

This comprehensive time line history of the NY State Police was discovered with other historic material at the State Police Academy. It extends to the year 1995. The author is unknown.

The file is a "PDF" format requiring the widely available Adobe reader. It is 33 pages long. It is anticipated that additional information will be added, expanding the years covered and updating past 1995. Additional pertinent information is welcome, address your input to email kurpal962@gmail.com

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE NEW YORK STATE POLICE

1905 The Pennsylvania Constabulary established as the first modern state police organization in the United States.

1913 The murder of Sam Howell, a foreman on the construction of a residence on the estate of Miss Moyca Newll, Bedford Hills, Westchester County, raised public concern for police protection in rural areas.

1915 Miss Newell and her friend, Katherine Mayo, organized the Committee for State Police.

1916 Committee for State Police succeeded in getting a bill for a state constabulary before the Legislature. The Senate approves the bill, but labor factions lobbying against the bill cause its defeat in the Assembly.

1917 April 11. The Wells-Mills bill creating the Department of State Police is passed by the Assembly (81-60), having been previously passed by the Senate by one vote (26-24). Governor Charles S. Whitman signs the bill, making this date the birthday of the New York State Police.

May 2. Dr. George Fletcher Chandler appointed by Governor Whitman as the first superintendent of the Department of State Police. He has authorized 5 staff positions and 232 field personnel.

June 1. Superintendent Chandler drafts General Order No. 1, which explains the trooper's duties and code of conduct. This order stayed in effect until 1945, when it was replaced by the first rules and regulations.

June 11. The first examination for trooper candidates is conducted in the Assembly chambers in Albany with 420 of the 1592 applicants actually taking the exam. Only 168 passed.

June 20. The first troopers began training at Camp Newayo in Manlius. Troopers signed on for two-year enlistments with the annual pay of \$900. A captain's pay was \$1,800. The superintendent earned \$5,000.

July 2. A second trooper examination was conducted to bring the number of new recruits closer to the authorized 232. Only 62 of the 542 candidates were accepted.

September 7. The New York State Fair in Syracuse became the troopers' first

assignment. Colonel Chandler devised the herringbone system of parking cars.

September 17. Four separate details of 58 men proceeded from the state fairgrounds to troop locations. Each detail was equipped with horses, Winchester carbines and Colt .45 caliber revolvers.

October. Troopers provide security at six other fairs across the state.

November 1. Bulletin Number 1 is issued by Colonel Chandler explaining his philosophies of the duties of the rural policeman.

1918 November 1. Captain George P. Dutton, Troop G commander, appointed deputy superintendent and begins serving as acting superintendent while Colonel Chandler returned to active military service during World War I.

First use of automobiles (Model T Ford) by the department. Three motorcycles per troop were also purchased.

Troopers assist military intelligence in locating and investigating those suspected of subversive activities.

1919 January 1. Governor Alfred E. Smith in his inaugural address recommended the abolishment of the Department of State Police.

April 19. Colonel Chandler returned from military service to find his troopers demoralized due to Governor Smith's attitude. Chandler and Smith had a meeting in which Smith came to understand the value of the state police. Governor Smith became one of the department's staunchest supporters.

May 15. Members of Troop D moved into first new barracks built by a group of Oneida businessmen.

Troopers were successful in policing Brass Works labor strike Rome and Lackawanna Steel strike that lasted 126 days.

County zone system established with two men assigned per county and lodged in hotels or rooming houses.

No trooper applicants accepted without prior military service.

During the year troopers destroyed 343 dogs that were caught terrorizing sheep herds.

1920 First use of motorcycles with sidecars.

Successfully policed strike in Little Falls.

May 22 – June 29. One corporal and one trooper assigned to police City of Little Falls.

July 24. A detail of troopers from Troop K entered the Bedford State

Reformatory for Women to suppress a riot.

October 1. Troop A moved into new barracks in Batavia.

Members eligible for the State Pension Fund.

1921 February 9. Troopers policed United Traction Company strike that had been going on in Albany and Troy since January.

April 1. Troop G moved into new barracks in Troy.

April 26. Fearon bill became law, allowing for two new troops (B in Malone and C in Sidney) and 116 more troopers to be added to the department. Both new troops were in operation by June.

Committee for State Police, having fulfilled its purpose, is abolished.

First Rough Riders formed in Troop D, Oneida under the command of Captain Stephen McGrath.

One Sergeant and eight troopers assigned to assist the Oswego Police Department at the request of the mayor.

The Legislature conferred the powers and duties of game wardens on the members of the state police.

Legislature put Railroad and Steamboat Police under the authority of the superintendent of State Police.

Emergency telephone system began with the New York Telephone Company that connected callers requesting state troopers with the nearest station.

November 1. New York State School for Police established at the YMCA in Troy with 53 recruits attending for four weeks. Lieutenant Albert B. Moore of Troop D promoted to Lieutenant – Inspector and placed in charge of the school.

1922 New York State Police, at 5 years old. consisted of 348 troopers plus headquarters staff.

New barracks built for troop B and C on the same design as those in troops A, D, and G.

Superintendent Chandler and the staff of the New York State School for Police prepared "The Policeman's Art" textbook.

An amendment to the Penal Law specified the duties of the State Police in regard to licensing and regulating billiard rooms.

The Labor Law authorized members of the State Police to inspect places of public assembly for the Certificate of Compliance.

Legislature approved bill allowing local communities to provide substations for

troopers.

1923 Five troop headquarters buildings purchased by the state (troops A, B, C, D, G).

Legislature passed bill allowing for disability and death benefits for on-duty injuries.

System of night patrols established using motorcycles and automobiles.

Six-week school conducted for members of the Albany Police Department

December 1. Superintendent Chandler resigned and, at the request of Governor Smith, chose his replacement: Troop K commander, Captain John A. Warner.

1924 Basic Police School for troopers extended from four to six weeks.

Height requirement for trooper candidates raised from 5'6" to 5'8". Candidates must have prior military service, weigh at least 140 lbs. and be 21-40 years old.

Legislature authorized addition of twenty troopers per troop to bring State Police potential strength to 468.

Ten percent salary increase to members enlisted prior to July 1, 1919 (\$100 for each year of service up to four years.)

March 3. Troop K headquarters in White Plains destroyed by fire. Barracks relocated at the Hillandale Farm in New Rochelle, offices moved to the armory in White Plains.

Automobiles played a bigger part in patrol duties. Of the more than 2.7 million miles patrolled during the year, more than 2.5 million were covered by auto or motorcycle.

1925 January 25. Department of State Police headquarters, Wooster Building, North Pearl St., Albany destroyed by fire. Headquarters moved to Albany Savings Bank Building and later to Albany Evening Journal Building.

1926 Annual \$100 pay raise for length of service increased from four to six years.

1927 Reorganization of the Department of State Police, now designated the Division of State Police in the Executive Department.

The term of the superintendent was no longer limited to five years, but extended to the pleasure of the governor.

Posted property program began for checking unoccupied summer camps.

The Division of State Police took over Motor Vehicle Law enforcement, formerly a function of the Motor Vehicle Bureau. Because of the this new responsibility, 17 men were added to each troop, bringing division strength to 570 plus headquarters staff (9).

