

THE DELAWARE STATE POLICE MUSEUM

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Volume 8 No. 1

January 2014



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MAJOR ROBERT GOUGE (RET.)

In the world of running a museum, there aren't many things that can happen that can be viewed as a major event. But when your museum has only one employee, should that employee decide to retire, I think that can mark a seminal shift in how the organization operates. Such is the case with the Delaware State Police Museum. Sgt. John Alstadt (RET) has decided to retire effect December 31st, 2013. John was hired in December of 2000 to serve as the Museum's Director. Over the past 13 years, he has assumed the title of Curator and has endeavored to use his educational background to professionalize the operation of our facility. He has come to be recognized as extremely knowledgeable in our history and has been the go-to person for the identities of individuals in old photographs as well as a large storehouse of stories that never seem to make it into the history books. We certainly wish John well as he enters this next phase of his life.

Upon notification of John's retirement plans, the Board set about hiring his replacement. We were very fortunate to have a short list of well-qualified can-

**DONATE TO THE MUSEUM
WITHOUT SPENDING
ANY MONEY**

**USE GOODSEARCH AS YOUR
INTERNET SEARCH ENGINE.**

**GO TO GOODSEARCH.COM
AND DESIGNATE THE
DELAWARE STATE POLICE MUSEUM
AS YOUR CHARITY.**

**THE MUSEUM RECEIVES A PENNY
FOR EVERY SEARCH
YOU MAKE USING THIS SITE.**

didates and the Board's final decision had to balance the skills and abilities of the candidates versus the wide-ranging needs of our facility. We are proud to announce that our new Museum Director is Major Kevin McDerby (RET). Kevin's ability to manage a variety of initiatives both while employed by the D.S.P. and later as Chief of the New Castle City Police Department demonstrates the qualities of management and leadership that the Board believes to be crucial to the continued success of our organization. Having been deeply involved with our



A 1950's era Ford patrol vehicle

Museum since its inception, Kevin has a good understanding of the challenges that we face be it enrolling volunteers/docents or the expansion of our educational mandate. As Kevin takes on his new responsibilities effective January 1st, I hope everyone will give Kevin their support.

On another note, as Paul Kane's Treasurer's report indicates, this has been another good year financially for our Museum. This is our first full year of the enhanced active-duty contributions that have really made a difference in our budget. Coupled with another great effort by Lester Johnson and Peggy Anderson, the golf tournament sponsored by the ARDSP was very successful and our capital budget was full funded.

Speaking of our capital budget, we have started to make significant progress in addressing the display maintenance issues that we have faced. Cpl. Chuck McCall (RET) has been working diligently to repair and upgrade a variety of the video displays and we are close to completing our initial list.

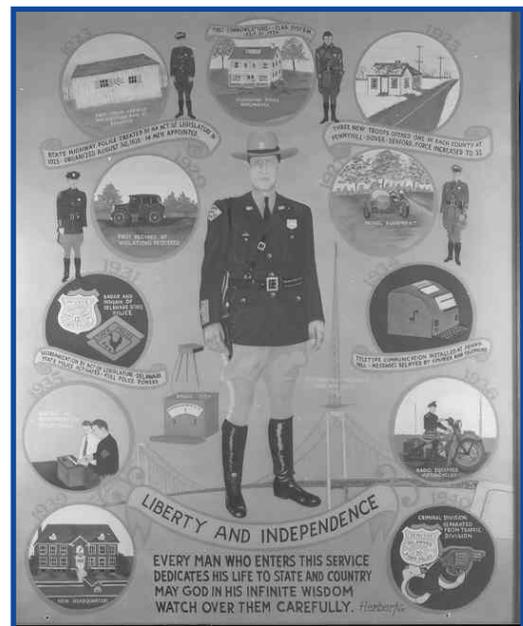
One of our most popular displays is our Roll Call. This touch-screen unit houses the photos and biographical information of anyone who completed training and served as a Delaware State Trooper. Children, grand-children and other relatives are very touched when they visit and are able to research a family member's service with the Division. Recently Ray Deputy was able to assist the son of Tpr David Yarrington who was visiting our Museum for the first time. Tpr. Yarrington was murdered in the line-of-duty in 1972. Tpr. Yarrington's son never knew his father and this opportunity to view his father's service was emotional for everyone involved. Events such as these simply reinforce our commitment to maintain this display for the generations to come. Given that this display is going on 15 years of age, we will be striving to upgrade the software and replace the hardware in the coming year.

