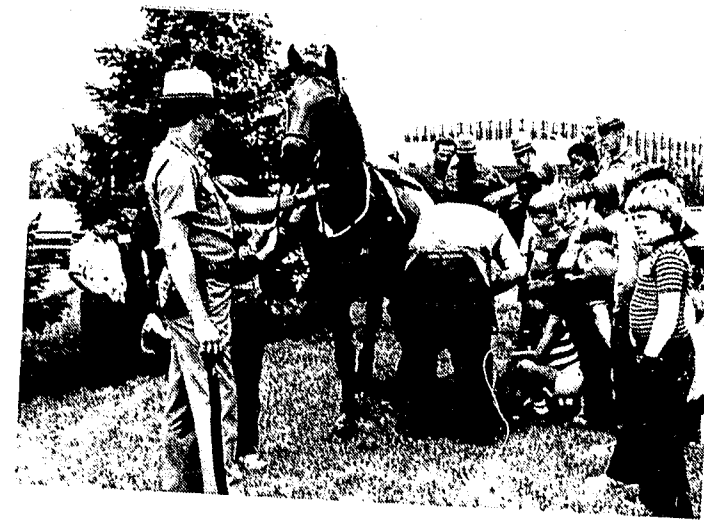
against larceny and crimes of violence.

In all, outside agencies conducted 56 sessions during the year at the Academy and were represented by 2,952 participants.

Outside of the Academy complex, troop instructors provided 152,056 man-hours of field training, of which 23,016 man-hours were devoted to training of other police officers in cooperation with the Municipal Police Training Council.

\* \* \*

A "Counter Terrorism/Hostage Training Program," centered at the Academy, is now in full swing, jointly administered by State Police and the Bureau of Municipal Police. Following a statewide survey designed to measure trends and identify approaches to hostage-barricade situations, a series of one-day training sessions was begun in May. By year's end 2,730 State Police and 1,217 municipal officers had attended 178 sessions around the state. ■



SPSP boys and their counselors watch an off-duty trooper shoe a horse on Academy grounds. Capital Newspapers photo by Jack Pinto.

## 'SPSP'

An experiment in police-community relations, begun in 1976 as the "State Police Summer Program," was expanded this year to enable 175 disadvantaged boys to spend a vacation at the State Police Academy.

The youngsters, 9-12 years old, came in groups of 25 for one-week stays with emphasis on sports and other physical activity, tours, and classroom sessions on the criminal justice system.

During the first year of the program, 100 boys attended four one-week sessions.

### A LOVE LETTER

This is a fragment of a letter written by a boy who attended the summer program to his trooper counselor: "I wish you were my father because you are so nice....I hope that if I go up for adoption I get someone like you or maybe even you. This is the first time I really missed someone as much as I miss you....Every day I sit and stare at your picture. I pray to God to keep you safe. I miss you so. I like you much more than any person in the world."



A trooper-counselor escorts a nine-year-old boy to the season's first SPSP program. Troy Record photo by C. W. McKeen.

This Superintendent's program is intended to promote friendship and understanding between troopers and the boys, leading to constructive long-term relationships and to open State Police facilities to youngsters for fun and learning experiences not available elsewhere.

Selection was made by the eight troop commanders based on recommendations of patrol troopers, with equal representation from each troop area. Eight troopers acted as counselors, abetted by the Academy staff. The cost of \$50 per boy was defrayed by contributions from community and service organizations around the state. ■



Superintendent Commelle swears in a class of recruit troopers.

## Personnel

The authorized law enforcement strength of the Division increased seven positions from 3,437 to 3,444. At the end of 1977, the actual strength of law enforcement personnel stood at 3,182 with 262 positions vacant. Seventy-six recruits were hired in February with 73 graduating from the State Police Academy. In September, 156 probationary troopers reported for duty with graduation scheduled for early 1978.

One hundred thirty-six members were promoted or designated during the year as follows: one deputy chief inspector, one staff inspector, three majors, 11 captains, 18 lieutenants, eight senior investigators, 20 investigators, 22 zone sergeants, 47 sergeants, and five technical sergeants.

The attrition among law enforcement personnel totaled 164, including 98 service retirements, 23 State Police disability retirements, 10 accidental disability retirements, 30 resignations, and three off-duty deaths. There were no dismissals. One member was rein-

stated during the year. The attrition rate was 5.9 percent as compared to 4.64 percent in 1976.

Those who died were Captain John J. Carroll and Senior Investigator Waldo H. Roy of Troop C, both



Robert E. Sweeney



Arnold L. Bardossi



Stephen A. Smith



William F. Keefe

of whom served more than 20 years, and Investigator Nicholas Fitzak of Troop A, a 24-year veteran. They succumbed to natural causes.

Those who retired included Assistant Deputy Superintendent Robert E. Sweeney, Jr., Staff Inspector Arnold L. Bardossi, and Major William F. Keefe of Troop D.

Authorized civilian positions were increased in 1977 to 557 from 542 in 1976. Sixty-six civilians were appointed during the year of whom 54 went to permanent positions, seven to temporary positions, and five to temporary part-time positions. Fifteen employees were hired under the provisions of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act. There were 27 resignations,

16 service retirements, and one death (Bruce A. Bell, a Troop A cleaner) for a loss of 44 during the year. Twelve civilians were granted maternity leave. At the end of the year, 55 civilian positions were vacant. Twenty-five civilians were promoted during the past year. The attrition rate for civilians was 8.96 percent as compared to 10.15 percent in 1976.

Among those retiring was Stephen A. Smith, director of personnel.

The overall attrition for all Division employees was 5.70 percent as compared to 5.35 percent in 1976.

During the year, 665 members and 36 civilians were injured on duty, an increase of 15 from 1976. ■

## Records

State Police records for criminal arrests and investigations are filed, searched, and retrieved for State Police use at the Records Section at Division Headquarters.