1928 Long Island State Park detail created with 14 troopers assigned and became

unofficially known as Troop L.

1929 July 22. Detail of troopers from Troop B entered Clinton State Prison in Dannemora to quell a riot.

July 28 and December 11. Troopers policed two major riots at Auburn Prison. In the second riot, troopers rescued Warden Edgar S. Jennings, who was being held hostage.

November 7. New Troop K headquarters opened in Hawthorne, Westchester County.

Each barracks now equipped with modern fingerprinting and photographic equipment. One sergeant in each troop received training in crime scene identification from police experts in New York City.

Long Island State Park detail increased to 40 members.

Option for joining the State Employees' Retirement System is reopened.

19 zone schools set up across the state to train police officers in small municipalities under the direction of the New York State School for Police.

112 troopers on motorcycle detail assigned strictly traffic enforcement.

1930 The first Division motorboat was placed in service on the St. Lawrence River. Two troopers assigned to the detail.

July 1. Pay scale increases went into effect in an effort to entice troopers to stay in Division.

New York State School for Police began bulletin service to update all agencies in state on new statutes and court decisions.

1931 March 18. Sergeant John E. Frey was murdered by two escaping prisoners on the Troy-East Greenbush Rd. in Rensselaer County. This spurred Division to issue handcuffs to each member later in the year.

September 15. State Police Teletypewriter System inaugurated between the states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

First Airplane (two-seat, open cockpit biplane) purchased for state police use, Troop D.

Height requirement for trooper candidates raised from 5'8" to 5'10". 25 appointments were made from more than 4500 applicants.

Inspector Albert B. Moore spent 3 months in Europe studying with various law enforcement departments, including Scotland Yard in London and the Surete in Paris.

112 troopers on motorcycle detail assigned strictly to traffic enforcement.

1932 Pistol Permit Bureau established when the Legislature directed that, effective September, 1931 all revolver license applications be filed with the superintendent of state police.

First state police airplane crashed near Cazenovia in Troop D, killing Lt. Tremain M. Hughes and Cpl. Theophillius Oaines.

Troopers provided a security detail for the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid.

The first Division loadometer truck put in use for enforcement of laws regulating truck weights.

38 troopers added to fill needs created by the expanding state teletypewriter system and the Long Island State Park detail.

Troop C relief program provides food, clothing and medical attention to 217 families, including 649 children.

Albany radio station WOKO began program that gave state police ten minutes of air time each day except Sunday to broadcast police information from booth at division headquarters.

An amendment to the General Business Law authorized members of the state police to gather evidence on plane crashes and forbid the removal of evidence until viewed by an inspector of the U.S. Department of Commerce or a member of the state police.

Troopers maintained between 130 and 150 substations statewide depending on season.

1933 Due to the Depression and state budget problems, the state police agreed to accept pay reductions. Yearly pay raises for length of service were temporarily halted.

March and August. Troopers escorted convoys of milk trucks headed to market as violence erupted when dairy unions went on strike in an effort to raise the price of milk. Farmers armed with clubs and intent on dumping milk cargos, battled troopers throughout the state.

September 21. The first state police radio transmitter, WPGC, was placed in service in Schenectady to provide receiver-only communications to 12 cars and 20 stations.

1934 The state police underwater diving team established with the purchase of Morse Shallow Water Diving Apparatus for Troop G.

Inspector Albert B. Moore, director of the New York State School for Police, travels to Cuba at the request of Cuban President Carlos Mendieta to assist in their police training.

Highway Safety Squad established to check for overloaded trucks and buses on the roadways.

40 members attended last three weeks of recruit school as a refresher training.

Teletypewriter network continued to expand and included eight surrounding states by end of the year.

Legislation effective May 4 allowed for the creation of plainclothes bureau of investigation within the Division of State Police for the purpose of investigating felonies. The Bureau of Investigation was operating by June with about 40 men assigned. The number soon increased to about 85.

The state's first scientific police laboratory was created under the same legislation, which allowed the hiring of civilian technical experts to investigate crime.

Bloodhounds, assigned to Troop K, were used by the state police for the first time and replaced the Belgian police dogs and Great Danes previously used by the division.

Troopers provide assistance after severe flooding in western and southern portions of New York State.

Decelerometer instruments to test brakes on vehicles purchased for the Highway Safety Squad.

1936 The Bureau of Investigation was reorganized and renamed the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. In July, 90 members were permanently assigned as investigators. One Chief inspector and three inspector positions were created to supervise the unit. Under the BCI's direction were the police school, the telegraph bureau, the pistol permit bureau and the laboratory.

May 2. Law takes effect allowing for 100 more troopers to make up the shortfall caused by the creation of the BCI. Due to their late appointments, these new recruits were trained at barracks instead of the school in Troy.

Promotional exams were conducted for the positions of corporal, sergeant and lieutenant to fill vacancies caused by the formation of the BCI.

May 21. The BCI's scientific police laboratory formally opened in Schenectady under the direction of Dr. Bradley H. Kirschberg.

Laboratory started publication of monthly "BCI Bulletin".

Last of the open vehicles in use.

Law takes effect that required any police agency, on complaint of a felony, to notify the nearest teletype point within five hours.

1937 State Police Traffic Bureau established to reduce traffic accidents and promote safety. Some patrol cars were painted white and lettered, "State Police Traffic Bureau Safety Patrol."

State School for Police presented its first course in Vehicle and Traffic Law regulation.

Law passed allowing troopers to retire at half pay after 25 years of service.

Two 16-person life boats purchased. Additional divers trained to Troop A.

1938 Enlistment system abolished. Troopers given permanent appointments.

A numerical list of eligible trooper candidates based on competitive exams was established for the first time. A high school diploma and a driver's license became new qualifications for trooper candidates.

Promotion system based on service record ratings and competitive examinations established. Each troop had its own eligible list for promotions.

September 21. 107 members assigned to assist in aftermath of hurricane and tidal wave at Westhampton Beach, Long Island.

The New York Daily News instituted the Medal of Valor award to recognize public servants for acts of braver or heroism exemplifying outstanding courage in the face of danger. The first award was presented to Sergeant James Rose (Troop G) for subduing a murderer.

BCI began massive, three-year investigation of fraud in the State Insurance Fund.

BCI began investigation of Albany elections that continued into 1939.

Laboratory places in service its first "pathometer", the predecessor of the modern lie detector.

1939 At the request of the mayor of Utica, a state police sergeant was appointed as temporary commanding officer at the Utica Police Department

Troopers escorted the King and Queen of England during their visit to the state.

BCI began investigation of Bureau of Motor Vehicles due to allegations that inspectors were taking payoffs at road tests for driver's licenses.

State police set up an exhibit at the World's Fair in New York City.

Duplex teletype circuits installed between Albany and Hawthorne , and Albany and Oneida, which allowed continuous, two-way communications.

1940 With World War II brewing, the state police developed a Police emergency

Mobilization Plan involving 30,000 regular policeman in 1,600 jurisdictions.

The first mobile command post was placed in service. This fully-equipped trailer could provide shelter, heat, light, food and sleeping accommodations for four men. It was a complete communications facility with telephone, teletype and the new, self-contained 250-watt portable emergency transmitter that functioned as a state police radio station under the call letters WSYQ.

