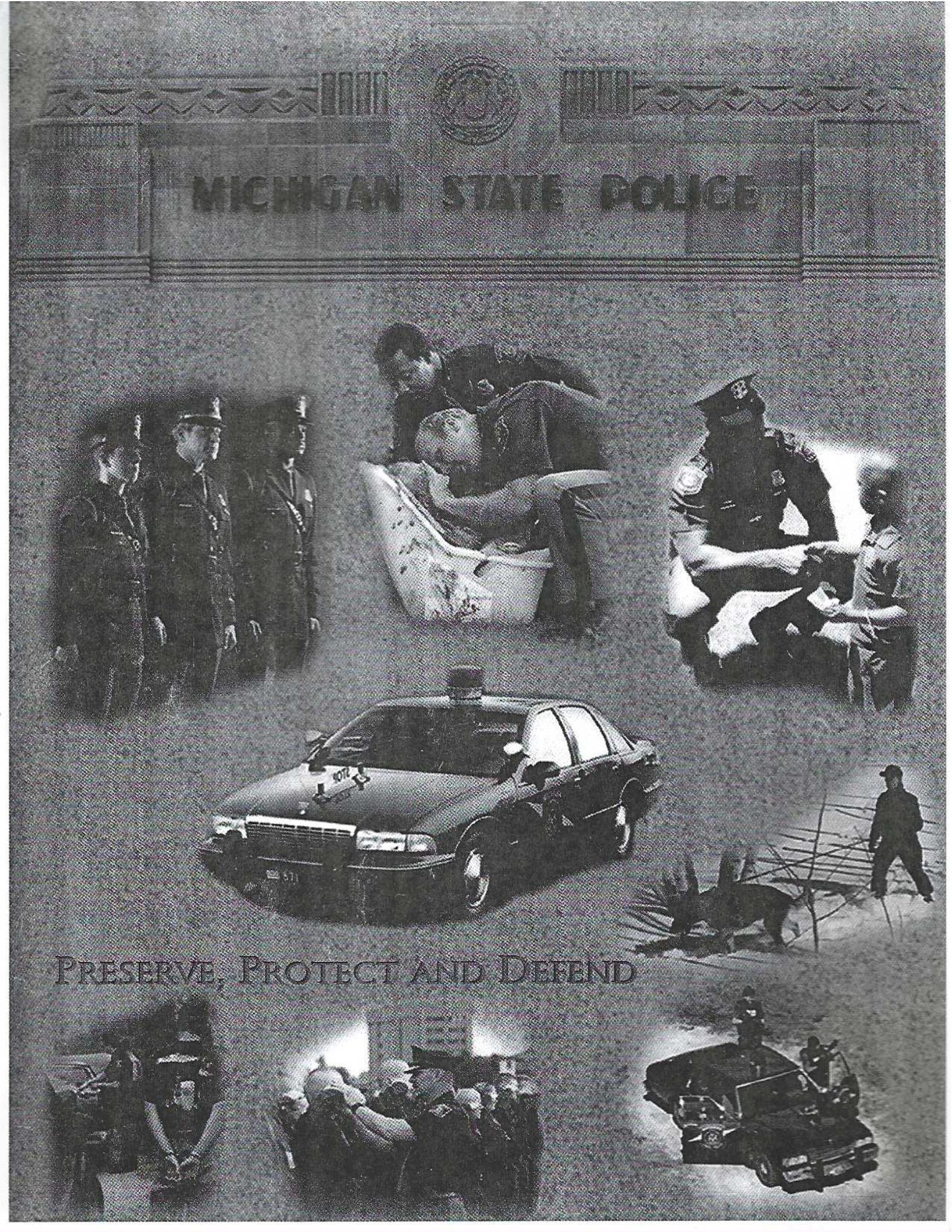
MICHIGAN STATE POLICE
PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND

# PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND


## An Illustrated History Of The Michigan State Police in the Twentieth Century

By
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# Chapter 6

# The Michigan Department Of State Police 1965–2002

The organizational phase of the Michigan State Police that began in 1965 has continued to the present time. For the department, the decades leading up to the twenty-first century were also marked by changes and events no less historic than those of any earlier period.

As the nation was convulsed by civil unrest related to the civil rights and antiwar movements, Michigan's troopers were mobilized to quell major riots in Detroit and other cities, and to maintain order during protest demonstrations at college campuses. The state police also responded to natural disasters, violent labor strikes and prison riots. Multijurisdictional narcotics teams of undercover detectives were formed under state police leadership to combat the growing drug menace. The Uniform Division inaugurated permanent freeway patrols in Detroit and other metropolitan areas to restore public safety on urban highways. Civil litigation and political pressures forced the Michigan State Police to disband the Red Squad and led the department to implement affirmative action policies to increase the representation of people of color and women in the enlisted ranks. A constitutional amendment granting collective bargaining rights to state police troopers and sergeants ushered in a new era of labor-management relations. The department's enforcement arms expanded to include Capitol security and motor carrier officers.

Periodic reorganizations, facility relocations and operational changes affected nearly every division, district and unit. Throughout the period, the department remained on the cutting edge of advances in the forensic sciences, information and communications technology, public safety legislation and modern law enforcement services.

## Executive Reorganization as the Department of State Police

Michigan's 1963 constitution required the reorganization of the executive branch of state government into not more than twenty principal departments. The Executive Organization Act (Act 380) of 1965 fulfilled this mandate by consolidating numerous departments, agencies, boards and commissions into nineteen new departments. The actual transfer of powers, duties, functions, personnel, property and appropriations from the former agencies into the new departments was achieved through executive orders issued subsequent to the statute's effective date of July 23, 1965. Among the nineteen departments was the Department of State Police.

Without repealing Act 59 of 1935, Act 380 of 1965 abolished the former Michigan State Police and transferred all the powers, duties and functions vested in the department and its commissioner to the new department. The statute also transferred intact three other agencies or functions to the Department of State Police, including: the State Safety Commission (established by Act 188 of 1941); the Civil Defense Advisory Council (established by Act 154 of 1953); and the licensing and regulation of private detectives and detective agencies, a function previously assigned to the secretary of state under Act 383 of 1927. In the fall of 1965, Governor George Romney issued the necessary executive order to enact these transfers.

*Introduced in 1967, the VASCAR speed-measurement device allowed troopers to clock vehicles moving in either direction in all kinds of weather. (Courtesy MSP Photo Lab)*

Late in 1969, the department used another federal highway safety grant to purchase its first helicopter for about $135,000. Stored in a Quonset hut at East Lansing Headquarters when not in use, the turbine-powered FH (Fairchild Hiller) 1100 helicopter was used primarily for traffic enforcement and control. Floats could be attached to its skids to give it versatility for landings on water and deep snow for emergency missions. Based at Lansing, Traverse City and Marquette, the department's three fixed-wing Cessna airplanes also continued to assist ground patrol units with air-speed timing traffic enforcement operations.

Staff officers assigned to the Safety and Traffic Division conducted traffic engineering surveys and issued traffic control orders for the erection of traffic control devices. Working with the Department of State Highways under a federal grant, they also helped identify high accident locations on selected city streets and county roads and developed recommendations for road engineering improvements. Ongoing check lane operations tallied more than a hundred thousand motor vehicle inspections each year and troopers participated in multiyear Automotive Crash Injury Research (ACIR) projects sponsored by Cornell Aeronautics Laboratory.

Traffic fatality and injury rates had continued to climb even as these various traffic safety measures were being implemented. Michigan suffered a new all-time record toll of 2,487 deaths from traffic crashes in 1969, but statewide campaigns for increased public education and traffic enforcement helped reduce that toll by 12 percent the following year.

Organized into Investigative Services, Intelligence and Community Relations and Juvenile Sections, the Detective Division focused on crime prevention, detection and investigations. State police detectives handled a wide variety of original complaint investigations, but they also assisted local law enforcement agencies with major criminal investigations and forensic evidence analysis.