Finally, if there is one piece of equipment that is near and dear to a trooper's heart, it is his car. We have always been a motorized law enforcement agency and having a police vehicle was and is essential to the delivery of service to the public. So I have sprinkled this annual report with an assortment of the various vehicles that troopers have used on patrol down thru the years. I hope you enjoy the show.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to express our deep appreciation for your continued support.

FROM THE DESK OF **THE CURATOR** **JOHN ALSTADT**

As many know this is my last Museum Annual Report as I will be retiring as Curator on December 31, 2013. It has been said that I am the Delaware State Police historian, a term that I am sure some dispute. With that in mind I wish to leave with a final story. For this the reader must take a trip back to August, 1955, a time when few of us were members of the State Police.



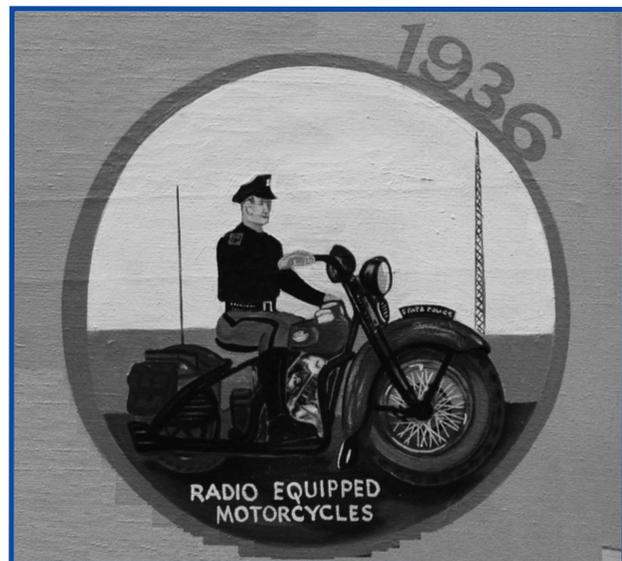
We are now standing in the office of Colonel Harry Shew located in the State Police Administration Building at State Road. A meeting of the State Highway Commission is taking place. After being mysteriously called out of the meeting, Colonel Shew returned to find a five and a half foot by four and a half foot mural hanging on the wall of his office.

This mural which presently hangs in the Delaware State Police Museum, painted by Corporal John Herbert, was the first of three which were to trace the evolution of the Division from 1923 to the then, present time. Its purpose was to chronicle the growing consciousness of the State Police Department for its history.

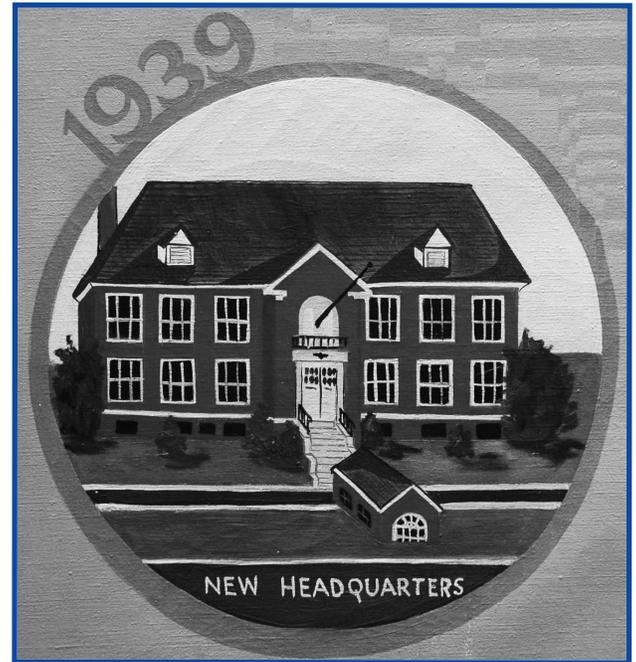
The central figure is Trooper Richard Palmer of Troop 1, Penny Hill Barracks. Starting in the upper left corner and moving clockwise is a 20 foot white shack that stood at the bottom of Bellevue Hill on the Philadelphia Pike; the first “headquarters”. Next is the Kilvington Store at Minquadale with the red flag system. Experimented with from Claymont to Blackbird it was found to be a workable system and continued all the way down state.