July 1. 100 troopers added to the ranks of the state police, with 35 additional appointments made to the BCI.

To prepare to help defend the nation on domestic fronts, 335 .30-06 caliber Enfield rifles were purchased from the federal government.

Several Thompson Submachine guns were also purchased. Ammunition for all division firearms was stockpiled. Gas masks were reconditioned or replaced. Additional cars and motorcycles were purchased to increase the number of troopers that could be transported at one time.

Troopers surveyed manufacturing plants and public utilities to determine their susceptibility to sabotage.

BCI caseload included 1,636 investigations of possible subversive activities, espionage and sabotage. Investigations of this type continued throughout the war.

Laboratory acquires x-ray and fluoroscope equipment to look for bombs inside of packages.

Traffic Officers' Training Course conducted at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

February 17. A "TWX" (teletypewriter exchange service) machine installed at division headquarters allowing teletype communication with police agencies throughout the country.

Upon resolution of the Legislature, the BCI conducted a study on the safe storage of explosives.

BCI conducted major inquiry into state printing contracts.

1941 The first director of the scientific police lab, Dr. Bradley H. Kirschberg died and Trooper William E. Kirwan Jr. was appointed as acting director.

Telegraph Bureau members instructed in blackout procedures during possible air raids.

Troopers coordinated traffic control and escorts for military convoys.

1942 25th anniversary of the State Police. Authorized strength of division at 1,000 men. Ranks continued to deplete, however, as more troopers joined military. By the end of the war, 295 troopers had been placed on military leave. 21 of the original campmen were still in division.

First FM two-way radio system instituted in Troop L. 37 cars and nine land

stations equipped. State police road patrols could communicate with stations for the first time.

Laboratory examined Japanese-packed canned seafood after reports that they contained glass particles, but nothing harmful was found.

Troopers responded to calls of attempted sabotage, sightings of mysterious lights and reports of parachute landings as war hysteria gripped the U.S.

Four Canadian Army training planes crashed in the Adirondack Mountains. Troopers on snowshoes struggled through heavy snow to carry out three dead and four injured flyers on improvised stretchers.

Some members of division attended U.S. Army Tactical Warfare School for internal defense. Training related to guerilla warfare, chemical warfare and sabotage techniques. Troopers, in turn, instructed civil defense organizations.

Sheepskin overcoats were replaced with wool military-style overcoats.

1943 Scientific laboratory moved from Schenectady to 545 Broadway, Albany. BCI headquarters moved from Troy to Albany.

New York State Police Benevolent Association formed.

December 22. John A. Gaffney appointed by Governor Thomas E. Dewey as the third superintendent of state police. Superintendent Warner had returned to active military duty in August.

During Governor Dewey's first year in office there were sweeping changes among troop commanders and other top ranks, including:

- Deputy Superintendent George Dutton retired;
- Captain Fox transferred from C to B, then retired;
- Captain McGarvey transferred from B to C;
- Captain Keeley transferred from G to D, then retired;
- Captain McGrath transferred from D to G, then retired;
- Captain Robinson (A) announced his retirement;
- Captain Flynn (L) announced his retirement;
- Chief Inspector A.B. Moore (head of BCI) retired;
- Captain Beagle, headquarters staff, retired.

Two more state police-operated radio stations are placed in service: WKVA, Tupper Lake, Troop B; and WKVC, Fishkill, Troop K.

Troop L established with headquarters in Babylon as Long Island Park Detail expanded to include all state police duties formerly handled by Troop K. District office of the BCI also established there.

August 30. The Lackawanna Limited train collided with a freight engine just south of the village of Wayland in Steuben County. 28 passengers and crew were killed, 117 persons were injured. 23 troopers assisted at the scene.

1944 State police radio coverage expanded statewide with addition of three new transmitters: WBTC, Batavia, Troop A; WAKP, Sidney, Troop C; and WPJK, Oneida, Troop D.

Communications bureau begins to keep special files at division headquarters of cross-referenced teletype messages on wanted or missing persons and stolen or recovered property.

September 14. Troopers assist citizens with aftermath of a hurricane on Long Island. The value of two-way radios in patrol vehicles (only in Troop L at this time) is proven during this emergency..

1945 110 troopers returned from military duty to be reinstated in division. First of two-week refresher courses for veterans conducted at the school for police in Troy.

New York State School for Police conducted first training sessions since 1941 when it was suspended due to World War II.

Motorboat "Syren II" was purchased and began regular patrols of the St. Lawrence River near the Thousand Islands.

First publication of the New York State Police Evidence Guide.

April 9. New York State Troopers Rules and Regulations replaced General Order Number 1 of 1917 to control conduct and discipline.

Motor sled (early snowmobile) purchased to be used in Troop B during heavy snowfalls.

January 31. Governor Dewey proclaims statewide emergency due to heavy snowfall and shortage of heating fuels. Troopers on snowshoes and with toboggans are able to transport the sick to hospitals and deliver food and fuel to snowbound families.

"BCI Bulletin" now published bi-monthly.

Troop L merged into Troop K.

1946 Troopers adopt statewide use of 5-part summons and arrest record forms for vehicle and traffic violations, which eliminate much paperwork.

Teletype system equipped with automatic tape machines installed in troops C, D and K. Troop G headquarters at Troy becomes a teletype control point. Control point at Babylon, Long Island eliminated.

First revision of the New York State Troopers Manual since 1930.

Establishment of a statewide file on firearms dealers and gunsmiths.

Troopers began regular inspections of 265 migrant labor camps, which resulted in 225 arrests for a variety of crimes.

1947 Statewide use of two-way FM radios in stations and patrol vehicles. The system, maintained by the New York Telephone Co., also included 42 walkie-talkies (carried on backpacks) and 16 portable units run on generators.

Basic school for police again extended to six weeks as it had been in 1924.

Scientific laboratory establishes laundry mark file used to identify bodies through the dry cleaning or laundry marks on their clothing.

1,923 arrests made for passing stopped school buses.

1948 For the first time in state police history, no patrol miles are logged on horseback.

Diving detail, which had been suspended during the war, reactivated with diving school conducted.

Legislature approves pay raise for troopers.

Motorboat patrol started on Lake Champlain with the purchase of state police boat "Vigilant". Shortly after the boat was placed in service, two boys were rescued when their sailboat capsized in rough water.

Four statewide lottery rings broken with the arrest of 69 defendants.

Aircraft file established through cooperation with the Civil Aeronautics Association containing approximately 500 registered aircraft and owners in the state.

December 30. Troopers come to the aid of residents in Rensselaer and Columbia counties who are stranded due to severe flooding.

Laboratory produces film on autopsy procedures.

1949 Published a revised operating manual for the New York State Police Teletype System.

Troopers' communications bureau begins program of checking names of persons arrested against special files in division headquarters for wanted and missing persons.

Policed riots in the City of Peekskill.

State police school offered two week refresher course for all members who had not attended the basic school in the last five years.

1950 Division developed traffic plan for emergency evacuations and developed a training manual for auxiliary police for the state's civil defense commission.