The Investigative Services Section included the Crime Laboratory, Voice Identification, Polygraph, Latent Print and Photo-

Michigan suffered a new all-time record toll of 2,487 deaths from traffic crashes in 1969, but statewide campaigns for increased public education and traffic enforcement helped reduce that toll by 12 percent the following year.

graphic Laboratory Units—all based at East Lansing with the exception of polygraph examiners who were assigned at each district headquarters. By 1969, the section's burgeoning caseload and the added drain on staff time caused by court appearances, public tours and instructional assignments forced several significant changes.

Crime Laboratory staffing had to be expanded, but a shortage of qualified enlisted personnel forced the department to hire its first civilian laboratory technicians—one, a retired firearms identification expert from the Detroit Police Department; the other, a chemist formerly employed with the U.S. Treasury Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit. Despite their credentials and the obvious need, the advent of civilian crime laboratory technicians seemed a traumatic break with tradition to many state police enlisted personnel at the time.

Crime volumes were highest and local police agencies most numerous in the densely populated counties of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb. To bring crime laboratory services closer to the point of demand, the department opened two satellite crime labs in southeastern Michigan in 1969. The first opened in April at Plymouth in a facility leased from the Detroit Edison Company and a second was established in the basement squad room of the Warren Post in October. Several veteran lab officers were transferred from the central lab at East Lansing to these satellite labs, each of which was equipped to handle latent print and firearms examinations with limited capabilities for chemical or photographic analysis.

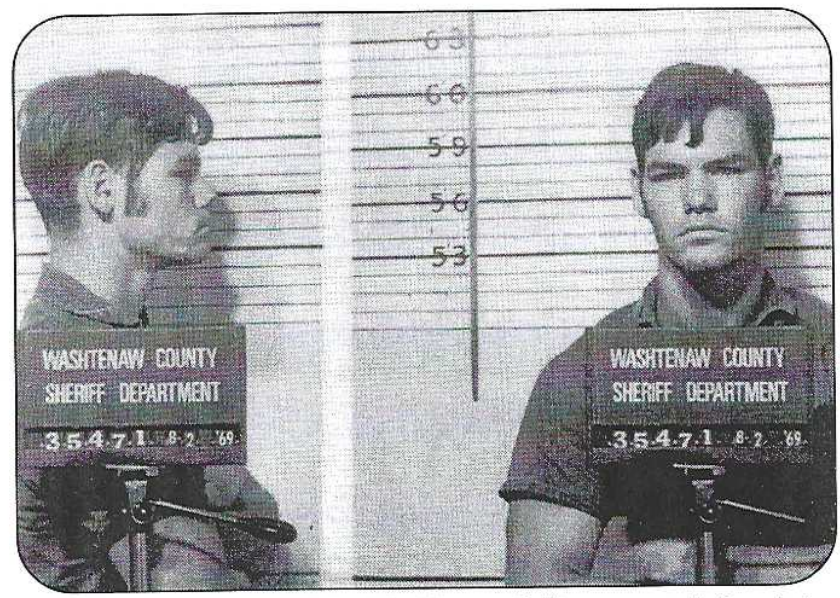
The new Plymouth Crime Laboratory proved instrumental in helping solve one of the most heinous serial murder cases in Michigan history. Described in books as the Michigan Murders or Co-ed Murders, the case involved a series of murders between 1967 and 1969 in the Ypsilanti- Ann Arbor area in which the victims were young women or teenaged girls who had been sexually assaulted, strangled, stabbed and often mutilated before their bodies were dumped along roadside ditches. Public fears and outrage mounted with the discovery of each body. Frightened young women in the area began traveling in pairs for safety.

Because it was unknown where the actual murders had occurred, the governor issued a proclamation assigning primary jurisdiction to the Michigan State Police. State police detectives coordinated a task force including investigators from the Washtenaw County sheriff's office, the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti police departments and the public safety department at Eastern Michigan University (EMU). Despite extra patrols, stakeouts, dozens of interviews and help from psychics, the suspect or suspects remained at large.

Suspicions eventually focused on a twenty-two-year-old EMU student, John Norman Collins. Tall, handsome, friendly and athletic, Collins had attended parochial schools and seemed to many like the all-American boy. His uncle, state police corporal David Leik, had even tried to recruit his nephew for the Michigan State Police. As it turned out, Collins was a manipulative and troubled man who harbored dark sexual obsessions involving violence toward women.

Although implicated in at least eight murders in the Washtenaw County area and one in California, Collins faced trial in only one case: the murder of his last victim, Karen Sue Beineman. Petite, eighteen and engaged to be married, Beineman was a Grand Rapids native attending EMU on a teaching scholarship despite her parents' fears about the area's co-ed murders. Having last seen Karen riding a motorcycle with a good-looking young man she had just met, her college roommates became worried and reported her missing after she failed to return to the dormitory for dinner on July 23, 1969. On July 26, her nude body was found in a weedy ravine. An autopsy determined that she had been bound and sexually assaulted, then beaten and strangled to death.

A combination of circumstantial and physical evidence led to the arrest of John Norman Collins. Corporal Leik had given Collins a key to his house in Ypsilanti with instructions to look after the house and feed the dog while the family was away on vacation. When they returned home on July 29, Leik and his wife found that the basement floor had been freshly painted to conceal apparent blood stains and there were other suspicious marks and stains elsewhere. Leik called the task force and Plymouth Crime Laboratory. As crime lab technicians processed the scene collecting samples of dried blood, hairs and other trace evidence, Collins was spotted driving slowly past the house. Leik hesitated to believe that his nephew could be a murderer until he learned that Collins had agreed, then abruptly declined, to submit to a polygraph examination.

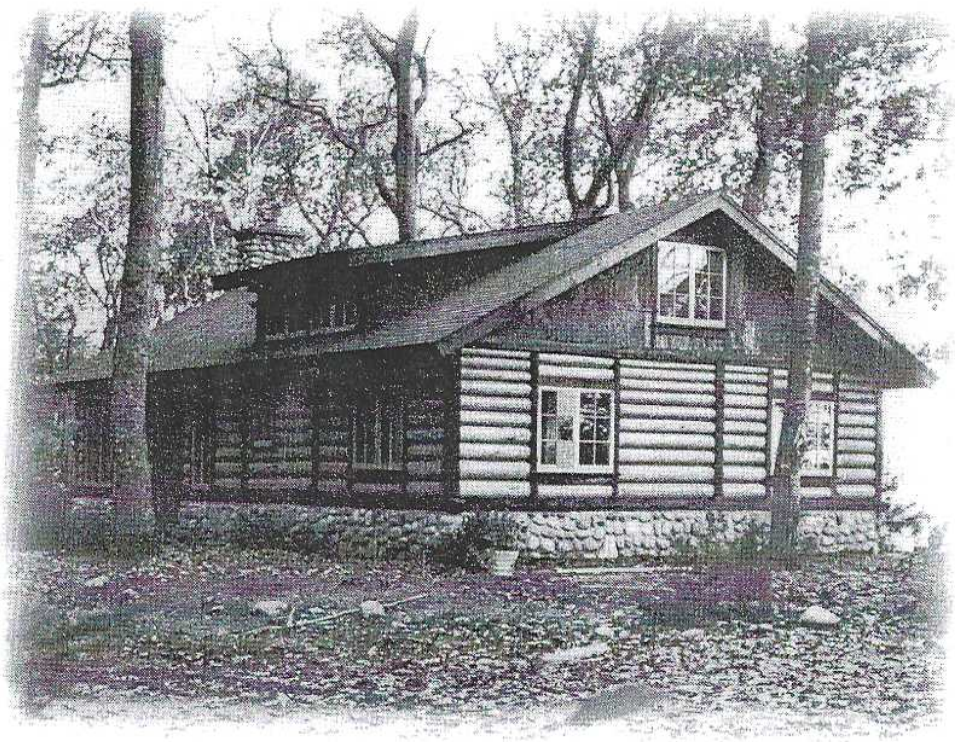



*Police mug photos of serial killer John Norman Collins, suspected of murdering as many as eight college co-eds in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area from 1967-1969. (Courtesy Detective First Lieutenant David Minzey)*

The forensic evidence and witnesses' information firmly linked Collins with Beineman's murder. Convicted of first-degree murder in a circuit court trial in 1970 and sentenced to life imprisonment, Collins never admitted guilt or showed any remorse. Despite numerous appeals, legal ploys and escape attempts, he remains confined at Marquette Prison.

