

# Delaware State Police Museum and Educational Center



P.O. Box 430  
Dover, DE 19903  
<http://www.dspmuseum.com>

Museum Director - Major Kevin P. McDerby, (Ret.) 411  
Newsletter Editor - Debra Geiser  
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Visit the *new*  
Delaware State Police  
Museum website  
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## From the Director's Desk

Major Kevin P. McDerby (Ret.) 411



In 1973, a book was published that documented the 50-year history of the Delaware State Police. The following paragraph was the opening sentiment in that publication:

*“The history of the Delaware State Police records more than the names, dates and statistics associated with the growth of an organization. It is the story of human dedication to the task of making Delaware a safe place to live; and as such it documents the change in society that has accompanied the passing of 50 years time. It is a history of which the men and women who made it are proud.”*

April 28, 1923 has been deemed to be the historic date for the establishment of the Delaware State Police. On that date legislation was signed by then Governor William D. Denney that officially created the organization. Although 1923 is considered to be the birth year of the Delaware State Police the roots of the organization can be traced to 1920 when the Delaware Highway Commission was tasked to “secure the services of a man with a motor cycle at a limited figure to patrol the Philadelphia Pike.” On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Traffic Officer Charles J. McGarigle was hired by the Commission. By the end of 1920, Raymond D. Ingram, Earl Cole and Joseph A. McVey joined the ranks of the Highway Police.

From the early ‘20s to the present day, the men and women who have served with the Delaware State Police or the Delaware Highway Police have two things in common. They share their dedication to Duty and their service with Honor.

The Delaware State Police has grown from a limited patrol force to an organization with over 700 Troopers and more than 220 civilian employees. We all know that the DSP has a proud history. The museum has a simple role—active Troopers write the history and the museum preserves it.

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# Director's Report



In 2015, the DSP Museum experienced several changes. The Roll Call display that houses the biographies of most of the men and women who served as Delaware State Troopers has been improved. Thanks to a partnership with FuturTech, we now have a more user friendly, secure and complete data base.



As we all know, Reverend Colonel Oscar H. Frundt left us in 2015. Father Frundt served as the DSP Chaplain for over 50 years.

Improvements have been made in the memorial brick garden that includes a black granite bench dedicated to our long serving chaplain.



At the end of 2015, the Board of Directors of the museum approved the procurement of a 1973 Plymouth Fury replica DSP patrol car. The '73 Plymouth is the DSP 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cruiser. It will join the historic collection of police vehicles housed at the museum. That collection includes a 1998 Ford Crown Victoria. That year Crown Victoria is the DSP 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary vehicle.



A special thanks to those who dedicate their time and talents to the museum. Dave Clark has reinvigorated our Face Book page and Debbie Geiser maintains the webpage and produces the museum newsletter. The museum could not survive without those who work, without compensation, to keep the Delaware State Police Museum the premier law enforcement museum in the United States.

*Kevin*



# From the Archives



## 8140 Cars Pass by in 14 Hours

7/21/1924 - Morning News

**State Highway Police Check Up Sunday  
Traffic on Philadelphia Pike  
Average of Nine Autos Each Minute**

Some idea of the popularity of the automobile can be had from the report of the State Highway Police today, who announced that 8140 motor cars passed the Holly Oak headquarters of the police between 7 o'clock yesterday morning and 9 o'clock last night.

The greatest number of cars in any one hour passed along the Philadelphia Pike between 6 and 7 o'clock last night, according to the police report, when 1119 cars were counted, an average of nearly 19 every minute of the hour. The average each minute for the 14 hours the police kept count was 9 1/2 cars.

It is the plan of the State Highway Police to take a traffic census from time to time. During this week a census of traffic over the Philadelphia Pike is being taken. The volume of traffic over other highways leading into Wilmington will be checked later.

The congestion of motor traffic at the entrance of Shellpot Park has been eliminated by the State Highway Police. "No Parking" signs have been placed on the Philadelphia Pike from the foot of Penny Hill to Fortieth Street. The police say this has done away with the traffic jam. Before the "No Parking" signs were put up by the State Police motorists who wished to enter Shellpot parked their cars along the Philadelphia Pike, between Fortieth Street and the foot of Penny Hill. This greatly hindered the handling of traffic.

## Flag System on State Roads

7/31/1924 - Evening Journal

**Highway Motor Police Adopt New Method of  
Communitication  
Chief Always in Touch with Men**

The "flagging system" has been installed by the State Highway Police on the Philadelphia Pike, Kennett Pike and on the duPont Boulevard as far as Blackbird. The system has been worked with success by the State Police for sometime.

The new system enables an officer patrolling his beat to get in communication with his chief or the chief to get in touch with his men.

In case of an accident, or for any reason a police Lieutenant wishes to get in touch with a patrolman, he will phone the flag station on the officer's beat and that station will immediately display a flag. The passing patrolman, seeing the flag, will enter the station and get in communication with his chief.

If for any reason, any person should want an officer he would phone the nearest flag station and have the passing motorcycle officer flagged.

Automobile service stations and stores along the highways are being used as flag stations. Superintendent Reynolds is compiling a list of these stations with their telephone numbers. When the list is completed it will be published for the convenience of motorists or others who in an emergency may need an officer.





**Dedicated  
Selfless  
Proud**



# *In Memoriam*

*Our Fallen Heroes  
Lest we Forget*

**Ronald L. Carey  
1943-1972**



**January 5, 1972**



**David C. Yarrington  
1948-1972**



**January 6, 1972**



**LeRoy L. LeKites  
1914-1950**



**January 13, 1950**

**William C. Keller  
1947-1971**



**January 22, 1971**





**Dedicated  
Selfless  
Proud**



# *In Memorium*

*Our Fallen Heroes  
Lest We Forget*

**Frances M. Collender  
1962-2001**



**February 6, 2001**



**Thomas H. Lamb  
1901 - 1944**



**February 22, 1944**



**Kevin John Mallon  
1965-1990**



**March 20, 1990**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Mark your calendar for our upcoming events



March 18th - Salesianum Blue Mass - 0900  
March - Troop 6 Reunion (date to be announced)

*More to come on the above events*



**In the Oven:**  
Restoration of the 1973 Plymouth.

Dedication of the Memorial Bench honoring Reverend Colonel Oscar Frundt in the spring.



## Duty - Selflessness - Proud



## Memorial Brick Walk

Memorialize your service or those who supported you during your career. This is an excellent way of acknowledging your parents, spouse, sibling, children or another trooper. Show them that they are an important part of the DSP family and your life.

**Memorial Brick - \$100.00**



**Quarterly Special  
Coffee & Beer Mugs**

Regular Price - \$15.00

**\$10.00** if ordered by April 1st, 2016

Your purchase goes to support the DSP Museum.  
Thank you!



# “Looking Back...”

*do you have old photographs you'd like to share; then email or send them to the Museum Director.*

## *Building a Legacy*



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