State police discontinued painting lettering on its gray patrol vehicles and instead applied lettering made of gold reflectorized sheeting.

November 25-26. Storm of hurricane force knocks out electrical power across wide areas of the state. Although state police radios maintain communications, many teletype station were out of service. As a result, division orders auxiliary power plants

for teletype control points.

1951 Investigated the Pelican marine disaster off Montauk Point, Long Island that resulted in the deaths of 46 persons.

Troopers cracked down on smuggling of untaxed cigarettes into Canada.

State Police School conducted course for Civil Defense Instructors.

Association of Former New York State Troopers, Inc. formed.

1952 TWX teletype service offered to all police departments in the state.

1953 The authorized strength of the division was increased from 899 to 1201 members, due in part to the expected 1954 opening of the New York State Thruway. 364 new members were appointed during the year. New two-week training schools for 279 of these recruits were conducted at Bear Mountain Interstate Park from June through October. These new members received patrol experience following this school and then attended regular state school for police during the winter months.

August 16. Albin S. Johnson appointed by Governor Thomas E. Dewey as the fourth superintendent of State Police.

Legislature passed law allowing for the collection of breath, urine, saliva or blood samples in driving while intoxicated cases. Division purchased and field-tested two new Harger Drunkometers to collect and analyze breath samples.

State Police Laboratory relocated to Nolan Road, Albany.

1954 Authorized Strength of the division was increased from 1201 to 1287 for purpose of policing the New York State Thruway.

June. First Thruway detail began with 28 men assigned. As more sections of the Thruway opened, more troopers were assigned. By the end of the year there were 86 men assigned to detail.

During the Thruway's first year, 5 airplanes made emergency landings on the highway.

August. Murder of a police officer in Lake Placid caused the famous investigation and search of more than 100 days culminated by the capture of the assailant, Air Force Major James A. Call, in Nevada.

New light gray uniforms with trousers replacing the former breeches were introduced at the U.S. Governors' Conference in Lake George. These uniforms included, for the first time, the New York State Police patch on the left shoulder of the shirt and jacket. These new uniforms gradually replaced the old ones throughout 1954 and 1955.

Division began to replace the .45 caliber revolvers in crossdraw holsters (used since 1917) with 6-inch, .38 caliber Colt Official Police revolvers carried in swivel holsters on the side of the shooting hand. Replacement of all the issue sidearms wasn't

completed until 1957.

New Troop C headquarters building opened in Sidney.

Uniform teletype message format adopted for police teletype networks in 14 eastern states.

1955 January 24. Francis S. McGarvey appointed by Governor W. Averell Harriman as the fifth superintendent of State Police.

Authorized strength of the division was increased from 1227 to 1331 to accommodate additional assignments to the Thruway. 130 members assigned to the Thruway detail.

Black and white patrol cars replaced single color gray cars.

Thruway patrol cars added more powerful engines and were painted blue and cream. Sirens and flashing red lights were added to the roofs of those cars.

Initiated a program of annual revolver qualifications and revived the inter-troop shooting competitions after a lapse of 20 years of such training.

Spurs, which had long been a trademark of the Division, were retired.

State Police purchases first two Breathalyzer instruments.

August 17. 65 troopers assist corrections officers in subduing inmates during a riot at the Great Meadow Prison, Comstock.

October 15. Troopers assist in evacuating 24 families from Middleburg after flooding of Schoharie Creek.

November 16. Taconic Parkway Detail established.

December 28. New York joined with 15 other states in the National Police Teletypewriter Network.

Instituted program of fifth wheel speedometer calibration of patrol cars.

1956 Instituted first use of radar for speed enforcement on the Thruway.

Unmarked patrol cars and three motorcycles placed in service on the Thruway.

Began investigating license applications for motor vehicle inspection stations to assist Motor Vehicle Bureau.

Established a driver education course to improve the driving habits of members and to reduce troop car and motorcycle accidents.

20 troopers take part in diving school held at Lake Lauderdale, Washington County. Training included self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA) for first time.

Troopers conduct 513 roadblocks as traffic checkpoints.

1957 On the 40th anniversary of the division, authorized strength was increased to 1423 members.

Division completed issuance of 6-inch .38 caliber Colt Official Police revolvers to members.

The six troops began first use of concealed identity patrol cars (30) for traffic law enforcement as the Thruway detail had done the year before.

Six radar speedmeter units purchased – one for each troop.

Retired from normal use one of the last remaining part of the original uniform: the breeches and puttees. (maintained for use by members on motorcycle patrols).

November 14. Troopers uncover a nationwide conference of organized crime leaders, disbanded while in progress at Apalachin, N.Y.

1958 Authorized strength of the division increased to 1532.

Criminal Intelligence Unit created with 26 men initially assigned.

Personnel placed on new schedule of 60 hours per week (12 hours a day, five days a week). Previous schedule required members to live at the station and work 120-plus hours a week.

Basic school training extended from six to eight weeks. Began another new training program for division scuba divers.

Classes conducted in all troops to explain extensive changes in the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

1959 Authorized strength of the division increased to 1562.

October 28. Troop G headquarters relocated in Loudonville.

Traffic Bureau published manual on radar operation.

1960 Details assigned to patrol Interstate Highway 87 (the Northway) and the Cross Westchester Expressway.

Seminars conducted to acquaint members with recodification of the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Conducted an advanced underwater divers school.

1961 February 14. Arthur Cornelius Jr. appointed by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller as the sixth superintendent of state police and the first superintendent that did not come from state police ranks.

Beginning of a complete reorganization of the Division of State Police.

Division Headquarters moved from Capitol Building to 162 Washington Ave., Albany.

New Division staff positions created, including deputy and assistant deputy superintendents, counsel and inspection staff.

Created positions of two lieutenant-supervisors per troop.

Abolished merit/demerit system and revised performance rating system.

Began station level use of Dictaphone and transcriber equipment on an experimental basis.

New York State Police School renamed New York State Police Academy and was moved from Troy YMCA to Troop G barracks at Loudonville. Basic School for recruits extended from eight to 12 weeks.

Two classes of the basic school held at the state university building at Oneonta. A new training program was devised, which consisted of 12 weeks academy training, 30 days station assignment under a senior trooper, and a probationary period for the balance of the first year with monthly supervisory conferences.

Adopted new Practical Pistol Course for regularly scheduled firearms training for all members.

Firearms Instructors Course conducted at Camp Smith by FBI Instructors.

The hiring of more civilians began to relieve troopers of clerical duties.

New courses began at the State Police Academy to provide in-service training for members.

December. Thruway Detail officially designated as Troop T.

1962 Courses provided for basic school instructors with revised with instruction assignments in preparation for an increase in the maximum number of division personnel by 400 members and 50 civilians.

803 probationary troopers were appointed. To accommodate the influx of personnel, basic school courses were conducted at the State University at Albany and Oneonta, the N.Y. State fairgrounds, Syracuse University and State Police barracks at Sidney in Troop C and Loudonville in Troop G.

These new members were processed under a newly revised physical examination system under the direction of newly appointed Division physician and assistant physician.

780 troopers were graduated from basic schools in 1962, including largest graduation class in division history: 393 recruits (74th – 81st sessions) September 6, 1962. Division authorized strength at 2370 members.