Troop record rooms have, in accordance with established procedure, discontinued retention of closed case files. As a result of centralization, all requests for information are now directed to Division Headquarters.

The index system for all criminal material and other documented cases and correspondence has increased by 174,460. During the year, arrest data from the field has been computerized and index files have been produced to serve as reference until cases arrive at Division Headquarters. This system, known as "File 20 and File 13," has helped generate preprinted file cards which were once typed by the record room staff, easing record room duties,

and making arrest data available within 24 hours.

The section continues to act as a reference source for field personnel requiring previously stored data during investigations.

The completion of record verifications dealing with lost and stolen property has helped verify losses for interested parties. It permits issuance of verifications without the release of investigative reports. This service blossomed in 1977 as a major use of stored records.

There are today 638 railroad police officers who are commissioned by the Superintendent based on review and preparation of documents by Records Section personnel. During 1977, commissions were issued to 101 railroad policemen, while retirements, resignations, and dismissals caused the revocations of 52 officers by the Superintendent. ■

### DELAYED BLOOD TEST SETTLES INSURANCE CLAIM

Laboratory toxicologists were able to provide proof of an accidental death a year after a man was found in a garage slumped over his car. His beneficiaries were paid double-indemnity by the insurance carrier because analysts were able to take a specimen of blood, which had been in the pathologist's refrigerator since the autopsy, and using a specialized technique determined that a fatal level of carbon monoxide was in his blood. That led the medical examiner to rule that death was accidental; the man had apparently suffered a non-fatal heart attack while working on his car and was asphyxiated because he couldn't turn the motor off.

## The Scientific Laboratory



and local law enforcement agencies which the Laboratory also serves. This service will be expanded in 1978, with plans for the establishment of the first satellite laboratory—at Newburgh—under a \$250,000 LEAA grant.

Thirteen pieces of electrical tape, pieced together by Laboratory analysts, confirmed a bizarre story and cemented a case against a murderer. Police were skeptical about a man's tale of coming home to find his mother-in-law trussed and gagged and then being forced, together with her, into the trunk of a car. The man said the car stopped at an unknown spot, the woman was removed, a gunshot was heard and the car started again; he said he was able to escape using a pair of pliers. When her body was discovered, the son-in-law became a prime suspect. However, pieces of tape found on the victim, near the location of her body, and at the home of the car's owner, were determined by the Laboratory not only to have originated from the same roll, but their sequence of removal was ascertained. The tape thereby provided vital evidence that lifted suspicion from the son-in-law and placed it squarely on the real killer.

This case was one of 9,080 (excluding drug destruction cases) handled by the State Police Laboratory, many of which were instrumental in concluding cases for both State Police

Areas of Laboratory concern which have shown undiminished increases in recent years are arson, which rose by 10 to 229, fatal accidents, which nudged ahead from 318 to 323, and suicides, up 15 to 208.

Analysis of drugs dominated Laboratory statistics for 1977 as it has in recent years. The 3,745 drug cases represent a decline from the previous year, accounted for in part by the liberalized marijuana law which went into effect during 1977 and resulted in drastic decreases in cases involving small amounts of cannabis.

The Firearms Section processed all Division service revolvers during the year after difficulty was experienced in firing during field qualification. Since the weapons were found to require factory modification, an exchange program was developed which required double processing through the section, requiring 76 man-days of work and 3,640 miles of travel. The section as part of its normal workload also completed 1,188 cases during the year. In one of these, a shotgun slug



A serologist at work.

and wadding recovered from the body of a murdered woman were first identified as to gauge and manufacturer and later matched to the weapon and ammunition owned by the suspected killer, thereby establishing "probable cause" and resulting in his arrest in the South to where he had fled.

The Documents Section, among its 3,657 documents examined, lists one case in which a habitual car thief created a double-identity by obtaining a driver's license under a fictitious name which he used to register and

sell stolen vehicles. A handwriting analysis led to a successful prosecution.

The Serology Section noted that of 454 cases received during the year, 194 involved sex crimes. The Criminalistics Section added two new pieces of equipment: a monochromator for more rapid analysis on glass comparisons and a new type of pyrolyzer for more rapid and reliable comparisons on such organic materials as paints and plastics. The Toxicology Section, with a backlog of 620 cases as 1978 dawned, was hoping the state would pick up four of the section's six positions which will otherwise be terminated on April 1 under a federal funding arrangement begun in 1975.

Close to 40 percent of Laboratory cases originated from these areas: law enforcement departments other than State Police, state agencies, federal offices, and outside laboratories. Laboratory personnel testified at 161 trials during 1977. ■

### PLANNERS SECURE KEY FEDERAL GRANTS

The Planning and Research Section, among its many functions, was able to secure numerous federal grants funnelled through the Law Enforcement Assistance Association which instituted these programs:

- A resident trooper program in four troop areas, making New York the only state to successfully allow professional police specialists to operate minidepartments out of their residences and act as advisors to local law enforcement departments.

- A satellite laboratory in Newburgh which in serving six counties may quickly account for about one-third of the State Police Laboratory's caseload.

- Acquisition of an infrared data file

from the Division of Criminal Justice Services; it is capable of identifying over 140,000 substances.

- Establishment of a Crime Laboratory Advisory Commission to coordinate the efforts of the state's crime labs.

The Section implemented a File 20 project (BCI case reporting) which in providing computer-generated reports saved countless hours in manual report preparation. A File 30 project (incident based reporting) is in the planning stage.

Near year's end, a five-man detail was formed to restructure the State Police members manual. ■

## Speedy Data

A young woman who was hospitalized after staggering out of woods with a fractured skull told State Police at Binghamton of being struck on the head with a rock and left for dead by a young man whose advances she had resisted. Her assailant's description and that of his car were immediately entered into the NYSPIN system, the State Police-operated statewide computerized teletype network that links more than 300 law enforcement agencies within the state with ties to national memory banks in Washington and Phoenix.