Despite all their best efforts and frustrating years of investigation, state police detectives and laboratory scientists were unsuccessful at solving or bringing charges against any suspects in the shocking murder of a family of six. On June 25, 1968, someone shot and killed Richard C. Robison, his wife and their four children while they were vacationing in their summer home near Goodhart on the Lake Michigan shoreline north of Petoskey.

Detectives theorized that the killer shot Robison in the chest with a .22 caliber rifle through a front window as Robison sat in his easy chair, then entered the cottage and cold-bloodedly shot the other family members to death with the rifle and a .25 caliber pistol belonging to Robison. In an apparent attempt to camouflage his crime, the killer dragged several of the bodies into a hallway away from the view of the cottage windows. Left lying in the living room, Mrs. Robison's body was covered with a blanket and throw rugs were used to cover pools of blood where the victims fell. The bodies were not discovered until July 22 when the property's caretaker and a handyman checked inside the isolated cottage to find the source of a foul odor.



*Unsolved murder mystery: Business executive Richard Robison, his wife and four children were murdered in their summer cottage near Goodhart in 1968. (Courtesy Detective First Lieutenant David Minzey)*

Colonel Davids described the murder as "the most brutal slaying in Michigan history." A classic "Whodunit" full of mystery and intrigue, the Robison murder case attracted attention from newspaper reporters, authors, mystery lovers and mystics.

A prominent Southfield advertising executive who had lived with his family in Lathrup, Robison was later discovered to have been involved in various business schemes and swindles that could have provided a motive for many enemies. Investigators soon focused on Robison's business partner, Raymond Scolero III, as the prime suspect in the case. However, polygraph tests of Scolero proved inconclusive and police were never able to develop sufficient evidence to convince the Emmet County prosecutor or state attorney general to issue an arrest warrant. Maintaining his innocence to the end, Scolero committed suicide in 1973. The case remains officially open, but inactive for lack of any new leads.

The Uniform Division established new posts in leased facilities at Owosso and Benton Harbor in 1970, raising the total number of posts to sixty-one. A new building also was dedicated for the Munising Post, which had occupied rented quarters since it opened in 1957.

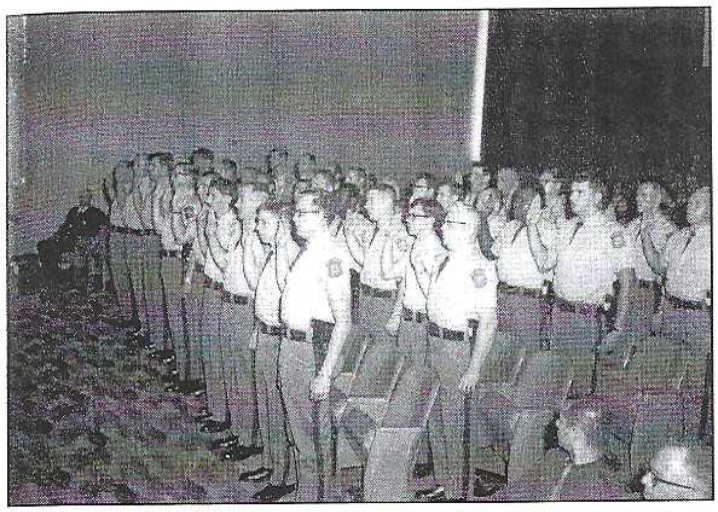
Following a rash of serious crimes including assaults and robberies against state employees who worked in the Capitol Complex in downtown Lansing, the legislature provided funding and authority for the Department of State Police to assume security responsibilities formerly handled by the Department of Administration. Growing fears among state officials that militant groups might attempt to seize or blow up key government buildings added impetus to the transfer.

To help the department fulfill these duties, the legislature authorized the creation of a new enforcement branch of state properties security officers (commonly referred to as Capitol security officers) within the Uniform Division. In the fall of 1970, thirty-seven new Capitol security officers were sworn in after they graduated from three-week-long recruit schools.

Issued special state police uniforms with light blue shirts and "CAPITOL SECURITY" patches, the new officers had limited state police authority. They could enforce state laws with the same authority as enlisted officers (troopers), but only while on duty in uniform at designated state facilities and properties, including the State Capitol Complex in Lansing and the new State Secondary Complex scheduled for construction in Windsor Township southwest of Lansing.

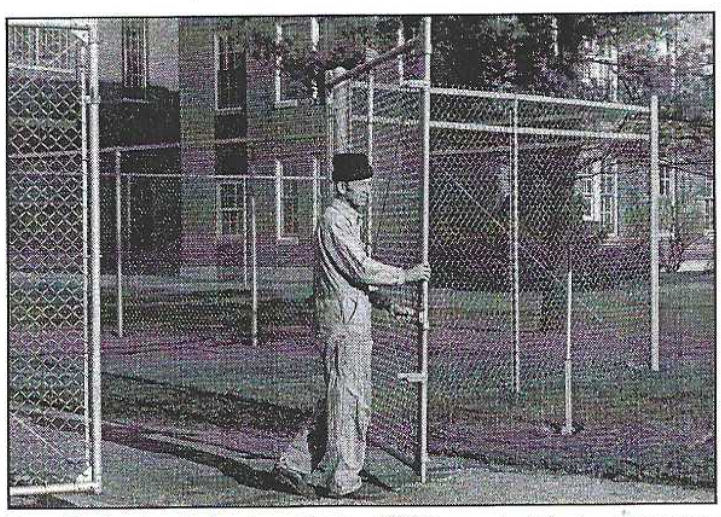
Supervised by the East Lansing Post, a State Capitol Complex Security Detail was established in office space in an underground parking garage of the Treasury Building, just a block west of the State Capitol. Twenty-one troopers and sergeants were also assigned to assist and supervise the Capitol security officers on the detail.

Security at state police facilities also became a major concern, especially considering the close proximity of East Lansing Headquarters to the MSU campus. State police officials feared that mobs of radical student antiwar protesters might try to trespass and occupy or vandalize buildings on the headquarters com-



*Graduates of the First Capitol Security Officer Recruit School take the oath of office in 1970. (Courtesy MSP Photo Lab)*

*Capitol security officers and troopers assigned at the State Capitol Security Detail in the parking garage of the Treasury Building prepare to make their rounds of the Capitol Complex using special vehicles. (Courtesy MSP Photo Lab)*



*Security fencing being installed in 1970 to protect the headquarters compound from vandalism and trespassing during mass antiwar demonstrations in East Lansing. (Courtesy MSP Photo Lab)*

pound as they had done to MSU buildings. To reduce the chances of such a scenario, security fencing was installed around the perimeter of the compound.

When Colonel Davids retired to accept a position as the first public safety director at the University of Michigan in October 1970, Governor Milliken named Lieutenant Colonel Melvin G. Kaufman, deputy director of the Bureau of Field Services, to serve as interim director pending the permanent appointment of a director. On December 30, 1970, the governor appointed Captain John R. Plants to succeed Davids as director with the rank of colonel.

## The Widening War Against Dissent, Drugs and Civil Disorders

By 1970, the antiwar and civil rights movements were reaching critical mass. Following the American invasion of Cambodia, police and National Guard troops were mobilized to quell mass protest demonstrations on college campuses across the country. The fatal shooting of four students by Ohio national guardsmen during a volatile demonstration at Kent State University enraged many Americans and sparked debate about the use of force to suppress dissent. Court-ordered busing to achieve racial integration of schools pricked open the scabs of racial tensions left festering since the riots of 1965–1968. At the same time, disenchanted youth expressed contempt for authority and the established order through rock music festivals and the use of illegal drugs. Sworn to protect the established order no matter how unpopular it might be with some, the police were branded as "pigs" by some youth, racial minorities and political dissenters.