New pay scale goes into effect with annual and longevity increments provided for all members up to the rank of deputy superintendent.

State Police teletype system was automated and updated, now capable of speeds of 100 words per minute.

Special Investigations Unit (SIU) formed with 17 members assigned initially to investigate organized crime and its sources of revenue.

Division purchases 14 new radar sets for a total of 28 statewide.

21 troopers assigned for 1 week to disaster area in Berlin, N.Y. after a propane truck explosion kills seven persons.

Firearms qualifications expanded to four times yearly on an outside course and two times yearly indoors.

Civil Defense fallout shelters are provided in the basement of the troop headquarters.

The 4-inch Colt Official Police revolver was placed in service as the division sidearm and replaced the 6-inch barrel version of the same weapon adopted in 1956.

April 1. The rank of corporal reclassified to rank of sergeant.

System of personal leave granted to all members.

Troop Safety Officers appointed to improve driving abilities of members.

1963 Statewide consolidation program reduced the number of stations from 126 to 100. Most part-time stations eliminated.

Kennels built at Troop D for care of bloodhounds used in Central and Western New York.

May 1. Beginning of 40-hour work week.

Troopers issued waist-length "Ike" jackets.

The Division's Thompson submachine guns and old shotguns are sold to Ithaca Gun Company. New Ithaca 12 gauge shotguns purchased.

May. The start of "The Trooper" as a monthly Division publication for all active and retired personnel and news media.

August 8. Creation of rank of zone sergeant. Two assigned per zone to assist the zone lieutenant.

Division's first civilian communications officer appointed.

100 members attend an advanced accident investigation school. 2 Accident Investigation Squads are formed.

1964 Authorized strength of the division increased to 2475 members.

State Police Academy recruit training expanded from 12 to 16 weeks, with the additional four weeks used to supplement classroom training with practical case work.

New 1,500-page New York State Police Manual published.

May. New State Police Division Headquarters opens, including the scientific laboratory and Pistol Permit Bureau of the State Office and Education Campus.

July 25. Policing of Rochester riots with 473 members involved over a 10-day period.

Troop C, D and G switch to their own radio frequencies to eliminate interference between adjacent troops.

Two-week non-commissioned officers course established.

Program started in Troop D that gave uniform members a chance to assist the BCI voluntarily during off-duty hours.

1965 Authorized strength of the Division increased to 2631.

Phased out use of Model 17 Enfield rifle and Winchester .30-30 carbine as Division firearms. 64 scoped Winchester Model 70 .270 caliber rifles purchased. 193 members trained in their use.

June 23. Creation of the rank of major as troop commander. Lieutenant-supervisor retitled captain with four in each troop.

Old 15-pound walkie-talkies replaced with new models weighing three and one half pounds.

13 ultra-high frequency radio control links placed service to eliminate need for telephone lines between stations and their mountaintop radio transmitting antennas.

Firearms training reduced to three times a year.

Tuition assistance program initiated for members working for a two-year college degree in police science.

1966 Authorized strength of the division increased to 2822.

This is the last year motorcycles were used for patrol purposes.

Provision for Division snowmobiles for use in searches in Troop B as well as rescue work and posted property checks.

Program began providing free emergency telephone service on I-87 (Northway) directly to state police stations.

State Police Teletype System joined with the Law Enforcement Teletype System to include all 48 states.

Computerized message switching equipment installed to reduce transmission time of teletypes.

New York State Police Pistol Team won a national pistol team title in .45 caliber service pistol class at the National Trophy Pistol Team Match, Camp Perry, Ohio. Teams from 40 major police departments participated.

Authorization received for a third zone sergeant in each zone to provide 24-hour supervisory coverage.

Emergency generators at all stations updated.

Six sets of underwater communications equipment purchased that allowed divers to talk to each other or with personnel on the surface.

Division published a manual for police to be used by small local police agencies.

Division hires an automobile maintenance inspector for each troop to oversee the fleet preventive maintenance program started in 1965.

A head and shoulders sketch of a trooper started utilized on division printed materials.

1967 50th anniversary of the State Police. Authorized strength: 3004 members.

New computerized communications system placed in service. Special files on wanted persons and stolen property are computerized for first time.

July 20. Division computerized communications system linked to FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer.

Conducted in-service schools at the zone level in each troop to orient all members with the extensive revisions of the Penal Law effective September 1.

August 5. William E. Kirwan Jr. is named by Governor Rockefeller as the seventh superintendent of State Police after the sudden death the day before of Superintendent Arthur Cornelius. Kirwan was officially sworn in September 25.

September 1. Thruway Authority purchased fixed wing Cessna airplane as patrol unit on Thruway to reactivate aviation branch of the state police which had been suspended since Lt. Hughes crashed in 1932.

September 6. Troop E opens operations with headquarters in Canandaigua.

One BCI lieutenant appointed to each troop to provide needed assistance to BCI captain.

Two Boston Whaler boats added for use in Navigation Law enforcement and by scuba teams.

1968 Authorized strength of the division increased to 3236 members and 489 civilians.

Division Narcotics Unit created with the assignment of 51 members.

February 25. Miss M. Moyca Newll, "mother of the state police", died.

Division added 24 more Breathalyzer instruments to the two purchased years earlier. Now each zone had one.

Instituted use of the VASCAR equipment on a limited basis in patrol vehicles for speed enforcement.

State Police computer updated to include centralized storage of stolen motor vehicles and license plates.

Completed interface of all New York State Police teletype terminals with NCIC and the National Law Enforcement Teletype System (NLETS).

July 23. Bell bubble type helicopter placed in service.

Brummer Award created as a gift of Wall Street financier Bertram and Susie Brummer for outstanding performance of duty by members of the New York State Police.

August 12. Troop F begins operations with headquarters in Middletown.

Troopers assisted at 3 week-long summer camps for New York City children. 3000 children attended the state-sponsored program at Camp Smith, Peekskill.

State Police becomes first state agency to conduct election under Taylor Law to choose employee representation for collective bargaining purposes. Police Benevolent Association was elected.

BCI organized 4-man Auto Theft Detail.

1969 Authorized strength of the division increased to 3271 members and 501 civilians. But due to budget constraints, vacant positions went unfilled. Actual number of members stood at 3129.

Negotiated agreement between Division and PBA provided: overtime benefits; retirement at half pay after 20 years (instead of 25); additional benefits for up to 30 years of service; and mandatory retirement at age 55 (to be phased in gradually).

Deputy Chief Inspector John Quinn retired with longest service record in history of Division: 45 years, 6 months.

BCI joined federal Department of Justice strike force against organized gambling and loan sharking.

January 17. First Brummer Award presented to Investigator Peter W. Mann.

Three new Model 206A Bell Jet Ranger helicopters placed in service.

April 1. Thruway airplane ownership transferred to division.

73 more Breathalyzers purchased under federal grant. A total of 99 instruments allowed one per station.

August. More than 200 troopers policed the Woodstock Rock Festival, Sullivan County.

November 24. New Troop D headquarters building opens in Oneida.

Auto Theft Detail smashed 5 stolen car rings and recovered 522 stolen vehicles.