Less than seven hours later, the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department received a computer "hit" on the car which the woman's attacker was attempting to sell to a used car agency. Taken into custody and turned over to State Police, the man was eventually sentenced to up to three years in prison for the assault.

This case is typical of many in which felons are tripped up by such stored information as stolen vehicles and plates, nationwide driver and registration information, stolen guns, boats, articles, securities, and wanted and missing persons. Department of Motor Vehicles license and registration data is accessed by NYSPIN.

The system processed more than 88 million transmissions during 1977. More than 17 million file-related inquiries produced 330,000 hits.

During the year, upgrading of the NYSPIN system was completed with the installation of 358 new high-speed computer terminals that provide faster transmission and more versatile performance at an annual savings of about \$440,000. The new unit, the ICC



Calvin Lay, president of the Seneca Nation of Indians, watches the teletype in action at Troop A Headquarters, accompanied by Major Richard E. Boland.

40 Plus, consists of a computerized keyboard, TV screen, and hard copy printer. It is capable of transmitting 1,800 words per minute, a 50 percent increase in speed.

\* \* \*

At year's end, the second phase of a three-part program to improve the Division's radio system was underway with new radios being installed in Troops B and C supported by new modern remote control systems. Troop T was also in the process of obtaining a radio bridge to all other troops. The new eight-channel mobile radios are equipped with five functional channels: troop, car-to-car, state, tactical, and interdepartmental. The third phase, to be completed in 1979 pending available funds, will bring new equipment to Troops D, E, G, and the Manhattan office, completing a statewide standard radio system for State Police. ■

## Aviation

Two members of a four-wheel drive club were swept from their jeep attempting to cross the swollen waters of Norman's Kill Creek. While the vehicle was washed downstream, they managed to swim to a small island covered with two feet of water. Attempts by firemen and divers to reach them were thwarted by the swift current. A State Police helicopter at Albany Airport waited 45 minutes due to darkness and limited visibility, then at dawn maneuvered above the couple, battling hazardous power lines and trees as well as high winds. While the pilot hovered a foot above the waterline, his copilot jumped from the craft and lifted the two exhausted people aboard for a flight to a waiting ambulance which rushed them to a hospital where they were treated for exposure.

This life-saving maneuver was typical of many carried on by the 11 pilots who are ready to scramble for calls across the state from airports at Albany, Syracuse, and Newburgh. They fly three Bell Jet Ranger copters, a Bell bubble helicopter, and a fixed-wing Cessna.

Another instance in which ram-paging waters led to an emergency flight occurred when the Schoharie Creek overflowed, sending 15 persons scurrying to safety from five homes. They were snatched from possible tragedy by a helicopter when the

### FLIGHT SAVES LITTLE LIAR'S ARM

A seven-year-old boy who reportedly fell out of a tree was flown from Narrowsburg Medical Center to Albany Medical Center where a team of doctors removed bullet fragments that saved his arm. The tale of his fall proved a fabrication so that his 11-year-old brother wouldn't have to reveal that he accidentally discharged a shotgun during play.



A State Police pilot relates details of a mission during an open house in the Troop D area. Utica Press photo by Leo Hobaica.

wildly-rushing stream precluded a rescue by boat.

Another copter rescue saw five persons pulled from Saratoga Lake in winter. First, two fishermen fell through the ice, and then three would-be rescuers followed them into the frigid waters. By hovering above, the craft's personnel was able to pluck the quintet out and rush them to an ambulance.

A boy's hand was saved following an attack by a dog when a helicopter braved a severe blizzard to bring him to a Batavia hospital after driving snows made it impossible to transport him over land.

Other examples of the missions of mercy flown by State Police pilots include transporting a rare vaccine from Newark, N.J., to an Orange County Medical team which inoculated a boy

bitten by a rabid bat and relaying a supply of blood from Syracuse to Utica where a patient was undergoing surgery.

Missing persons are often located from the air. A 15-year-old runaway girl who'd argued with her mother emerged from woods where she was hiding and told a State Police patrol that the copter above "must be looking for me." A senile man whose abandoned car was discovered by a Wyoming County deputy was seen lying unconscious in a state park by a pilot and was removed to a hospital by copter.

Another type of missing person was a prisoner who fled from a Schuyler County Jail. Aerial searchers saw a woman frantically waving and pointing to woods near her home. A flight overhead with the PA system blaring convinced the escapee to surrender. He waited while the craft hovered overhead until a trooper arrived to take him into custody.

One helicopter became involved in a chase while helping search for a

marked police car stolen from the Syracuse Police Department. The pilot spotted the car near Onondaga Lake and a high-speed pursuit began with the police car's roof lights flashing and the copter's siren sounding to alert first the thief and then approaching traffic. The TV-like sequence ended in a collision at a two-car roadblock after weaving along a major highway and through a residential area.

The Aviation Unit is often involved in criminal cases. In one of these, a helicopter aided ground patrols in locating a kidnap victim's car and joined in a search which froze the abductor under a tree to avoid detection, leading to his arrest the next day. The victim's body was found near her residence.

Aviators joined a Vermont State Police search team to hunt for burglars who had shot a Vermont trooper near the border in an exchange of fire in which one of the intruders was killed. His two cohorts were contained in the area by the sky craft until they could be apprehended. ■

## Canine Corps

A man fired a shotgun blast through the front door of an Orleans County home, hitting an occupant. He fled on foot, only to be apprehended. But the weapon could not be found, so "Max," a German shepherd, was asked to sniff for the evidence. The dog quickly ferreted out the gun and five rounds of ammunition, a significant accomplishment in that he had participated in only six weapons searches, all in training.