All these issues created special challenges and concerns for the Michigan State Police. Troopers were frequently mobilized to help city and campus police in East Lansing, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Kalamazoo and other university towns quell unruly antiwar demonstrations that seemed to have become an annual rite of spring. Given crash courses in updated riot-control tactics, state police squads crisscrossed the state in patrol cars and buses as they responded to each new call. If the disturbances continued over several days, the troopers were bivouacked in the nearest army barracks, National Guard armories, school gymnasiums or local motels. State police veterans of those repeated mobilizations jokingly describe their experience with parodies of the commands they heard repeated so often: "On the bus! Off the bus!"

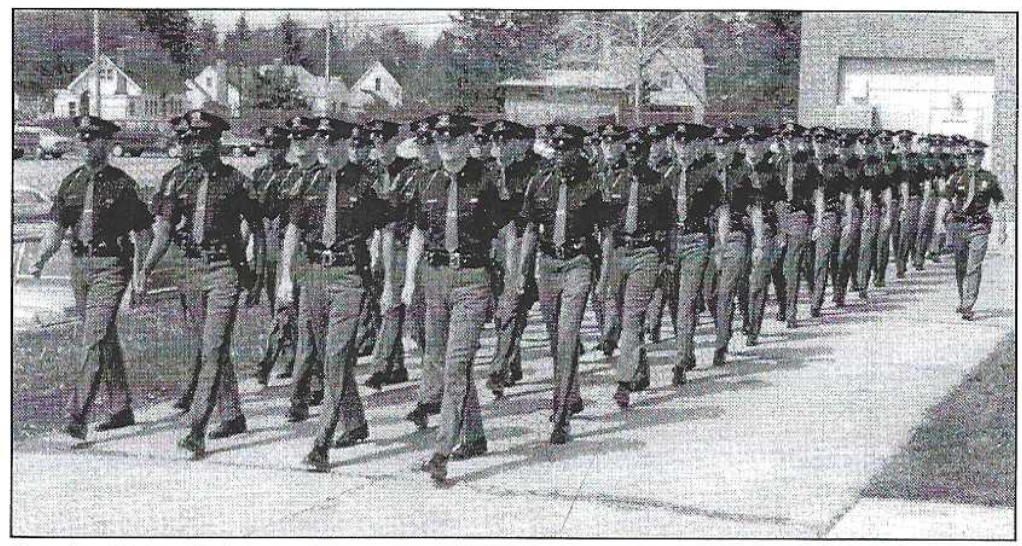
With the Kent State tragedy fresh in their minds, many local government and university officials vacillated over the decision to request state police assistance. Some feared that the intervention of riot-clad troopers (often called "storm troopers" by students) would only escalate the potential for violence and create a public relations disaster with adverse political consequences for themselves. Aware that their men were operating in a fishbowl with extensive media coverage and public scrutiny, state police command officers reinforced the need for discipline and restraint.

orator. After receiving their post assignments, the new troopers rushed over to a giant wall map to locate unfamiliar place names.

Their training continued in the field under the guidance of senior officers. After several months of satisfactory progress, probationary troopers (commonly referred to as "cubs") were allowed to work alone during daylight hours. Unmarried troopers were required to live in the post barracks until given permission to move out. Tradition dictated that cubs should keep a low profile until they had proven themselves worthy of full acceptance into the state police fraternity.

Although troopers could now earn premium overtime pay for extra hours worked, cubs were still expected to devote many hours of V.O.T. ("volunteer overtime") typing reports and doing fatigue duties around the post after their regular shifts. In addition to learning their post areas, patrol tactics and crime scene investigation methods, they also had to complete the C.E.P. (Continuing Education Program) correspondence course of assigned readings and monthly tests. Their probationary year concluded with a two-week Advanced Trooper School or "Retread School." When the Training Academy at East Lansing was occupied by another recruit school, barracks at Fort Custer were used for retread, in-service trooper and command officer schools.

Recruit school and the probationary year in the field were memorable experiences that state police officers of every rank and generation shared in common. It seldom seemed enjoyable at the time, yet veteran officers and retirees reminisce and laugh about those experiences for the rest of their lives. Probably few who have not experienced this training regimen can appreciate its deep, long-lasting impact on the lives and careers of Michigan State Police officers.



*Proud and fit just before graduation, a recruit class practices marching one last time outside the old Training Academy at East Lansing. (Courtesy MSP Photo Lab)*

## Controversy Surrounds the Red Squad, Affirmative Action and the Detroit Freeway Post

A storm of controversy was already beginning to brew over the Michigan State Police Special Investigation Unit (SIU) or "Red Squad" during the final year of Colonel Plants' tenure as director. Following the death of FBI director J. Edgar Hoover in 1972 and the 1973 Watergate scandal that ultimately caused President Richard Nixon to resign, congressional hearings and media reports began to expose a pattern of alleged civil liberties abuses committed by the FBI in the name of national security. Revelations about the FBI's domestic counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO) against the antiwar and civil rights movements produced a backlash of public outcry against domestic political espionage. Suddenly remembering that the Michigan State Police and Detroit Police Department also operated antisubversive units in cooperation with the FBI, local journalists and legislators commenced their own investigations.

Colonel Plants assured Capitol correspondent Tim Skubick during a 1973 radio interview on WKAR that the confidential state police intelligence files were protected from political abuses because state police officers were dedicated, nonpartisan, career civil servants. However, in his 1974 testimony before a U.S. Senate committee investigating criminal justice data banks, Plants acknowledged that his stewardship of political intelligence files involving alleged militant groups required a difficult balancing of his obligation to protect public safety and civil liberties at the same time. He also argued that allowing wholesale public access to the files under the Freedom of Information Act would compromise ongoing criminal investigations and harm innocent parties.

Later that month, a liberal state legislator, Representative Perry Bullard (D–Ann Arbor), wrote to Colonel Plants demanding that he disclose details about this "sinister secret police squad" and its activities so that the legislature could determine whether it had improperly spent appropriated funds or had targeted state legislators for political purposes. However, Plants retired from the department to accept a position in the private sector on July 5, 1974, without having replied to Bullard's letter. Appointed by the governor to succeed Plants, Colonel George L. Halverson became state police director just as the Red Squad controversy erupted full force.

On July 24, 1974, Walter J. Benkert of the Michigan Association for Consumer Protection (a small, grass-roots, consumer advocacy organization) filed suit in Wayne County Circuit Court alleging that the state police Red Squad had illegally spied on him and harassed him at the request of state senator Bill S. Huffman (D–Madison Heights), who Benkert said was motivated by a desire for political retribution. (Benkert had criticized Huffman in an association newsletter.) Citing the First Amend-

The governor suggested that the Red Squad should be disbanded and its files destroyed, but the Wayne County Circuit Court ordered the files maintained pending disposition of all legal actions.

ment, Benkert's suit also challenged Act 40 and the Red Squad's authority to conduct political intelligence operations as unconstitutional.

Surprisingly, the department entered a plea of "no contest" to the suit at the direction of the state attorney general's office. Admitting that the department had exceeded its statutory authority in probing a group that was not considered subversive and then improperly releasing that information to a state senator, state police officials insisted this was an isolated indiscretion without any political motivation on their part. Smelling blood, Benkert's American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) attorneys quickly amended the original suit to include fourteen additional plaintiffs in a class-action suit against the Michigan State Police and Detroit Police Department.

A moderate Republican, Governor Milliken immediately ordered Colonel Halverson to conduct an internal review of the Red Squad, with a view toward repealing Act 40. Proclaiming steadfast faith in Halverson and the state police, Governor Milliken agreed that political dissent should not be considered subversive *per se*, but he also cautioned against overzealous restrictions on legitimate operations to collect criminal intelligence or prevent violent disturbances. The governor suggested that the Red Squad should be disbanded and its files destroyed, but the Wayne County Circuit Court ordered the files maintained pending disposition of all legal actions.