Other high points in the history of the force are: 1925: Stations established at Penny Hill, State Road, Dover, Georgetown, and Seaford. A uniform change in 1926, 1929: First records kept of highway law violations, 1934: First teletype receiver installed at Penny Hill, 1935: Bureau of Identification established, 1936: One-way radio receiving on motorcycles, and 1940: the Department separated into Traffic and Criminal Divisions. Also shown on the mural are radar speed detection apparatus (1955) and the high



radio tower built in 1942. In addition to Trooper Palmer, two other officers appear in the mural; Elmer Jewell in the first uniform of the force and Owen “Red” Hession.



While it is true that the General Assembly did not authorize a state highway police force until 1923, there was a Delaware Highway Police dating from 1920. Because of the stone roads of the time these officers were referred to as “stone road cops” or “hard road cops”. Through the years our members were known first as privates and later as troopers.

On your next visit take a moment to absorb the meaning of this mural and the heritage it represents. Long live the Delaware State Police from the past, through the present, to the future.

TREASURER’S REPORT CAPT. PAUL R. KANE (RET)

Hello again to all of our friends and supporters of this wonderful museum and educational center. Your continued support has allowed for the history of the Delaware State Police to enlighten present interest, as well as, future generations to see how this organization evolved and progressed in time. I know I can speak on behalf of the Board of Directors in saying the support provided by active and retired members of the Delaware State Police, as well as, their families and our friends of law enforcement who visit our museum is very much appreciated. The

Board of Directors are dedicated individuals to this museum and will continue striving to preserve our history and make our museum one of the best in the country for you and all to enjoy.

We continue to receive the valued support of the Active Troopers of the Division following our initiative in 2012 to increase participation and interest in the museum with the active members. Thank you again to the Active men & women of the Division in supporting our endeavors. "This is your history."



A collection of patrol vehicles behind Troop 4 circa 1940

The annual ARDSP golf tournament was again a big success thanks to the efforts of Lester Johnson and Peggy Anderson, as well as, all the volunteers who helped out with this fundraising endeavor. Also, a big thank you to all the golfers who participated that day, as well as, all the advertisers and the staff at Jonathon's Landing Golf course. This tournament was extra special as the gold golf tee prize for a hole in one was won by a lucky golfer and I was fortunate enough to be on the hole as the witness. We're looking forward to seeing you all back next year.

The establishment of our WSFS Investment account has proven to be a very positive move in these days of very low interest rate returns. The account is doing very well and your board will continue to monitor this investment and make adjustments as deemed necessary in the interest of the museum.

The operating budget for 2014 was approved by the Finance Committee at our meeting on October 27, 2013 and is set at \$86,525.00. This recommendation was presented to the entire Board at the



A 1958 Chevrolet marked patrol vehicle

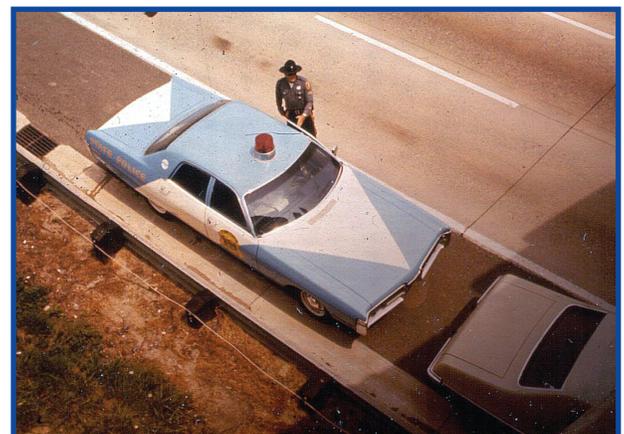
November meeting and approved. We are meeting our obligations and with this budget we expect to have a small surplus.

That being said, we are met with an aging facility needing repairs and much needed enhancement of the displays by way of improved audio and visual technology which are very costly issues.

Due to this, our fundraising efforts will continue to be a priority moving forward as we endeavor to keep the DSP Museum and Educational Center one of the finest in the country. Your valued support is appreciated.

Happy Holidays!

Thank you and please stop by for a visit!



A 1970's Alcohol Safety Action Patrol (ASAP) vehicle