The versatility of the State Police canine corps consisting of bloodhounds, shepherds, and Laborador retrievers



A Troop A bloodhound, its handler and friend at a county fair. Dunkirk Evening Observer photo by Ron Gustafson.

## SHEPHERD'S "SNAP" JUDGMENT WAS SOUND

"Crow," a Troop G shepherd, was the target of the first police dog brutality allegation in State Police history. He was alleged to have bitten and punctured the hand of a tractor thief at the tail end of a 40-mile, three-county pursuit that culminated in a foot chase. When the culprit took on arresting troopers, Crow clamped his teeth on the man's jacket. When the man was turned over to the sheriff's department, he displayed a minor hand wound, but a physician doubted that the dog had caused the injury, attributing it instead to a fall. The canine was exonerated of using excessive force in helping subdue a felon.

was again demonstrated during the year. The dogs, like Max, are frequently called to assist in criminal cases, and are often placed on the trail of missing persons, lost hunters, runaways, and prison escapees. In recent years, specialized training has expanded their capabilities, so that today they are used to detect illicit drugs, explosives, and bodies.

After a parolee broke into a Coeymans home where he raped a housewife after knocking her out with ether spray, he was tracked down by "Crow," a shepherd. Having been released from prison only a month earlier after serving three years for forcible rape, the assailant drew a stiff term on three new counts.

"Baretta," another shepherd, joined his handler in checking for an intruder believed to be inside a house to commit burglary. The dog stopped in front of a closet, and moments later the thief emerged to surrender.

"Ike," a bloodhound, saved two hunters during the fall hunting season, first tracing one who had been lost for seven hours and later following a trail that had been cold for 18 hours to locate a 16 year old at Catamont Peak just before the start of a frigid night.

In the western part of the state, bloodhounds and a shepherd were used to track a prison escapee who had been spotted entering woods. He was quickly scented in a patch of high grass.

Canines are often acquired by way of donation. During the year, "Lobo von Newdeck," a 20-month-old pedigree shepherd, was donated to Troop D by relatives of a murdered woman in appreciation for State Police work in the investigation.

Dogs are strategically kenneled at Troops A, B, D, G, and K for use around the state. They participated in nearly 200 cases during 1977. ■



Two Troop G shepherds and their handlers pose for a family portrait. Capital Newspapers photo by Paul D. Kniskern.



## Scuba Divers

A Troop G scuba diving detail entered the Hudson River to search for a car believed to have been dumped. They found it—and five other missing vehicles.

This unusual discovery of an auto graveyard reflects the unexpected discoveries frequently made at the bottoms of New York State waterways by State Police divers who become detached from their normal duties when the occasion demands. All troops except the Thruway have teams of about six divers.

A Troop D team stumbled onto two safes and over \$4,000 worth of assorted tools during their underwater jaunts, with the result that a safe-cracking and burglary ring operating in three counties over two years was broken.

At a time when the Allegany River was high, debris-laden and murky, Troop A divers scoured for evidence at the request of a police department. They came up with a bike, a shopping cart, and a spinning rod and reel.

Much like the unfriendly Allegany, the state's waterways are often less than inviting and divers must face danger to recover evidence or search for drowning victims. In one instance, a Troop B operative battled swirling Hudson River currents after leaving a helicopter to recover a body wedged



Four State Police divers search for burglary evidence in the Conewango Creek. Jamestown Post Journal photo by Richard W. Hallberg.

between rocks in eight feet of water at a time when it could not be reached by other means; the diver dangled from a safety line in reclaiming the deceased man. Another difficult recovery for Troop D divers involved the body of a sailboat skipper who was washed overboard in a sudden storm and was found in a tangle of weeds near shore after five gruelling days of diving. A wintertime dive enabled Troop G scubamen to recover a body from the Sacandaga Reservoir while they maneuvered under moving ice that threatened to trap them. ■

### A ROUGH WAY TO "START" A CAR

The next time you push a car on a dry road, remember the SP diving detail that had to descend to a 50-foot level of a power dam outlet to move a car to a 70-foot depth so it could be accessible to a crane. Divers working in total darkness also twice rigged the vehicle for lifting and spliced cables along the way before it could be extricated.

## CB Radio

More than 30,000 requests for assistance were broadcast to State Police by Citizen Band radio operators in a seven-county area in central New York during a study to determine the potential benefits of CB radio for highway safety.

The study started in December, 1976, and at the end of 1977 data that was gathered was being analyzed.

The public contacted a network linking them to 150 CB-equipped police cars and 15 SP installations equipped as CB base stations to report incidents ranging from accidents to crimes. Because circuits were closed for extensive periods during the study to allow for comparative statistics, the 30,000 responses translate into about 130,000 calls per year. Once data gathering ended, the CB circuits continued operating without interruption.

The study places special emphasis on the extent to which the CB link reduces response time of emergency services, detects unsafe driving conditions and acts, elicits reports of criminal acts and traffic violations, and enhances citizen participation in highway safety.

The study is being funded through contracts and grants in excess of \$135,000 with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Governor's

### BRAGGART GETS HIS COMEUPPANCE

A speed demon was lucky enough to elude a State Police patrol, but instead of celebrating his escape with compliance and silence he turned on his CB radio and bragged about his accomplishment. The troopers who had just lost him overheard his remarks and asked casually for his location. The operator gladly complied, not knowing who had made the request. He was soon under arrest.



The driver of a disabled car contacts a State Police helicopter near Utica. Photo by Steve Charzuk.

Interdepartmental Traffic Safety Committee. It involves the entire Troop D area.