Required to respond to Representative Bullard's earlier inquiry, Halverson disclosed that twenty-nine detectives and three secretaries had been assigned to the Red Squad in 1973–1974 and that its budget for that period was $770,060, of which $18,566 had been paid to confidential informants. He insisted that no telephone bugs or wiretaps had been installed. Forty arrests had been made on a variety of charges, including drug-related offenses. Based on legal advice from Attorney General Frank Kelley that it would violate the confidentiality restrictions of Act 40, Halverson declined to answer Bullard's questions about the number or identity of individual files.

Not satisfied, Bullard formed a special five-member legislative subcommittee of the House Civil Rights Committee to investigate the Red Squad. Other legislators proposed to form an oversight committee to supervise Red Squad operations, but the measure died. Legislation was then introduced in both the state house and senate to repeal Act 40, disband the Red Squad and transfer custody of its files to the Department of Civil Rights for eventual release to named individuals, but both bills became mired in heated debate.

In April 1975, Zolton Ferency, a well-known East Lansing civil liberties lawyer and Michigan State University criminal justice professor, joined the fray. The gubernatorial candidate for the Human Rights Party, Ferency filed suit on behalf of his party in Ingham County Circuit Court, challenging the constitutionality of Act 40 and the state police Red Squad. In a carefully staged scene at East Lansing Headquarters, Ferency confronted Lieutenant Colonel John Brown, deputy director of the Bureau of Staff Services, and demanded to see his own Red Squad file. Disgusted that Ferency had invited journalists, Brown walked into his office and shut the door.

Ruling on Ferency's lawsuit in January 1976, Ingham County circuit judge Thomas Brown declared that the state's Subversive Activities Act (Act 40 of 1950) was blatantly unconstitutional and he ordered the Red Squad disbanded and its files destroyed. ACLU attorneys protested that premature destruction of the files would hinder future litigation against the state police by improperly targeted individuals. Asserting legal custody over the files, Judge Brown granted a motion to allow persons who believed they were the targets of Red Squad investigations sixty days to request temporary preservation of their files.

Complying with the court order, Governor Milliken ordered Colonel Halverson to disband the Red Squad immediately and suspend all intelligence-gathering operations under the authority of Act 40. All the Red Squad detectives were reassigned to other criminal investigation units.

As the Red Squad controversy continued, Colonel Halverson attended to the department's other important business, including both positive and contentious issues. Among his more enjoyable duties was the dedication of a number of new state police facilities and operations.

In the fall of 1974, Eighth District Headquarters and the Marquette Post transferred into a newly constructed joint facility at Negaunee where a new satellite crime lab also opened a few months later. Existing posts at Ypsilanti and Lakeview transferred operations to new buildings in 1975 and another new satellite crime lab was dedicated at Bridgeport.

By the beginning of 1975, the Training Division and MLEOTC had already moved into a spacious new comprehensive training facility in the State Secondary Complex where construction had begun in 1972. Designed by Frederick Stickel Associates and constructed at a cost of $5.25 million, the new academy's gross building area was 139,500 square feet. The facility included six classrooms; a 250-seat auditorium; a law enforcement library; a seven-story dormitory addition with 104 rooms designed to accommodate 208 persons; a fifteen-position, automated indoor firing range; a gymnasium; a kitchen and dining area with seating for 275; thirty administrative offices; and a 188,000-gallon pool measuring forty feet by seventy-five feet.

Bigger and deeper (twelve feet at the deep end) than the old pool at East Lansing (nine feet deep), the new pool included a viewing window where instructors could watch swimmers underwater from the safety of an adjacent tunnel. Despite assurances that it would be used for water safety and scuba training, legislators initially balked at appropriating funds for construction of a "swimming pool" in the new academy, but when state police officials changed the wording to "training tank" the request sailed through without further objections.

In March 1975 the 89th Recruit School began training as the department's first seventeen-week school and the first class in the new academy. Compared to the old gym and Mapes Hall at East Lansing Headquarters, the new Training Academy seemed almost luxurious. Assigned two to a room as in a college dormitory, recruits shared large communal bathroom facilities on each floor except the second, where female recruits or temporary staff were usually housed in adjoining suites with shared bathrooms. Each dormitory room included bunk beds, closets, drawers, desk work space and chairs for two persons.

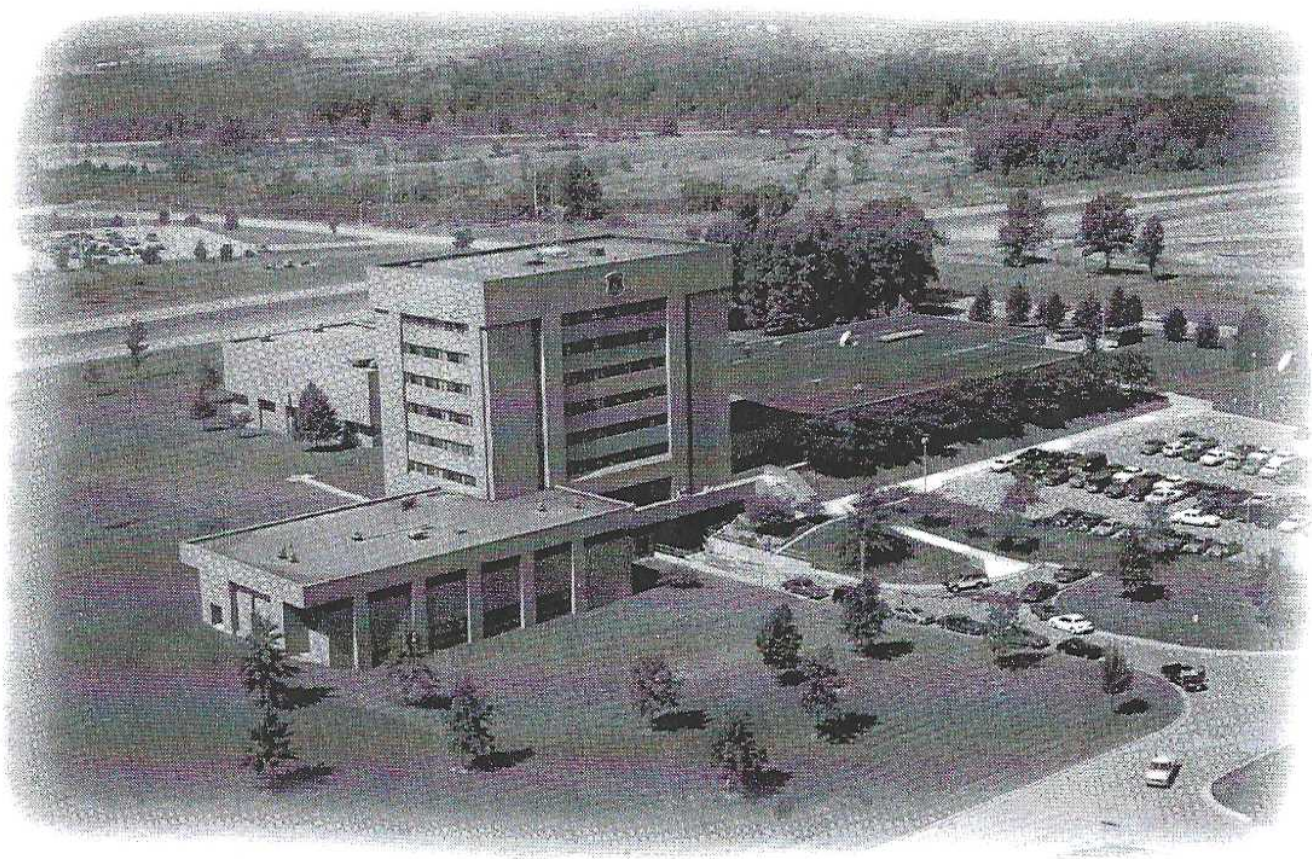
Joined by the governor, several retired state police directors and other dignitaries, Colonel Halverson presided over formal dedication ceremonies at the new Training Academy on May 29, 1975, while the 89th Recruit School was still in progress. The ceremonies included the premier showing of the department's new, award-winning, 16-millimeter, color-sound public relations film, entitled *Preserve, Protect and Defend.*

Halverson dedicated several other new facilities in 1975, including new post buildings at Ypsilanti and Lakeview. On June 1, 1975, the department's first team concept began operating at Hastings in Barry County. Administered as a sub-post of the Wayland Post, the Hastings Team included a sergeant and eight troopers who were required to live in the Hastings area. Located on the second floor of the Hastings City Hall, the team's offices were not manned on a regular basis. Assigned individual patrol cars that they parked at their residences when not on patrol, team members checked in by radio with the Wayland Post at the beginning and end of each shift.

