

Delaware State Police Museum and Educational Center



P.O. Box 430
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<http://www.dspmuseum.org>

Museum Director - Major Kevin P. McDerby, (Ret.) 411
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Geiser
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Visit the
Delaware State Police
Museum website

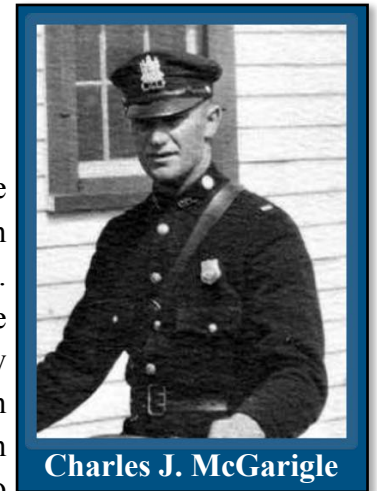
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From the Director's Desk

Major Kevin P. McDerby (Ret.) 411



DELAWARE'S FIRST HIGHWAY PATROLMAN



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In the beginning of the 20th Century there were numerous city police and sheriff's departments in Delaware but there was no statewide police force.

"At that time, most roads throughout the State were of sand and clay construction with only a few stretches of paving. Although interest in establishing a State Police force evidently existed in Delaware shortly after the turn of the century, no

action was taken until after the State Highway Commission was formed in 1917 to direct the operations of the Highway Department. As construction of the paved highway system got underway, the number of registered motor vehicles in the State increased from 313 in 1907 to 18,300 in 1920, and the citizenry soon became concerned about the speeding and reckless manner in which some of the car owners operated their vehicles on Delaware's new concrete highways."

At the September 19, 1919, meeting of the State Highway Commission in Dover, Governor John G. Townsend, Jr., Chairman of the Highway Department, reported that he had received a letter stating that the traffic on the Philadelphia Pike was becoming very dangerous to the traveling public and the department should take some action at once. The minutes of the meeting reflect that "In view of the increasing dangers on the Philadelphia Pike and the absolute disregard of the safety of the traveling public by the automobile traffic, it was decided to request the Attorney General to inaugurate some system of patrol," the Commission minutes explained. "It was resolved that the Attorney General be asked to delegate two Traffic Policemen in uniform for duty on the Philadelphia Pike."

Because of the safety concerns on Philadelphia Pike, the Highway Department was authorized to “secure the services of a man with a motorcycle at a limited figure to patrol the Philadelphia Pike.” Documents reflect that Charles J. McGarigle of Wilmington began to work as a “Traffic Officer” on January 1, 1920. McGarigle’s salary was set at \$90.00 per month.

The Highway Commissioners recognized the impact of McGarigle’s enforcement efforts and in March of 1920 authorized the hiring of four additional officers. The force of five was charged with law enforcement responsibilities on “all existing State Highways with



special emphasis on Philadelphia Pike and the road from Dover to Smyrna.” McGarigle was promoted to Captain and placed in charge of his fellow officers.

Over the next few years the efforts and accomplishments of the Highway Police continued to be praised by citizens and politicians alike. There was a price paid by the officers patrolling the roads of Delaware. Officer Samuel Powell suffered a broken ankle and Lt. Joseph McVey sustained a broken arm. Officer Francis Ryan made the ultimate sacrifice. An October 20, 1922 story in the Delaware Ledger reported an accident involving a Traffic Officer named Ryan. It said: “As a result of a collision of the motorcycle which he was riding with a touring car, in a thrilling night chase after a speeding Ford car, Francis Ryan, of 2117 Biddle Street, Wilmington, 31 years old, a member of the State Highway Police force, is lying in the Delaware Hospital in a serious condition with both legs broken below the knees and suffering from severe lacerations and bruises on his face, head and other parts of his body.” On November 2, 1922, Officer Francis Ryan lost his struggle to live. He is recognized as the first Delaware State Trooper to be killed in the line-of-duty.