As the CB mania continued to sweep the nation, troopers came up with some unusual arrests. One patrol was contacted over CB with an "emergency" request by a thief: he wanted to turn in his four cohorts because they wouldn't split the spoils of a burglary. A speeder after accepting a ticket went on the CB to profane the troopers, and radar in particular, much to the disgust of his listeners who demanded he curb his vulgarity; he refused and was picked up again, this time for aggravated harassment and illegal possession of a revolver. ■



Superintendent Connelie presents the first annual Superintendent's Commendation Awards to, from left, Investigator Bruce M. Arnold, Troopers Leo J. Brown, Thomas D. Costello, William C. Austin, Gordon J. Hayes, Dennis J. McGuire, Terry C. Pallone, Kevin M. Tuffey, James P. Ronan, and Investigator Ronald G. Martin.

## Awards Day

Two troopers who dragged an injured State Police investigator from his burning car while ammunition set off by the inferno popped around them received the highest award for bravery at the first annual Awards Day ceremony at the Academy on June 17.

Troopers Leo J. Brown and Thomas D. Costello were presented the annual Brummer Award for bravery as part of a new ceremony which also included the newly-instituted Superintendent's Commendation Awards chosen from among Superintendent's commendations for outstanding performance during 1976.

The Brummer Award winners shared \$3,000 representing income from a trust fund established in 1968 by the late Bertram F. Brummer and his wife, Susie.

In the incident that led to the award, the troopers arrived a moment after the investigator's car had crashed near Canastota and burst into flames. The troopers broke the windows, but were unable to see inside the smoke-filled interior or to open the doors. They felt around inside the car until they located the trapped, injured man. They then dragged him through a window while ammunition stored in

the glove compartment exploded in the intense heat. The troopers, who were slightly injured in the rescue, did not realize that they had saved a fellow officer until the action was completed.

Ten members received the new Superintendent's awards, among them the Brummer Award winners and Investigator Bruce M. Arnold and Trooper Kevin M. Tuffey, who also received the annual Fathers and Sons Alumni Award for aiding injured victims of a Mechanicville sniper while exposing themselves to his line of fire. ■

## PISTOL LICENSES INCREASE BY 49,320

There were 49,320 pistol license applications received by State Police in 1977, bringing the total of applications on file to 643,826. A 1936 provision of the Penal Law created within State Police a repository of records for all pistol licenses issued within the state.

Every person to whom a pistol license is issued must provide information as to the manufacturer's name, caliber, and serial number of the weapon. This information is compiled together with reports of dealer and manufacturer transactions, lost, stolen, and recovered firearms. Total State Police records stand at 3,219,703. ■

## LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS CALENDAR YEAR 1977

Miles Traveled	<u>51,622,495*</u>
Moneys Received and Remitted to State Treasury (Fees for copies of accident reports and photographs, state vehicle accident claim settlements, salvage of old equipment, etc.)	<u>\$ 95,342.</u>
Value of Property Recovered	<u>\$ 2,699,086.</u>
Value of Drugs Seized	<u>\$ 1,852,031.</u>
Value of Stolen Cars Recovered	<u>\$ 3,385,672.</u>
Fines Remitted to Treasury by Courts	<u>\$ 9,464,112.</u>
Sale of Unserviceable Vehicles by Office of General Services	<u>\$ 219,094.</u>

\*Includes Thruway Mileage of 7,093,145

CRIMINAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

Persons Arrested: Felonies, Misdemeanors, Lesser Offenses					
Offenses	Arrested or Summoned	Convicted	Dismissed or Acquitted	Referred to Family Court	*Percent Convicted
Alcoholic Beverage Control Law	110	39	60		40.
Arson	126	42	39	51	70.
Assaults & Reckless Endangerment-Fel.	602	317	182	54	67.
Assaults & Reckless Endangerment-Misd.	1695	531	646	316	57.
Burglary (Include attempts & burglar's tools)	5236	2090	533	1935	87.
Criminal Trespass (Buildings only)	1051	596	305	88	69.
Children (Except sex offenses)	370	155	103	100	71.
Criminal Mischief	1955	709	525	538	70.
Criminal Tampering	26	3		1	100.
Dangerous Drug Laws	5111	2955	2295	224	55.
Disorderly Conduct and Harassment (Except Physical Contact, Attempts & Threats)	2938	333	847	264	65.
Firearms and Weapons (Crimes)	892	508	299	93	67.
Forgery and Counterfeiting-State Laws	966	487	165	69	77.
Frauds and Cheats; Bad Checks	2210	1373	737	20	65.
Gambling	248	204	86	1	70.
Harassment (Physical Contact, Attempts & Threats)	1112	483	416	234	63.
Homicide (Criminal Negligence)	23	16	8		66.
Homicide (Murder and Manslaughter)	64	40	22	5	71.
Larceny (Except Grand Larceny 1st, Embezzlement and Motor Vehicles)	6127	2893	1408	987	73.
Larceny (Motor Vehicle)	954	294	207	297	74.
Loitering	260	167	69	12	72.
Menacing	217	70	77	28	56.
Prostitution, Offenses	24	17	2		89.
Public Intoxication	4	13	8		61.
Rape	167	87	35	8	73.
Robbery	278	161	63	15	74.
Sex Offenses (Except offenses listed on Prostitution & Rape lines herein - includes Patronizing)	442	219	101	53	73.
Stolen Property	1457	719	441	137	66.
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	6514	2805	1217	596	52.
<b>Total</b>	<b>41209</b>	<b>19335</b>	<b>10949</b>	<b>6126</b>	<b>70.</b>
<b>Vehicle and Traffic Arrests</b>	<b>555990</b>	<b>458542</b>	<b>59587</b>		<b>88.</b>
<b>Total - All Arrests</b>	<b>597199</b>	<b>477877</b>	<b>70536</b>	<b>6126</b>	<b>87.</b>

\*Conviction and dismissal columns include persons arrested in previous years. Percent convicted is based on cases processed in court in 1977.

Persons referred to Family Court (Column 4) are treated as convictions in computing the conviction rate.