Using matching federal and state grant funds, the Communications Section completed installation of 48 base stations and mobile units in more than half of all patrol cars in the state for the new Michigan Emergency Public Safety System (MEPPS). Assigned a radio frequency of 155.865 MHz by the Michigan Frequency Allocations Committee two years earlier, the MEPSS channel allowed units from different agencies to communicate when working together on major crimes, natural disasters and civil disorders.

The department became involved in one of the most famous unsolved murder mysteries in American history after James R. Hoffa disappeared from the parking lot of the Machus Red Fox Restaurant in Bloomfield Township on July 30, 1975. Paroled from federal prison three years earlier and seeking to regain control of the union he had built, the feisty, former Teamster's Union president had gone to the restaurant to meet Anthony Giacalone, a reputed Detroit crime boss.

Based on the likely assumption that Hoffa had been kidnaped and murdered, the FBI assumed primary jurisdiction in the case, but state police detectives assisted in the investigation. Months later, acting on tips, state police searched a field in a rural area of Oakland County for a possible burial site for Hoffa's body, but nothing was found. Several Teamster's officials and underworld figures emerged as suspects, but no one was ever indicted. Bumper stickers asking "Where's Jimmy Hoffa?" appeared on automobiles and macabre rumors about his likely fate abounded. Hoffa's body was never found and he was declared legally dead in 1983.



*The modern MSP Training Academy in the State Secondary Complex includes classrooms, an indoor pistol range, a training tank and six floors of dormitory rooms. (Courtesy MSP Photo Lab)*

Three years of tedious data entry had been required to convert thousands of manual-file criminal history records maintained by the Michigan State Police Identification Section into an automated database, but in November 1975 the Criminal Justice Data Center (CJDC) finally made the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) file accessible through LEIN to federal, state and local criminal justice agencies. At year end, the CCH file contained a total of 170,000 criminal records.

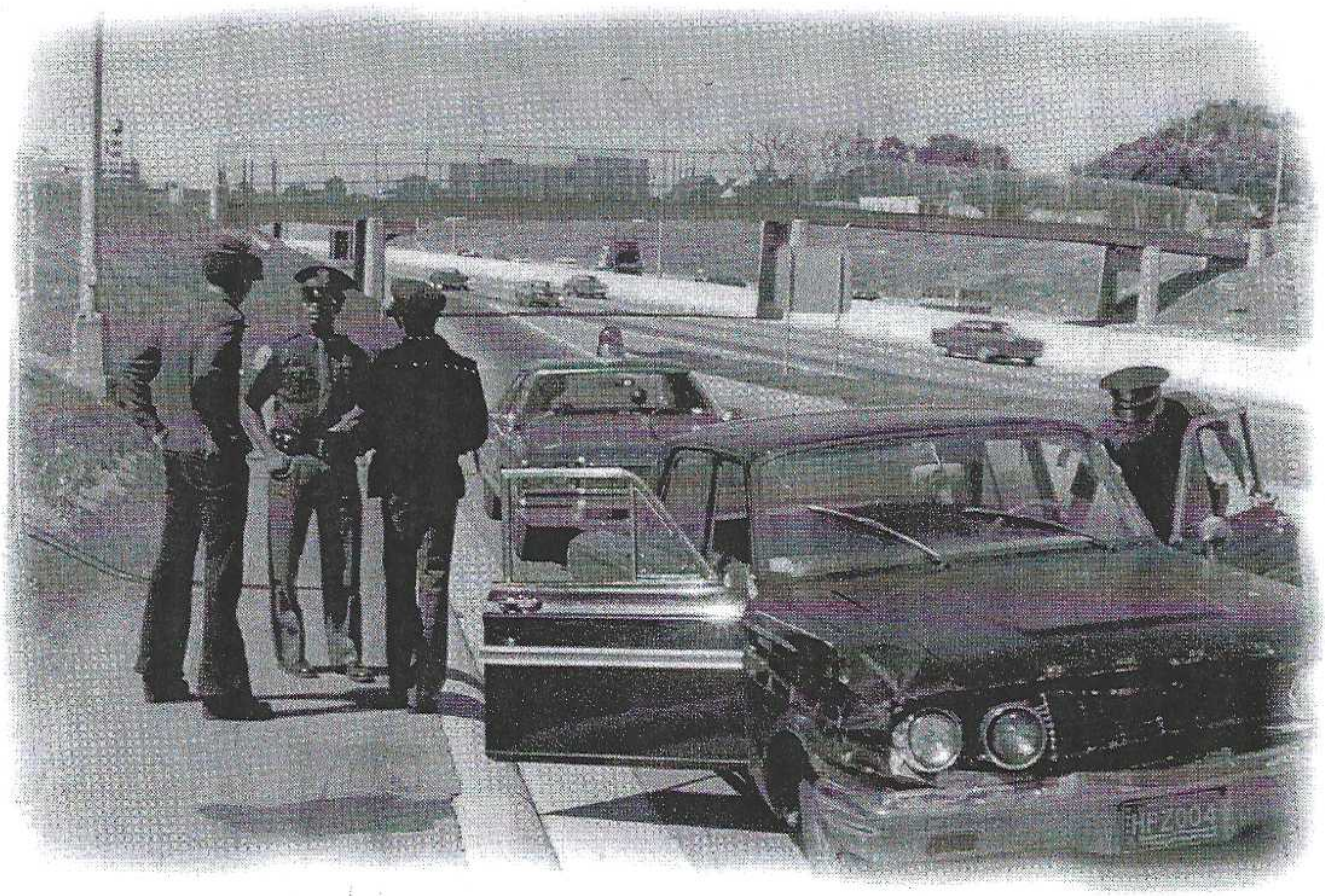
In November 1975, spontaneous combustion ignited a fire that burned out of control for several weeks in a huge industrial wood chip pile at Ontonagon in the western Upper Peninsula. Colonel Halverson used his authority as state fire marshal to summon men and equipment from fire departments as far away as Lansing to help local firefighters. By the time that the smoldering blaze was finally extinguished, forty-four departments, including the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal Division and Department of Natural Resources, had provided personnel and equipment.

The Personnel Division assumed major new responsibilities during the latter half of 1975. A new Employee Relations Section was established to handle the growing number of employee grievances and civil rights complaints through the civil service process. The section also served as a liaison between the director and representatives from several employee associations.

After two years of research, the Recruitment Section implemented the department's first validated performance evaluation system for troopers. Based on the forced-choice concept to reduce rater bias, the Achievement Development Inventory (ADI) allowed statewide comparisons of troopers' performance and provided each trooper with an individual profile of job-related strengths and weaknesses. The section also launched an intense recruiting drive to attract women and minority candidates for the 90th Recruit School, scheduled to begin that fall.

However, the school had to be postponed indefinitely as the department was caught in a crossfire of simultaneous, conflicting civil litigation related to affirmative action recruiting. The federal government filed suit in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids charging the Michigan State Police and Department of Civil Service with failure to recruit and hire sufficient women and minorities as troopers. At the same time, a white male applicant obtained an injunction from the Ingham County Circuit Court halting the 90th Recruit School. In his reverse discrimination suit, Fred Gibson, a U.S. Army veteran with a high score on the trooper entrance examination, alleged that he had been passed over for appointment to the school in favor of minority candidates with lower test scores. Months of arduous legal hearings ensued.