1970 Authorized strength of the division increased to 3416 members and 522 civilians.

May 26. Official opening of new State Police Academy complex, State Campus, Albany, constructed at a cost of \$5.2 million. The recruit class moved in about a week earlier to finish their training which had started at Camp Smith.

February 2. The New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (DETF) began operations with members of the state police, New York City P.D. and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

State of New York Organized Crime Task Force created with state police members assigned to assist the state attorney general's office.

Division stepped up it's cycling of members for in service training at the new academy.

Radio equipment converted from low band to high band in troops B, D and G.

November 4. 322 troopers policed prison riot at Auburn Correctional Facility.

1971 Authorized strength of the division increased to 3463, but budget shortfalls preventing the filling of new positions.

Extensive use of VASCAR units in patrol cars began with addition of 200 units through a federal program. Division doubled that number of units in 1972.

July 9. New communications computer placed in service and designated as the New York State Police Information Network (NYSPIN).

July 10. Troopers, assisted by some 2500 volunteers, began a fruitless 27-day search for an 9-year-old boy lost on a 13,000-acre estate near Newcomb in the Adirondacks.

September 1. Effective date of new Criminal Procedure Law for which in-service schools were conducted for all members at troop level.

September 9-13. 550 troopers responded to the Attica Correctional Facility after approximately 1,280 prisoners rioted and overtook the prison. In retaking the prison on

September 13, 29 hostages were rescued, 29 inmates and 10 hostages were killed.

December 16. New Troop K headquarters opened in Poughkeepsie.

Among provisions of a new 2-year contract, the starting pay for troopers increased from \$8,631 to 9,771 over the period of the contract.

1972 NYSPIN computer interfaced with Department of Criminal Justice Services computer on wanted and missing persons.

Four mobile NYSPIN computer terminals are installed in patrol vehicles as part of a test program.

Special teams created for the purpose of recruiting minority group members for trooper candidate examinations.

Troopers assisted in rescue efforts after floods swept through the Southern Tier with water levels reaching 25 feet and forcing residents in cities such as Corning to rooftops.

Training provided to a 19-member detail in the handling of explosive devices.

For the first time a competitive exam is held for the position of BCI investigator. An eligible list was established although the superintendent reserved the option to appoint up to half of the investigators from outside the list.

October. PBA defeated by Fraternal Order of NYS Troopers – AFL-CIO for collective bargaining representation.

1973 Authorized strength of the division increased to 3476.

Interface of NYSPIN computer with the Department of Motor Vehicles computer for driver's license and vehicle registration data.

April 1. Effective date of new one-year contract negotiated by Fraternal Order of NYS Troopers – AFL-CIO.

March. Trooper candidate examination given to 9100 applicants.

May. Rank of assistant deputy superintendent for employee relations created.

July 28. 67 state police members assigned to police rock festival attended by 600,000 persons at Watkins Glen.

July 29. About 200 troopers conducted a 12-day manhunt for murderer Robert Garrow, which ended when Garrow was shot and taken into custody by a conservation officer.

"SP Manhattan" opened operations in New York City, headed by a BCI captain and included 15 investigators to conduct criminal investigations and 4 troopers to serve as a warrant squad.

September 6. New 17-week basic school began at the academy, which included, for the first time, five women recruits. Four of the women were graduated.

September. PBA won back its position as collective bargaining agent for the troopers.

November 10. State speed limit reduced to 50 MPH due to gasoline shortage. Soon afterwards the limit was set at 55 MPH where it remains today.

1974 Authorized strength of the division increased to 3524 members and 559 civilians.

May 13. Mohawk Indians move into Eagle Bay and form Ganienkeh settlement at a former girls's camp now owned by the state on Moss Lake. A three-year standoff with state police began.

Blue and gold patrol cars began to replace the black and white cars. The last of the black and whites was taken out of service in 1977.

.357 magnum Smith & Wesson revolver issued as division sidearm.

Academy's basic school for trooper recruits extended from 17 to 20 weeks.

New teletype terminals introduced that featured video display screens for the first time. This new high-speed equipment allowed messages to be transmitted and received at a rate of 1,200 words per minute compared to 100 words per minute on the old terminals. Formats for standard teletype messages could also be called up on the screens.

1975 Authorized strength of the division is decreased from 3524 to 3442 due to the elimination of the motor vehicle inspection detail, which was turned over to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Statewide installation of Dataspeed 40 video display NYSPIN teletype terminals is completed.

July 2. William G. Connelie appointed by Governor Hugh Carey as the eighth superintendent of the New York State Police.

State police entrance procedures redesigned as mandated by Federal Law of 1972 requiring state and local governments to comply with Equal Employment Opportunity Provisions of Civil Rights Act of 1964. An extensive job analysis program resulted in a new entrance exam and physical testing.

September 20. Trooper candidate examination for which 36,000 originally applied, 22,000 actually took the exam. Top 4,000 passed exam and 3,593 took new physical agility test.

Division acquired radar units capable of moving mode operation.

1976 A detail of 225 troopers provided security for U.S. Olympic team practicing in Plattsburgh.

Three German shepherds joined division's canine unit. The dogs were trained by the U.S. Army to scent explosives, drugs, firearms and to track people. The dogs joined the other members of the canine contingent which included bloodhounds, a retriever and one other shepherd.

Speed Enforcement Team (SET) created to enforce 55 mph speed limit on interstate highways.

Division began a 15-month experimental program with Citizens Band radio in the central part of the state. CB radios were installed in 150 troop cars and 15 stations.

State Police Summer Program presented for first time at the academy as a summer program for underprivileged boys.

July. New Troop A headquarters building opened in Batavia.

Radios converted to high band in troop F and K.

November. The rank of inspector was moved above the rank of major.

Division began to update NYSPIN equipment with new teletype terminals capable of transmitting up to 1800 words per minute.

Division created emergency communications service for the deaf using teletype devices in residences connected to Division headquarters by conventional telephone lines.

1977 Speed Enforcement Team expanded to 150-member Highway Task Force under a 3 year federal matching funds grant.

Superintendent's Commendation Awards established.

20-week basic school for recruits included one week of field training.

September. U.S. Attorney General's office filed a complaint against division that alleged discrimination in hiring minorities and women. A lengthy trial began in 1973. The U.S. District Court finally ruled that future recruit classes include 10 percent females and 40 percent blacks and Hispanics. The first class to be effected began in February , 1981.

1978 October 5. Division of State Police opens Mid-Hudson Regional Crime Laboratory in Newburgh.

November 10. 7 German shepherd dogs are graduated from the first New York State Police training school for bi-sensor dogs.

Division purchased one 9-seat Huey helicopter.

Plymouth Fury patrol vehicles arriving in second shipment that year included air conditioning for first time.

1979 Authorized strength of the division increased to 3578 members and 592 civilians.

Actual number of members was 3340.

New \$3.8 million state police facility at Ray Brook completed. Building designed to serve as command center for security detail at the 1980 Winter Olympics and then to become the new headquarters of Troop B. Renovation completed of Camp Adirondack, a minimum security prison to be used to house the 1,000 troopers and Environmental Conservation officers on the Olympic detail.