CRIMINAL OFFENSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1977

Offenses	*Pending at Beginning of Period		Known or Reported		False or Unfounded		Closed by Arrest		Closed by Investigation		Pending at End of Period	
	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses
Aggravated Harassment		121		2268		51		661		1623		54
Agriculture and Markets Law		1	1	111		19		52		72	1	2
Alcoholic Beverage Control Law		5	5	341	1	29	2	153	2	161		6
Animals (Crimes Only)		9		661		135		129		399		7
Arson	205		511		162		151		250		159	
Assaults	65	23	517	1031	50	95	676	655	109	263	77	8
Bail Jumping	11	15	35	33			27	30		6	22	15
Bribery	2		32	15	1	2	27	5	6	3		2
Burglary	6212		22512		5470		5432		13352		1710	
Coercion		1	9	20	1	6		2		13		
Conservation Law		2		3120		201		1115		1773		
Conspiracy	1		52	91		1	19	92	2	1	2	
Controlled Substance	90	56	1113	3586	11	100	1289	3661	107	167	66	11
Criminal Mischief	357	196	925	11105	15	601	251	2097	716	5739	270	161
Criminal Nuisance				99		3		27		69		
Criminal Trespass		17	5	9279		1065	5	1613		6601		11
Criminal Usury	1		1	2				2			2	
Custodial Interference	1	2	5	146	1	21	5	52	1	68	2	4
Dangerous Weapons	24	12	112	507	23	27	105	615	25	135	10	12
Disorderly Conduct		22		15201		750		3007		11405		31
Education Law				17		1		12		1		
Election Law				17				1		15		1
Embezzlement	5	1	10	19	2		31	15	3	7	9	1
Escapes and Absconding	157	31	139	697	10	1	103	259	22	137	161	31
Extortion	2		25		1		15		6		5	
False Report		11	6	600		13	3	377	3	210		11
False Written Statement	1	1	13	72	2		12	67		6		
Family Court Act	1	63	2	6555		93	2	1650	1	1512		36
Federal Offenses	17		357	106	13	7	257	79	102	20	2	
Fireworks		4		505		35		207		265		2
Forgery and Counterfeiting	157	5	2191	97	67	7	1917	69	555	17	352	12
Fraud	15	157	322	6550	20	95	219	5219	35	1535	93	155
Gambling	5	5	255	505	1	5	263	159	20	13	6	

Offenses	Pending at Beginning of Period		Known or Reported		False or Unfounded		Closed by Arrest		Closed by Investigation		Pending at End of Period	
	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses
General Business Law		11	13	96		7	12	52	1	37		11
Hindering Prosecution			5	27		1	5	26				
Homicide:												
Murder	83		69		7		47		1		91	
Manslaughter			10		2		5		2		1	
Criminal Negligence	64		252		199		51		31		32	
Kidnapping	6		57		29		29				5	
Labor Law		6	6	65	1	5	54		2	7		5
Larceny - Theft	1172	1231	3554	15854	215	1093	868	5314	2821	10331	1119	350
Loitering				154		35		212		237		
Mental Hygiene Law		60		1923		53		1055		533		39
Motor Vehicle - Theft	119	35	1303	1363	227	211	285	181	503	662	107	41
Navigation Law				55		2		31		22		
Obsecrity and Indecent Material	7	8	7	11		2	6	39	1	8	7	
Obstructing Governmental Administration				312		2		305		5		
Offenses Against Family		15	11	1213	3	62	6	716	2	433		17
Offenses Against Public Order	1		1	267	1	27	3	71	1	169		
Ordinances				151		11		63		77		
Parks and Recreation Law				31				19		15		
Parole and Probation Violations	15	5	317	102		3	318	379	4	12	10	13
Perjury	3		31	1			34	4	3			
Possession of Burglar Tools		1		100				100		1		
Prison Contraband (Promoting)	1	9	102	221	1	5	96	193	2	25	4	7
Prostitution (Promoting)				16		1		14			1	
Prostitution and Vice		2	1	31		4	1	24		5		3
Public Drug Intoxication				12		6		5		31		
Public Health Law	1	13		291		25		159		116	1	4
Rape - Foreible	29		214		13		112		27		31	
Rape - Attempts	7		27		5		20		6		3	
Real Property Law		1		23				9		15		
Robbery	196		515		135		242		165		196	
Tax Offenses	32	25	191	511	11	23	397	386	46	95	39	32
Simple Assault		37		6622		297		3180		3149		33
Stolen Property	57	22	998	981	12	31	552	906	120	46	71	17

Offenses	Pending at Beginning of Period		Known or Reported		False or Unfounded		Cleared by Arrest		Closed by Investigation		Pending at End of Period	
	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses	Felonies	Misd. and lesser offenses
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	3	12	70	729	4	112	59	398	5	205	5	26
Unlawful Imprisonment		4		71		15		46		10		4
All Others (Not Listed)	19	11	353	3553	9	272	279	754	64	2530	20	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9810</b>	<b>2619</b>	<b>39572</b>	<b>100086</b>	<b>6857</b>	<b>5716</b>	<b>15274</b>	<b>37542</b>	<b>19523</b>	<b>57952</b>	<b>7758</b>	<b>1495</b>
<b>VIOLATIONS HANDLED BY NYSP - REPORTED BY OTHER AGENCIES</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL - ALL VIOLATIONS</b>	<b>9859</b>	<b>2621</b>	<b>39869</b>	<b>100281</b>	<b>6877</b>	<b>5719</b>	<b>15510</b>	<b>37672</b>	<b>19570</b>	<b>58014</b>	<b>7771</b>	<b>1497</b>

\*Due to a change in reclassifying crime codes all pendencies will not agree with 1976



NONCRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1977\*

Classification of Investigations	Pending Beginning of Period	Matters Reported	False or Unfounded	Converted to Criminal Case	Closed by Investigation	Pending End of Period
Accidents:						
Airplane	1	75	21		51	1
Hunting	5	79		1	51	2
Navigation	1	35	5		30	1
Train	3	56	2	2	55	
Miscellaneous	11	872	18	7	831	21
Animals (No Crime Involved)	5	9151	61	4	8083	5
Applicants (Division Only)	62	655			573	144
Applicants (External)	127	1626	2		1713	38
Death, Natural	20	782	12		753	7
Drowning	5	60	15		48	2
Firearms and Weapons (No Crime Involved)	28	227	8	3	229	15
Fires, Floods, Other Disasters		905	50	2	552	4
Lost and Missing Persons	50	5229	195	109	4911	31
Property - Lost and Found	49	3576	63	13	3507	42
Suicide (Include Attempts)	18	772	93	3	657	7
All Other	45	12178	258	13	11865	87
<b>Total*</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>35281</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>34332</b>	<b>410</b>

\*Vehicle and Traffic Data Reported Separately

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION SUMMARY, CRIMINAL AND NONCRIMINAL\*  
CALENDAR YEAR 1977

Type of Activity	Pending at Beginning of Period	Known Reported or Received	False or Unfounded	Cleared by Arrest	Closed by Investigation	Converted to Criminal Case	Pending at End of Period
Criminal Violations	12159	139655	12573	52916	77175		9253
Noncriminal Investigations	130	35251	512		34332	157	110
Investigations For Other Agencies**		3171			3171		
<b>TOTAL ACTIVITY</b>	<b>12559</b>	<b>175113</b>	<b>13385</b>	<b>52916</b>	<b>111951</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>9663</b>

\*Vehicle and Traffic Felonies and Misdemeanors reported separately

\*\*Includes both Criminal and Noncriminal Matters

SUMMARY -- UNITS OF WORK

Criminal Cases Reported	139655
Vehicle and Traffic Cases	555990
Noncriminal Investigations	35251
Vehicle and Traffic Investigations	55955
Investigations For Other Agencies	3171
<b>Total Units of Work</b>	<b>793061</b>

VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DATA

Hazardous Violation Arrests		
Violation	Number of Arrests	Percent of All Hazardous Arrests
Alcoholic Beverages	1466	0.4
Backed Unsafely	1219	0.3
DWAI Drugs - Misd.	88	0.0
DWAI Drugs - Fel.	5	0.0
DWI - Misd.	10718	2.7
DWI - Fel.	122	0.0
Drove Median Strip	977	0.2
Motorcycle Equipment Infraction	1347	0.3
Motor Vehicle Equipment Infraction	6302	1.6
Equipment - Misd.	277	0.1
Fail To Comply	548	0.1
Fail To Dim Lights	551	0.1
Fail To Keep Right	5138	1.4
Fail To/Improper Signal	626	0.2
Fail To Stop/Railroad	38	0.0
Failed To Yield Right Of Way	3990	1.0
Following Too Close	1705	0.4
Highway Law	48	0.0
Hitchhiking	1683	0.4
Illegal Turns	2406	0.6
Improper Lane Usage	2180	0.5
Improper Passing	5945	1.5
Inadequate Brakes - Misd.	97	0.0
Insecure Load - Misd.	133	0.0
Insufficient Lights	17157	4.2
No Red Flag - Lights	160	0.0
Obstructed Vision	1005	0.2
One-Way Traffic	496	0.1
Parking Infraction	4920	1.2
Pass Red Light	3833	0.9
Pass School Bus	461	0.1
Pass Stop Sign	4486	1.1
Pedestrian Infraction	61	0.0
Reckless Driving - Misd.	948	0.2
Speeding Infraction	295483	72.8
Speeding/Conditions	3665	0.9
Speeding - Misd.	21	0.0
Unsafe Tires	22695	5.7
Other Hazardous Infractions	2674	0.8
Other Hazardous/Bicycle	67	0.0
Other Hazardous/MC	24	0.0
<b>Total Hazardous Violations</b>	<b>405765</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Nonhazardous Violation Arrests

Violation	Number of Arrests	Percent of All Non-hazardous Arrests
Emergency Lighting Infraction	568	0.4
Inadequate Signal Equipment	5473	3.7
Insurance/Misd.	14914	9.9
Left Scene Accident Infraction	1371	0.9
Left Scene Accident/Misd.	167	0.1
License Infraction	17989	12.0
License/Misd.	140	0.1
Littering	2172	1.5
Muffler Infraction	7256	4.8
Excess Noise	4	0.0
License Suspended - Revoked/Misd.	6246	4.2
Registration Suspended - Revoked/Misd.	13	0.0
Oversize Vehicle	1188	0.8
Overweight Infraction	9758	6.5
No Permit Size Weight	5	0.0
Registration Infraction	25062	16.7
Registration I Limit Use Vehicle	1	0.0
Registration/Misd.	42	0.0
Registration/Fel.	4	0.0
Excess Smoke	290	0.2
Vehicle Inspection Infraction	45888	30.6
Vehicle Inspection Misd.	24	0.0
Repair Shop Violation	2	0.0
MV Dismantler - Infraction	1	0.0
Other Nonhazardous	116	0.1
Other Nonhazardous/Misd.	18	0.0
Local Laws - Ordinance	299	0.2
East Hudson Parkway Authority Rules/Regs.	437	0.3
Public Health Law/Misd.	5	0.0
Transportation Law	3932	2.6
Thruway Rules/Regulations	2243	1.5
Thruway Toll Violation	499	0.3
Thruway Drive Flat Tire	11	0.0
Thruway Unsafe Vehicle	11	0.0
Thruway Towing Violation	33	0.0
Thruway Damage Property	23	0.0
Thruway Prohibit Intoxication	225	0.1
Truck Milenge Tax Law	3795	2.5
<b>Total Nonhazardous Violations</b>	<b>150225</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total Traffic Arrests</b>	<b>555990</b>	