In the meantime, Colonel Halverson confronted a host of other problems. In March 1976, the Red Squad controversy gathered new momentum when allegations surfaced that the Red Squad had improperly released confidential files to private employers. Governor Milliken ordered Colonel Halverson to conduct an internal probe of possible abuses, but ACLU officials charged that the state police could not impartially investigate itself. At the same time, 279 labor leaders joined Benkert's class action suit as co-plaintiffs, alleging that the state police and Detroit police Red Squads had supplied corporate security officials with confidential files that were used to "blacklist" union activ-



*Following a rash of violent freeway crimes, Governor William Milliken ordered the Michigan State Police to begin patrolling the freeways of Detroit in the summer of 1976. (Courtesy MSP Photo Lab)*

ists. Representative Bullard's committee continued to pressure Halverson to divulge names from the files, but he refused, citing the need to protect individual privacy rights.

Complying with the governor's directive, however, Colonel Halverson appointed a committee of three trusted command officers from the Intelligence Section to investigate the Red Squad (SIU) and answer questions posed by Representative Bullard's committee concerning SIU practices and procedures. The committee contacted seventy-nine former SIU detectives for interviews. All denied any criminal actions or improprieties.

Based on the committee's investigation, Colonel Halverson acknowledged that the Red Squad had routinely checked applicants for state civil service jobs and prospective appointments for the Governor's Office, but without releasing confidential information. Further, the squad had shared intelligence information with the FBI, military authorities and local law enforcement as authorized by Act 40 of 1950. Halverson maintained that SIU investigations and files had been handled legally and with proper discretion, but he admitted one regrettable exception. He told the governor that in June 1970, a high-level state police command officer had improperly conducted background checks in the Red Squad files on job applicants for a private employer, the Panax newspaper chain. Once made public, the admission sparked a feeding frenzy in the media.

Even as the media heaped scorn on the Red Squad, the Michigan State Police enjoyed tremendous favorable publicity from a historic new initiative. During the summer of 1976, a series of violent crimes including robberies and assaults against motorists on Detroit's freeway system attracted national media attention. The problem was compounded by the fact that the Detroit Police Department had been forced to lay off hundreds of police officers and suspend regular freeway patrols in the city because of severe budget cuts. Detroit mayor Coleman Young appealed to the governor for state assistance to allay public fears and restore public safety.

On August 26, 1976, Governor Milliken issued an executive order assigning the Michigan State Police to patrol the freeways in Detroit on an interim basis. At noon the next day, troopers from nearby posts in the Second District began conducting around-the-clock patrols on sixty-two miles of freeways in Detroit. A temporary post was established in a Detroit police garage at Jefferson and Chene Street on the city's east side. Eventually, a hundred officers and dozens of patrol cars from posts across the state were assigned to Detroit on a rotating basis for a month at a time. Lodging for the personnel temporarily assigned to Detroit was arranged at local hotels. It was the first time in the department's history that troopers had been assigned full-time patrol duties inside an incorporated city with its own police department.

By October 1, 1976, troopers assigned to the Detroit freeway patrol had made nearly four thousand criminal and traffic arrests. Reports of serious freeway crimes dropped dramatically and the motoring public enjoyed a new sense of security. Scores of newspaper editorials and letters from citizens praised the troopers' courteous, efficient service and the legislature adopted a concurrent resolution commending the state police freeway patrols in Detroit.

At a press conference in December, the governor announced plans to increase the department's enlisted strength by at least one hundred fifty troopers so that a permanent state police freeway post could be established in Detroit. Effective February 20, 1977, the permanent Detroit Freeway Post (Station 29) began operations in the state-owned Executive Plaza Building at Howard and Sixth Streets just off the Lodge Freeway.

Despite widespread public acceptance, establishment of the permanent Detroit Freeway Post was not without some controversy. Revenues from fines and costs imposed on traffic tickets issued by the state police normally went to the state's library fund, but prominent city officials insisted that revenues generated by the Detroit Freeway Post should stay in Detroit. Governor Milliken refused to budge and the state continued to collect the money.

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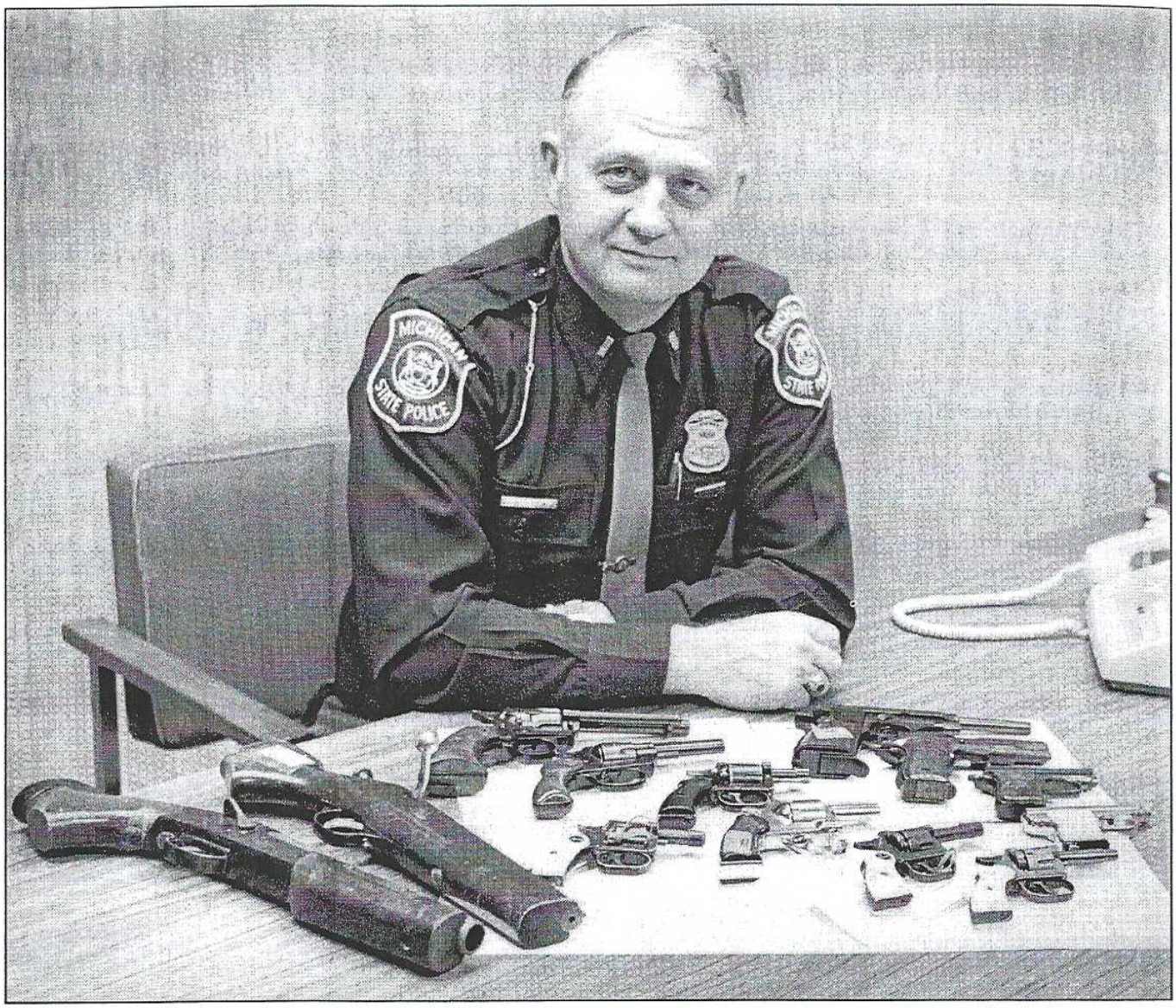
Many Detroit police officers resented the state police presence as unwelcome interference in local affairs and a negative reflection on their own department. Troopers complained of rude treatment from desk officers and turnkeys at city police precincts where they were required to complete unfamiliar Detroit report forms before lodging prisoners.