Captain McGarigle also fell victim to the conditions associated with being a patrol officer. The motorcycle was the only means of transportation used by the Highway Patrolmen. McGarigle developed pneumonia and an abscess on his left lung. His physician deemed the condition to be work related. The Captain’s doctor

reported to the Highway Commission that the patrolman would be unable to return to work for six to eight weeks. The Commission elected to suspend McGarigle’s pay until he returned to duty.

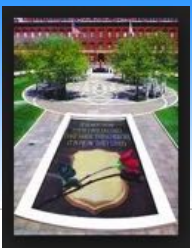
In response to the Commission’s decision to suspend his pay, Charles McGarigle resigned from the Delaware Highway Police. An August 24, 1922, newspaper story headlined “McGarigle quits job as a Highway Patrolman.” It reported the resignation of the first Delaware Highway Policeman as follows: “State Highway Patrolman Charles J. McGarigle has sent his resignation to C. D. Buck, Chief Engineer of the State Highway Department to become effective immediately. The officer well known the length of the state as ‘Mac’ has been on the state force for three years and has had a splendid record to his credit.”

“McGarigle has resigned because of continued ill health following double pneumonia and an abscess on the left lung. He first was taken sick in April and was in the Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia for several weeks, during which time he waged a hard battle to regain his health with the odds heavily against him.

“Since leaving the hospital McGarigle has been recuperating at the home of his sister in Wayne, PA. His friends strongly condemn the action of the State Highway Department in cutting off his salary a few weeks after he was taken sick. They point to the fact that the officer worked long hours, frequently seven days and four nights at a stretch, and according to his physician contracted the illness in the performance of his duty.”

It can be successfully argued that, in spite of his dedication to duty and enormous sacrifices, Delaware’s first Highway Patrolman was not treated fairly. However, the legacy being created by him and his fellow “band of brothers” did not go unnoticed. Because of their accomplishments and enormous political and citizen support, on April 28, 1923, Governor William D. Denney signed legislation expanding the size and responsibilities of the Delaware Highway Police. April 28, 1923 is now considered the birthday of the Delaware State Police.

All of us owe a deep sense of gratitude to Captain Charles J. McGarigle and his fellow traffic officers. We



express our gratitude by maintaining the traditions and Honor of our excellent police organization.

Most of the information for this article was obtained from the Delaware State Police 50th Anniversary Book.

Kevin



*From the
President's Pen
Captain Gregory Sacco (Ret.) 150*

The Museum keeps moving forward as the year heads towards an end. Over the last few months we have been busy with youth summer programs, tours and meetings. The legislature came through with another Grant and Aid although with a 20% reduction as felt by all grant recipients due to the state facing some budgetary short falls. Our latest fund raising campaign involves selling Rosary Beads, designed by Ghirelli Brothers, designed specifically for state police departments. Initial surveys indicated a strong interest. Pre-orders require payment at the time of the order, ensuring success before we place the initial order.



These fundraisers continue to be important to the financial security of our Museum. This year required one air condition being repaired and another being replaced. This is the second unit in need of replacement in as many years. In addition, some outside work was required, as we needed to remove a large tree near the HQ side parking lot before a storm took it down, possibly causing even more damage. As I stated in the last newsletter, we are making progress and are continually looking for more

sources of funding via our Fund-Raising Committee.

As we continue to work towards increasing and enhancing the Museum's role in the education of the public, we are continuing our programs with youths and school children. We include Museum tours and other activities in youth camps that strive to get our information out there and we continue looking for more opportunities to do so. As we are about to begin the second stage of the Museum archive work, which will better enhance our displays, we look to include more history about the Division.

The Division faced a sad time recently when one of our own, Cpl. Stephen Ballard was violently killed in the line of duty. It hit everyone very hard. Everyone came together for his family and ours. The amazing support, financial and otherwise, to the Division's family and the DSP Museum, by Wawa and JP Morgan Chase Bank, to name a few, serve as reminders of how close Delaware is and how we work together in times of need. It makes us proud that this is the "Delaware way". On July 25th, we added Stephen's photo to our Memorial Wall in a ceremony that touched all of us. He will forever be a part of the Museum.