Violent Felony Warrant Squad (VFW) created to pursue violent fugitives. In its first 10 months, the 29-member squad made 831 felony arrests.

800 members called in to work 12-hour shifts during 16-day strike by correction officers at 38 prisons.

11 additional satellite stations opened for a total of 60 since 1974.

Regina Robbins became first woman to advance to the rank of Sergeant.

Basic school for recruits expanded to 23 weeks and included 3 weeks of field training.

Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) offered at the academy.

Division purchased a second 5-seat Huey helicopter.

Detail of 65 troopers provided security and traffic control at 1979 International Summer Special Olympics at Brockport.

1980 Authorized strength of the division increased to 3783 members.

January 1. Troop L officially established as tenth troop with headquarters at Islip Terrace, Long Island. 193 state parkway officer opted to transfer to the ranks of the state police.

February 2. Division of State Police opens Southern Tier Regional Crime Laboratory in Port Crane, NY.

February 13-24. Troopers provided security detail for 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid.

Following the Winter Olympics, Troop B headquarters moved from Malone to Ray Brook.

MEDEVAC hospital to hospital airlift program established with division aviation unit.

State police became central registry for firearms owned by all law enforcement personnel in the state.

Division expanded its Crime Prevention Program.

Carol J. Johnson became first woman investigator in the BCI.

100 members of Troop B put on overtime status to man roadblocks at the edge of the St. Regis Indian Reservation during the summer-long conflict between elected and traditional Indian factions.

1981 Each member of Division now equipped with soft body armor.

Albert Victory was recaptured in San Francisco. The convicted killer of a New York City policeman had escaped from prison in 1978 and was the subject of the largest manhunt in BCI history. About one fourth of the State's 640 investigators were involved at one time or another in the worldwide search for this murderer.

Joseph Christopher, the ".22 Caliber Killer" is arrested and charged with a series of racially motivated murders of black men in the Rochester – Buffalo areas.

February. The first recruit class to be hired under federal mandate that required makeup of class to be 40 percent blacks and Hispanics and 10 percent females.

The State Police Summer Program for underprivileged youth included girls for the first time.

24-foot mobile communications command vehicle purchased.

Sgt. Earl D. Hanchett of Troop G retired at the age 70 after 45 years of service.

1982 New communications system introduced in Troop E in which four zone stations became regional dispatch centers accessible to the public through a toll-free "800" telephone number.

A record 231 members retired during the year as members of the 1962 graduating class became eligible for 20-year retirement benefits.

1983 August 1. Donald O. Chesworth Jr. appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo as ninth superintendent of the New York State Police.

October 13. Mounted unit re-established with three horses that were donated to the state police. Mounted unit was to be used for ceremonial and crowd control purposes.

A new Special Investigations Unit (SIU) was organized and joined the organized Crime Task Force in devoting 73 investigators to fight organized crime.

A troop-level public information program was started.

Sobriety road checks used to apprehend drunk drivers.

A record 38,500 persons signed up to take the state police candidate entrance exam. A record 25,688 persons actually took the exam.

BCI personnel switched from .38 caliber revolvers to .357 magnum revolvers to standardize the service revolver for all state police members.

The New York Drug Enforcement Task Force seized more than 1,600 pounds of

Colombian cocaine valued at \$160 million in the largest cocaine seizure in the Northeast, the 3rd largest in U.S. history at that time.

Troopers policed area around the Seneca Army Depot at Romulus during protests.

13 German shepherds were graduated from division's 22-week canine school. Seven joined the state police ranks, which brought the number of these dogs in division to 22. The six others were trained for other agencies, the first time the division had done so.

Eldec equipment, an electronic weighing device, placed in service to weigh trucks along the Thruway.

1984 Mobile Response Team (MRT) created utilizing highly trained members prepared to resolve high risk situations.

State Police and Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) began publishing "New York's 12 Most Wanted" flyers.

Aviation Unit opened new flight facilities in Rochester. Three Bell Jet Rangers and two Huey helicopters were sold and replaced with four new helicopters.

Division reactivated the crime prevention unit at troop level.

Program of fingerprinting children began as a precautionary measure should they be abducted.

The Trooper Foundation, an independent, not-for-profit organization was created to find non-budgeted items through public support.

Hazardous Materials Unit established.

Blue patrol cars with gold decals began to replace the blue and gold patrol cars used since 1974.

New 24-member narcotics unit formed to investigate mid and upper level dealers.

June 20. A memorial was unveiled at the academy to honor members who had died in the line of duty.

December 1. State's seat belt law went into effect. Troopers worked to educate the public on the importance of seat belts by giving demonstrations with the "Convincer", a mechanical device that simulates abrupt stops from up to 10 MPH.

70 civilian communications specialists hired to free members for field duty.

Emergency telephones installed outside of the state police stations that weren't manned 24 hours a day.

U.S. District Court said there was no evidence of discrimination at the state police academy when it ruled in favor of the division after 5 unsuccessful recruits from

the 1981 class had filed a law suit.

Trooper Jeff Jost was part of the U.S. four-man bobsled team that placed fifth in the 1984 Winter Olympics at Sarajevo.

1985 The authorized strength of the division increased to 3800 members, but the actual number of members stood at 3589.

April 11. Investigation of a fire on a farm in the Town of Minden, Montgomery County, lead to the discovery of a huge clandestine cocaine laboratory linked to the Cali, Colombia drug cartel.

July 10. Another cocaine laboratory was located in Fly Creek near Cooperstown. 77 pounds of cocaine were seized.

Aviation Unit received Hughes Law Enforcement Award by the Helicopter Association International.

Minimum age to legally purchase alcoholic beverages raised from 18 to 21.

“Photo Ident-A-Kid” program started to provide parents with a photo and informational kits to be used to help identify missing children.

Division expanded boat detail on St. Lawrence River and Eastern Lake Ontario.

Forensic Consultants Unit formed. Eight forensic scientists were teamed to assist the state police at disaster scenes and in homicide investigations.

Trooper Jeff Jost as part of four-man bobsled team, won World Cup competition.

An official state historical marker placed at the scene in Westchester County where Sam Howell was murdered in 1913, which sparked a campaign to form the state police in 1917.

T-SLED traffic ticket accountability system expanded to all troops.

Management Information Network (MIN), an internal network of computers, was greatly expanded.

Two emergency communications motor coaches placed in service for use at disaster sites and other emergencies.

State police robot pressed into service to remove a possible bomb from an Owego School.

1986 Authorized Strength of the division increased to 4055 members. Actual members totaled 3720.

The hiring of 315 recruits filled the academy and required a second basic school to be conducted at the SUNY-Brockport campus.

Sex Crime Kits to standardize the collection of sex crime evidence were

developed by the state police laboratory.

Forensic Consultants Unit expanded to 13 scientists and for the time received state funding.

Cemetery dedicated outside of Troop c headquarters in Sidney for state police canines.

Troop L headquarters relocated from Islip Terrace to new building in Farmingdale.

Major John W. Herritage became first black troop commander to state police history when he was named the head of Troop G.

Aerial speed enforcement program reactivated.

1987 Authorized strength of the division increased to 4165 members and 918 civilians. Actual number of members stood at 3879.