At the same time, many troopers resented being mandatorily transferred to Detroit where the fast pace and heavy volume of traffic made patrol duties especially hazardous. Troopers previously stationed in rural and resort areas of northern Michigan had to learn how to navigate the seeming tangle of urban freeways and develop new patrol tactics for survival. On some patrol beats, two troopers were assigned in each patrol car, even during daylight hours. To allow troopers to push abandoned or damaged vehicles off the freeways quickly and keep traffic lanes open, specially-designed "cow-catcher" push-bumpers made of padded, welded pipe frames were mounted on the front of every patrol car at the Detroit Freeway Post. To improve morale, the department promised troopers assigned at Detroit that they could transfer to more desirable locations after two years and residency restrictions were relaxed to allow officers to live outside the post area in Detroit. Despite frequent grumbling, many troopers forced to work at the Detroit Freeway Post eventually boasted like proud combat veterans of "doin' time at Station 29."

Just days after the Detroit Freeway Post commenced permanent operations, it became the source of intense political controversy. Wayne County sheriff William Lucas and Tom Turner, the president of a local AFL-CIO council that represented Wayne County deputies, demanded the removal of the state police post. The sheriff and union officials insisted that local deputies who




*Lieutenant Calvin Glassford of the Central Records Division displays confiscated handguns and sawed-off shotguns turned in to the MSP Gun Files Unit for destruction as required by law. (Courtesy MSP Photo Lab)*

were paid less than state troopers could patrol Detroit's freeways more cost-effectively than the state police. Citing the benefits of preserving local control, jobs and revenues, they argued that the state should subsidize freeway patrols by county deputies. Despite repeated denials that it was a union issue, AFL-CIO officials hoped to remove what they viewed as a hostile occupation force of strike-breaking state troopers in the heart of Detroit's industrial labor market. Mayor Young did not support calls to oust the state police from Detroit, but he argued that the Detroit police would be the appropriate beneficiaries of any state funding for local freeway patrols. Brushing aside the demands of these special interest groups, Governor Milliken resolved to keep the state police in Detroit and even expand state police freeway patrols to other urban areas.

In 1976, the legislature passed the Michigan Emergency Management Act (Act 390 of 1976). A comprehensive, "all-hazards" measure, Act 390 gave the governor broad responsibility and powers for responding to both man-made and natural disasters or emergencies that threatened public health and safety. The law also designated the state police director as the state director of emergency management and mandated the organization of the Emergency Services Division within the Department of State Police to coordinate the state's emergency management program.

Following months of legal wrangling, the Michigan State Police and Department of Civil Service had finally reached a settlement with U.S. Judge Wendell Miles late in 1976 regarding affirmative action policies. Under the guidelines of the federal consent decree signed by Colonel Halverson, the department agreed to hire African Americans and Hispanic Americans for a third of all openings in the trooper classification each year until minorities comprised at least 13 percent of the state police force. Fifty women would also be added to the trooper ranks over the next four years. Other provisions included the introduction of new, validated written and physical agility tests and elimination of the "policewoman" classification along with arbitrary minimum height and weight standards. The new criteria required applicants' height to be in proportion to their weight. Policewomen currently on the force were reclassified as full-

fledged troopers and given advanced training to prepare them for regular patrol duties. Further, the Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice agreed to undertake a multiyear scientific evaluation of female recruits and troopers to assess their ability to perform the full range of police functions.

As a final measure, it was agreed that Fred Gibson would be appointed to the next recruit school and his reverse discrimination injunction dropped. The way was now clear for the department to resume recruiting and training new troopers. After a two-year postponement, the 90th Recruit School began training at the new Academy on February 20, 1977.

In 1976, Colonel Halverson appointed Lieutenant Earl James to establish an Internal Affairs (IA) Unit. Responsible for investigating allegations of misconduct involving departmental members regardless of rank or title, the IA unit reported personally to the director.

During the winter of 1976–1977, Michigan State Police detectives took charge of a multi- agency task force investigating the abduction and brutal murders of four children in Oakland County. Publicity surrounding the Oakland County child-slaying case spread fear among parents throughout southeastern Michigan. For the first time, investigators used a computer database to collect and categorize thousands of tips received through interviews and a telephone tip line.

David Norberg, a Warren auto worker, surfaced as a suspect early on, but he was cleared when his wife provided alibis. Norberg died in an automobile accident shortly after moving to Wyoming in 1981. His widow later recanted her earlier alibis and claimed that he had probably committed the murders in Oakland County. In 1999, investigators exhumed Norberg's body to remove hair and tissue samples for DNA testing at the FBI crime laboratory. The case will be considered solved if the results match DNA evidence from a single strand of hair found in 1977 on the body of eleven-year-old Timothy King of Birmingham, Michigan, the last of the victims.

Colonel Halverson presided over formal dedication ceremonies at several new state police facilities during the latter half of 1976 and early 1977. Second District Headquarters and the former Detroit Post (Station 21) were transferred from the old WPA barracks at Seven Mile Road and Grand River Avenue into a modern joint facility on West Seven Mile Road in Northville. Personnel and equipment from the satellite laboratory at Plymouth also were moved into the new facility. A new Ionia Post was also opened but manpower and budget constraints forced the Uniform Division to reduce existing posts at Blissfield and New Buffalo to team-level operations. In Lansing, several headquarters divisions were consolidated into the new General Office Building in the State Secondary Complex. Included in the move were the Records and Identification, Fire Marshal and Safety and Traffic Divisions along with the Office of Highway Safety and Planning.

Troopers received several welcome benefits during Colonel Halverson's administration. For the first time, marked state police patrol cars were equipped with factory air-conditioning, making summer patrols much more comfortable. Male troopers were officially authorized to sport neatly trimmed mustaches in keeping with modern grooming trends. All troopers assigned to patrol duties were issued and required to wear bullet-resistant, "Second-Chance" Kevlar vests for personal protection. In terms of financial benefits, the state began paying 100 percent of each enlisted member's contribution to the State Police Pension Fund and all state police employees became eligible for participation in the new, state-administered, deferred compensation program.

Despite these benefits, internal labor relations controversies plagued Colonel Halverson's final year as director. Dissatisfied with stagnant pay levels and civil service grievance resolution procedures, the Michigan State Police Troopers Association (MSPTA) lobbied sympathetic legislators in 1976 to introduce House Joint Resolution X, which would grant full collective bargaining rights to state police troopers and sergeants (MSPTA membership now included both uniform and detective sergeants along with troopers). Defending the existing civil service system, Governor Milliken and Colonel Halverson publicly opposed collective bargaining as unnecessary and divisive. House Joint Resolution X failed to pass. Undaunted, the MSPTA resolved to seek collective bargaining rights through a ballot initiative for a constitutional amendment.

## The Advent of Collective Bargaining and Motor Carrier Enforcement

Weary of the almost constant controversy surrounding the Red Squad, affirmative action, the Detroit Freeway Post and collective bargaining for troopers, Colonel Halverson retired from the department on April 14, 1977. That same day, Governor Milliken announced his appointment of Captain Gerald L. Hough, commander of the Executive Division, to succeed Halverson as state police director. During his ten years as director, Colonel Hough had to contend with lingering controversies from his predecessor's administration along with a variety of new challenges.

Using federal grants administered by the Safety and Traffic Division for trooper overtime, the Michigan State Police joined with the Indiana State Police for a multistate selective traffic enforcement program known as Operation CARE (Combined Accident Reduction Effort) to reduce highway fatalities during the July 4 holiday weekend in 1977. Ohio and Illinois also began participating in CARE during the Labor Day weekend. A popular success, CARE has continued during summer holiday weekends to the present time.

The controversial Red Squad had been disbanded, but a new Special Investigation Unit was organized in the Detroit office of the Intelligence Section in 1977. Focusing on organized crime gangs, a task force of a hundred detectives from twenty agencies including state police SIU detectives solved twenty-nine armed robberies and one homicide in 1977 with the arrest of an eight-member, multistate organized crime gang known as the "Wrecking Crew."

Legislative action merged the State Health Department Crime Detection Laboratory with the Michigan State Police Scientific Laboratory Section in 1977. The merger included drug, toxicology, criminalistics, Breathalyzer and administrative units formerly assigned to the State Health Department lab. Laboratory technicians from those units were reassigned either to the central state police crime laboratory at East Lansing or to one of the satellite labs.