

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.