February 24. Thomas A. Constatine's appointment as the tenth superintendent of the state police by Governor Mario M. Cuomo was confirmed by the state senate.

April 5. The Thruway bridge spanning the Schoharie Creek collapsed and sent a dozen motorists to their deaths. Aviation and diving units searched for the victims while members of Troop T and Troop G logged long hours on traffic control and security. The detail lasted until the bridge reopened in December.

May 13. Division opened State Police Western New York Regional Crime Laboratory in Olean, NY.

May 14. State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation turned over three new marine patrol boats to the division, which brought the number of boats in the state police fleet to eight.

May. The Rensselaerville Project. For three days, the top administrators of the division secluded themselves at the Rensselaerville Institute in Albany Count to begin a sweeping review of all division operating procedures.

Homicide and Lead Tracking (HALT) started as a computerized tracking system to examine evidence in unsolved homicides with intent of identifying serial killers.

Statewide Narcotics Indexing Program (SNIP) started as another computerized system for storing and sharing knowledge on active drug traffickers.

First Colonel Henry F. Williams Homicide Seminar conducted in honor of the late assistant deputy superintendent in charge of the BCI instrumental in creation of forensics unit. 130 homicide investigators from across the nation attended the seminar.

Narcotics units in each troop are doubled in size. Division members assigned to drug enforcement details numbered at 300.

Saturation speed enforcement program established as a concentrated effort to

arrest speeders on interstate highways.

Child Abuse and Exploitation Unit formed within the Special Projects Unit at division headquarters for the prevention of crimes against children.

Forensic Sciences Unit, with its 16 forensic experts became a fully functioning unit of the BCI.

A detail of 200 troopers and investigators executed search warrants on the St. Regis Indian Reservation and confiscated more than 300 slot machines used in illegal gambling operations.

Aviation Unit added two new fixed wing Cessna 206 aircraft under a federal grant and opened a new hangar in Albany.

Six members of mounted patrol played parts of 1901 National Guard cavalrymen in riot scene of movie, "Ironweed"

Scuba diving detail added an 18-foot airboat and an underwater video system to their equipment.

For the first time in state's history, a murderer was found guilty without a corpse or a confession, but on evidence analyzed by the state police crime lab.

1988 Buffalo added to aviation units sites of Rochester, Syracuse, Albany and Newburgh.

Boat patrols increased during summer months using 10 vessels to police the Hudson, Mohawk and St. Lawrence rivers as well as Lake Champlain, Lake George, Lake Ontario and Oneida lake.

Hazardous Devices Unit responded to 115 bomb threats during the year. 25 of those cases involved actual explosives, but all were rendered safe.

Drug Recognition expert (DRE) program established to train selected troopers to detect if drivers are operating under the influence of drugs.

January 1. Consumer Products Tampering Program took effect with a computerized data base on state's product tampering cases. All law enforcement agencies required to report tampering cases to this data base within five hours.

Basic School 24 weeks.

40 Ford Mustangs with 5-speed manual transmissions were placed in service on interstate highways to aid traffic enforcement efforts.

180 troopers were cross-deputized as U.S. Customs Service officers to grant them border search authority.

Each troop assigned a permanent recruiter.

State police became the official liaison agency for the state and the International

Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to aid in the apprehension of international criminals.

1989 January 4. Arthur Shawcross confesses to murdering 11 women in the Troop E area.

Four members of the Harris family found murdered in their Dryden home (Troop C). Suspected killer later shot dead by investigators.

July 20. A large detail of state police and FBI personnel with arrest and search warrants entered the St. Regis Indian Reservation near Massena in a crackdown on illegal gambling. Troopers met resistance from heavily armed Indians at two casinos, which led to a standoff. Troop B personnel were put on 12-hour shifts and hundreds of troopers from adjoining troops were called in throughout the summer and fall to set up roadblocks and informational checkpoints around the reservation to prevent innocent travelers from stumbling into possible violence between traditionalist and pro-gambling Indian factions.

Aviation Unit opened facility in at the Adirondack Airport, Saranac Lake. Additional helicopter purchased to bring state's total to 7 helicopters and 3 fixed-wing aircraft.

1990 Troopers issued Glock 17 9mm semi-automatic pistols which replaced the .357 Magnum revolvers. This marked the first time in Division history that the issued sidearm was not a revolver. It also marked the first time the uniformed member and the BCI investigators were equipped with the same weapon.

March 23. Anti-gambling faction of Indians on St. Regis Reservation block off Route 37 in two locations in an effort to forcibly put a stop to gambling on the reservation. Assaults, Criminal mischiefs and reckless gunfire accented the tensions as the pro-gamblers backed by the Warrior Society tried to regain control of the reservation over the next few weeks.

March 30. A Vermont National Guard helicopter traveling back to Burlington was fired upon as it flew over the Ganienkeh Indian Territory in the Town of Altona, near Plattsburgh. The helicopter was disabled and was forced to make an emergency landing on the territory. A doctor onboard was wounded in the right shoulder. Troopers and conservation officers set up roadblocks to secure the scene. The helicopter was repaired and flown out April 1. The Indians, armed with automatic weapons, set up roadblocks of their own and prevented state police investigators and FBI agents from entering the territory. Negotiations were conducted and the Indians eventually let investigators onto the territory. The incident lasted until April 9.

May 1. Gunfire erupted on the St. Regis Indian Reservation between warring factions. Two Indians were killed on the Quebec, Canada side of the reservation, accessible only by water or through the American side. Armed bands of Indians also barred the way to Canadian investigators. A large detail of troopers moved in and took

control of the American side of the reservation to prevent further bloodshed. May 24, troopers removed outer perimeter roadblocks and opened the reservation to through traffic. Troopers maintained their presence on interior fixed posts into 1991 as a peace-keeping measure.

Trooper applicants now required to have at least 30 credit hours of college education.

State police academy began satellite hookup with the Law Enforcement Television Network, which provides 24-hour programming on law enforcement training subjects.

Violent Predator Task Force made up of 25 state police and 25 New York City P.D. personnel began operations.

1-800-CURB-DWI, a toll-free, 24-hour telephone hotline established to give the public an easy way to report drunk drivers.

Community Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) established with 60 members (eventually 90) deployed in four teams to aid local departments in battling illegal drug traffickers.

The Trooper Foundation supplied enough First Responder first aid kits to equip each state police patrol vehicle.

June 11. The Statewide Automated Fingerprint Identification System (SAFIS) is introduced, enabling troopers to quickly compare fingerprints found at crime scenes with those on computer file.

Troop cars in the Capital District and Hudson Valley areas were equipped with McBear stuffed animals to help traumatized children.

State police traveled nearly 72 million miles and issued a record 839,233 traffic tickets during the year.

1991 Trooper applicants now required to have at least 60 credit hours of college education.

June 24. Two indictments by the Queens County Grand Jury charged 48 persons connected to the Cali, Columbia drug cartel with conspiring to distribute thousands of pounds of cocaine in the New York area over a period of nearly five years. Named in the indictment was Jaime Orjuela, believed to be the director of operations for the Cali cartel in New York area. The indictments were the result of six years of investigation by the state police and other police agencies, which began in 1985 with the discovery of a large cocaine laboratory in Minden, Montgomery County.