



OREGON STATE POLICE*

..... 1958-1959 REPORT



Honorable Mark Hatfield, Governor
State of Oregon
Capitol Building
Salem, Oregon

Dear Governor Hatfield:

This report for the period commencing July 1, 1958 and ending June 30, 1959 is the first one ever published by the department in this form and, for the first time, the statistical information contained in the annual summary has been compiled by machine.

The new records system was installed on July 1, 1958 and has been found eminently satisfactory. Information essential to efficient operation is now readily obtainable and we continue to find new means of exploiting its capabilities.

Substantial gains have been made in all lines of endeavor. Standard criminal report forms adopted for use throughout the state are being furnished to all enforcement agencies by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. Reports being received at the bureau are processed and evaluated. Pertinent information is then disseminated to agencies within and without the state as an aid to the identification, detection and apprehension of persons suspected of committing these or other crimes of similar character. Good results are being obtained and the response being received from the large majority of city and county police authorities is very gratifying.

Enforcement of the laws designed to regulate highway traffic and the companion act relating to commercial hauling demands ever increasing attention. The new four-lane divided highways offer special problems. The movements of the patrolman are restricted by the distances between points where direction may be reversed and, too, travel at speeds in excess of what might be considered reasonable and prudent over the two-lane roadways is the common practice. The accident experience is relatively good, but when accidents do happen they are more than often of serious nature and the patrolman is confronted with a difficult task in halting fast moving traffic as it approaches the trouble area in time to avert a further catastrophe. In most instances several officers must be dispatched to the scene and this is invariably true if the difficulty is encountered during hours of darkness or under adverse weather

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conditions. The need to furnish assistance to motorists who become stranded for various reasons between the widely separated points along the freeway sections where other aid can be obtained is becoming more prevalent. Our operations must be geared for service of this character as well as for taking punitive measures against the offenders. As the highway system expands, more patrolmen will be required if the same degree of efficiency is to be maintained.

Fish and game law enforcement is a primary function of the department. During the past year the members engaged in this field have been furnished vehicles of the pickup type to replace in this field cars heretofore used. They have been found to be a very satisfactory means of transportation and extremely helpful in reaching various remote areas where hunters and anglers are apt to frequent congregations of the department and the captain upon frequent occasions with various sportsmen's groups and the state studying conservation problems. Excellent relations with the administrators and personnel of the fish and game commissions have been enjoyed.

Members of the department assigned to arson investigative duties have been highly commended for the efficiency of their work by the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

The 1959 legislature appropriated sufficient funds to allow for continued operations without impairment of service for the next two years and granted additional money to permit a five-day work week for the membership. To compensate for the shorter work week, the strength of the department will necessarily be increased in two increments so that the added patrolmen are to be employed until July 1, 1960, when the change-over transition period will extend until the legislative body met with re- will be fully implemented. Other matters relating to the department and its affairs which came before the legislative body met with responsive action, reflecting confidence in the organization.

A vote of thanks is due the Oregon National Guard for making available to the department the fine facilities of Camp Withycombe at Clackamas, where recruit training classes are held.

We are grateful to you and your staff and to your immediate predecessor in office and his staff for the unwavering support extended to us.

Respectfully submitted,

H. G. Maison
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Superintendent