

State's Highway Patrol Celebrating Silver Anniversary

The State Highway Patrol passed its 25th milestone July 1 in a mood reminiscent of the day it was organized—quiet efficiency.

No fanfare marked the day on patrol boss James R. Smith's calendar although the tough minded patrol skipper "noted" the date for reporters.

The 530-man highway patrol grew from a nucleus of 37 officers and men who stood stiffly at attention July 1, 1929, on Capitol Square in Raleigh and received their commissions.

Captain Charles D. Farmer, who died in 1949, was the patrol's first commanding officer. In the early days the patrol was divided into groups of three troopers and a lieutenant—one group for each of the nine then existing highway districts. The troopers were under the State Highway and Public Works Commission until 1933.

The mid-thirties patrolmen roamed the highways on a motorbike although the lieutenants fared somewhat better. Officers in those days drove a wire-wheeled Model A coupe.

Radio communication and automobiles for all didn't come in until the late 30's. Among the first autos to be delivered to the patrol were silver-sided Ford convertibles.

What time the veteran highway officers had off was oftentimes spent inspecting retail gasoline outlets, testing automotive equipment and collecting bad checks involved in state business transactions.

The patrol was separated from the Highway Commission in 1933 and assigned to the Revenue Department. Strength by 1935 had risen to 121, an increase due mainly because of the brand new drivers license law passed the same year. Additional troopers were needed to enforce its provisions.

Two years later a communications branch was added to the patrol, thus making instantaneous radio messages possible between cruising cars and their station. Today the patrol's communications network includes 10 FM transmitting stations, one of which is located on Mt. Mitchell, the highest radio transmitter in Eastern America.

In 1937 the General Assembly authorized the commissioning of a major to head the expanded organization. Legislation was also passed requiring that all school bus drivers be examined and certified by a patrol officer.

During the mid and late thirties there were only slightly more than a half million vehicles traveling North Carolina highways. The death rate from traffic accidents in 1937 was 1,123, the second highest number of highway fatalities on record.

In the first year of World War II the Department of Motor Vehicles was created and the highway patrol subsequently was brought under the supervision of the vehicles agency. At the same time additional funds were appropriated for the employment of 25 more troopers, bringing strength up to 213.

By 1950 the patrol numbered 423. Today, at full authorized strength (530) the North Carolina State Highway Patrol is the largest in the southeast. It recently has taken steps unmatched by any other state to protect life and property on the highway.

First to make extensive, full time use of radar and electronic speed controls, one of the first to employ saturation patrols, first to use traffic cameras in enforcement work, and first to promote driver training classes for employees in business and industry, the Tar Heel patrol is now recognized generally as one of the most aggressive in the nation.

Only recently, from the patrol's statistical unit, came word that traffic fatalities for the first six months of the year were more than 100 below last year. And average speeds on North Carolina roads have declined to a low of 44.3 miles per hour, the lowest since 1946.

Ten members of the patrol who received their commissions July 1, 1929, are still on active service. They are: Col. James R. Smith, commanding; Major D. T. Lambert, Executive Officer, Enforcement; Major W. B. Lentz, Communications and Transportation; Captain A. W. Welch, Commanding Troop C, Greensboro; Captain S. H. Mitchell, Commanding Troop A, Greenville; Captain D. G. Lewis, Commanding Troop E, Asheville; Lieut. S. D. Moore, Executive Officer, Troop D, Salisbury; T/Sgt. R. S. Harris, Patrol Headquarters; T/Sgt. W. W. Stone, Troop C, Greensboro, and Sgt. G. R. Duncan, North Wilkesboro.

N. C. Beaches Lead In New Building

New tourist accommodations are being built along North Carolina's coast at a faster rate than in any other region, but the mountains and Piedmont still lead in guest accommodations. This is revealed by the 1954 edition of the "Travelbook of North Carolina," now being distributed by the State Advertising Division of the Department of Conservation and Development in response to tourist inquiries.

State Advertising Director Charles Farner said that more than a thousand new rooms are included in the

1954 listing, which shows 1,052 tourist facilities with a total of 32,787 rooms in 177 communities. Only larger establishments catering to transients are listed. In addition there are guest homes, summer camps, religious assemblies, hunting and fishing camps, and private homes open to tourists during peak seasons which are capable of housing thousands of guests.

The Advertising Division survey revealed that rates for all types of accommodations are becoming stabilized and that little change is in evidence this year. Rates range from \$2 to \$20 a person. Experienced travelers find that two people can travel very comfortably in North Carolina for an average of \$15 a day, meals and lodging. The cost may be less, or more, according to individual preference.

There are more motels and motor courts than any other type of accommodation in the State, but hotels, lodges and inns still lead in the number of rooms, the new survey shows. Motel and motor courts listed total 491 with 8,931 rooms. Hotels, inns and lodges listed total 368 with 20,668 rooms.

Listings by regions of the State are as follows:

Coast: 121 hotels, inns and lodges with 5,371 rooms; 132 motels and motor courts with 2,449 rooms; 87 guest houses, farms, ranches, etc., with 1,434 rooms. Total 340 establishments with 9,254 rooms.

Mountains: 139 hotels, inns and lodges with 6,857 rooms; 268 motels and motor courts with 4,663 rooms, 101 guest houses, farms and ranches with 1,668 rooms. Total 508 establishments with 13,188 rooms.

Piedmont: 108 hotels, inns and lodges with 8,440 rooms; 91 motels and motor courts with 1,819 rooms; 5 guest houses, farms and ranches with 86 rooms. Total 204 establishments with 10,345 rooms.

The accommodations directory lists rates and details about hotels, motels, etc., and carries concise descriptions of cities and towns and popular vacation objectives. It also contains a directory of state and national parks and forests, summer camps, religious assemblies and other vacation features. The cover is a full color photograph, by Hugh Morton, of Grandfather Mountain over a lake at Linville.

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VOICE WITH A SMILE—Mrs. Monique Gaiway operates a U.S. Army telephone switchboard at Seale Area headquarters in Paris.

Complete Plans First; Then Begin Remodeling

Remodeling without careful planning can be expensive, inconvenient and disheartening.

It costs nothing to plan and re-plan, and only by careful planning will you be able to have just the type of home you want, says Pauline E. Gordon, State College Extension specialist in housing and house furnishings.

Remodeling or building is too expensive not to warrant detailed planning of what your family wants. And according to Miss Gordon, family planning is important since the kind of home in which you live helps to develop the personality of all persons living within it.

Long-time planning will save you both money and inconvenience. Plan work on your home that can be done over a period of years and then do some work each year as you have the money to pay for it, suggests Miss Gordon. All of your family will enjoy contributing some labor to cut costs further.

If you're planning more storage space, Miss Gordon advises you to consider wall-to-wall storage. List the articles to be stored in the space allotted, then plan shelf and drawer

areas to accommodate them. It's easier to keep house when there is a place to put all the things needed by

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the family. According to Miss Gordon, the most convenient height to reach is from the tip of the fingers to the top of the shoulders. Store articles used most often in this area. Those used less frequently can be placed lower or higher.

What is originality? It is being one's self, and reporting accurately what we see and are. —Emerson.

For Harassed Husbands "Daddy, what is leisure?" asked the child.

"My boy," replied the sire, "leisure is the two minutes' rest a man gets while his wife thinks up something for him to do."

There is a strength of quiet endurance as significant of courage as the most daring feats of prowess. —Tuckerman.

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North Carolina Division UNITED STATES BREWERS FOUNDATION, INC.

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