Vehicle and Traffic Arrests

Pending Beginning of Period	Total All Arrests	Convictions	Dismissals	Closed by Investigation	Pending End of Period	Percent Convicted, Cases in Court
212063	555990	453542	*59587	21120	228804	88%

\*This includes 8591 dismissals - Notice of Correction - Lights - which accounts for 14% of dismissals

Accident Analysis

Year	Total Accidents	Fatal Accidents	Personal Injury Accidents	Property Damage Accidents
1976	51036	492	17035	33509
1977	49009	454	16536	31969

Speeding Arrests

Year	Total Speed	Radar	Percent of Total Speed	Computer	Percent of Total Speed	Patrol	Percent of Total Speed
1976	277467	216639	78.1	11071	4.0	49757	17.9
1977	299169	254729	85.1	1090	0.1	43350	14.5

(Speeding represented 54% of all V&T arrests in 1977)

Intoxicated Driver Violations

Year	Total DWI Arrests	Total Chemical Tests			Total Refusals	Convictions DWI	Convictions DWAI	Convictions Lesser Charge
		Breath	Blood	Urine				
1976	11980	10605	686	19	1275	4531	4482	3593
1977	10810	9196	570	11	1226	4055	4329	2633

Conviction columns include persons arrested in previous years.

Accident Causes					
Principal Causes of Accidents	Fatal	Personal Injury	Property Damage	Total	Percent of Total
<b>- HUMAN -</b>					
Alcohol Involvement	99	2156	2351	4606	9.40
Backing Unsafely		144	1918	2062	4.21
Driver Inattention	17	986	1519	2522	5.15
Driver Inexperienced	13	402	478	893	1.82
Drugs (Illegal)		8	11	19	0.04
Failure to Yield R.O.W.	31	1559	2517	4107	8.38
Fell Asleep	19	555	497	1071	2.16
Following Too Close	6	986	1600	2592	5.30
Illness	1	42	22	65	0.13
Lost Consciousness	3	53	24	80	0.16
Passenger Distraction	2	55	50	107	0.22
Passing Lane Usage Improper	54	1188	2556	3798	7.74
Pedestrian Error/Confusion	35	536	42	613	1.25
Physical Disability	1	19	18	38	0.08
Prescription Medication		4	6	10	0.02
Traffic Control Device	9	267	277	553	1.13
Turning Improperly	5	308	848	1161	2.37
Unsafe Speed	111	4086	5906	10103	20.61
Other Human Causes	37	1012	1996	3045	6.21
<b>Total Human</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>14361</b>	<b>22636</b>	<b>37440</b>	<b>76.40</b>

Principal Causes of Accidents	Fatal	Personal Injury	Property Damage	Total	Percent of Total
<b>- VEHICULAR -</b>					
Accelerator Defective	1	27	40	68	0.14
Brakes Defective	1	142	253	396	0.81
Headlight Defective		5	11	16	0.03
Other Lighting Defects		22	58	80	0.16
Oversize Vehicle		2	44	46	0.09
Steer Failure	2	121	115	238	0.48
Tire Failure/Inadequate		270	458	730	1.50
Tow Hitch Defective		10	70	80	0.16
Windshield Inadequate		2	8	10	0.02
Other Vehicular Causes		213	845	1058	2.16
<b>Total Vehicular</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>1902</b>	<b>2720</b>	<b>5.55</b>

Principal Causes of Accidents	Fatal	Personal Injury	Property Damage	Total	Percent of Total
<b>- ENVIRONMENTAL -</b>					
Animal's Action	2	496	5278	5776	11.75
Glare		35	16	51	0.17
Lane Marking Improper/Inadequate		3	10	13	0.03
Obstruction/Debris	1	139	495	635	1.30
Pavement Defective		37	55	92	0.19
Pavement Slippery	3	455	1102	1560	3.15
Shoulders Defective/Improper		19	22	41	0.08
Traffic Control Device Improper/Nonworking		4	7	11	0.02
View Obstructed/Limited	1	133	250	384	0.75
Other Environmental Causes		90	163	253	0.52
<b>Total Environmental</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1411</b>	<b>7431</b>	<b>5849</b>	<b>15.05</b>
<b>Total Causes</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>16586</b>	<b>31969</b>	<b>49009</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Accident Arrests		
Principal Causes of Accidents	Accident Arrests for This Violation	Percent of Total
Speed/Too Fast for Conditions	3221	12.4
Failed to Keep Right	2905	11.2
Failed to Yield R.O.W.	2716	10.5
Following Too Close	1105	4.3
Improper Passing	1340	5.2
Backing Unsafely	622	2.4
Had Been Drinking	3008	11.6
Improper Turning	605	2.3
Unsafe Equipment	303	1.2
Unsafe Tires	1156	4.5
Improper Parking - Stopping	268	1.0
Pedestrian Violations	21	0.1
Reckless Driving	360	1.4
Passed Stop Sign	369	1.4
Defective Brakes	52	0.2
Failed to Signal	37	0.1
Lights - Improper Use - Defective	116	0.4
Passed Red Light	227	0.9
Driving While Impaired (Drugs)	18	0.1
Other Hazardous Violations	148	0.6
Nonhazardous Violations	7299	28.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25896</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Road Check Statistics	
(Road checks required by Section 390, Vehicle and Traffic Law)	
Total Checkpoints Held	1887
Road Check Arrests:	
V&T	20187
Criminal	418
<b>Total</b>	<b>20905</b>

**INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY - VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC**

TYPE OF INVESTIGATION	NUMBER CONDUCTED
Dept. of Transportation (re traffic signals, speed zones, other controls)	2178
Suspension & Revocation Orders for Department of Motor Vehicles	7317
Fatal Accident Scene Review	454
<b>Total Investigations</b>	<b>9949</b>