Please accept our hearty and heartfelt thanks to our active duty and retired Division members for their amazing, continued support of the DSP Museum through payroll (and pension) deductions.

Thank you. Stay healthy, safe and God bless.

Greg Sacco, President



Sandy's Cookies

by Lt. Tracy Condon



It's an ordinary day at DSP Headquarters. Most of the offices are filled with someone doing his or her specific portion of the work that helps keep the Delaware State Police meeting its goals. The environment remains relatively calm and quiet. However, half-way through this one particular work day there's a sudden change in the atmosphere. First, a burst of laughter is heard from the front portion of the building. Then there are voices carrying down the corridor, followed by more laughter. As I continue with my work I start to wonder if Mrs. Scott has stopped by for a visit. I then hear another burst of laughter and think to myself, "Mrs. Scott *has* to be here". As I prepare to go see if I'm accurate with my thought process, a co-worker passes by to relay the news--- "Mrs. Scott is here!" As always, I respond to the front of the building and join the small group that has gathered around Mrs. Scott. I greet her and ask how she has been. We then chat for a few minutes, of course laugh a half dozen times and then exchange hugs.

This is how it goes every time Mrs. Sandy Scott stops by, whether it's at one of our troops, or at Headquarters. Mrs. Scott brings not only cookies, brownies and candies, but she brings moments of laughter. She always has something funny to say. Sometimes it has to do with a handsome young trooper that she's just spotted down the hallway, but mostly she reminisces about her late husband, Sewell Davis "Scottie" Scott. Mrs. Scott ALWAYS has something affectionate to say about her late husband, which is typically accompanied by a smile and tears.

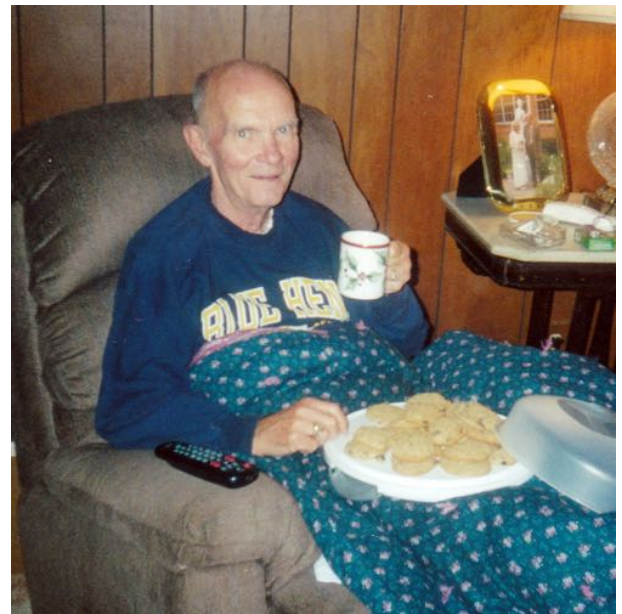
"Scottie" was born on February 22, 1934 and became a Delaware State Trooper at the age of 23. He worked at Troop 2 (State Road), Troop 6, Troop 9 and Headquarters. He served in the Criminal Division as a detective, was a member of E.O.D. and completed his career, as the Director of the State Bureau of Identification (SBI). He retired on February 1, 1978. He and Mrs. Scott were married in 2003. At the age of 77, Scottie died of pancreatic cancer on August 6,

2011. It's been six years since Scottie passed away and it's evident that Mrs. Scott misses him tremendously. In fact, she misses him so much that she has created her own form of therapy. She bakes for troopers. Amazingly, Mrs. Scott willingly travels up and down the state multiple times each year delivering her edible treats to our troopers. This kind gesture is her way of continuously honoring her husband, along with those who now do the job he once did.

What Mrs. Scott probably doesn't realize is that she brings much more than baked goods with her. She brings liveliness and laughter, as she brightens up the atmosphere in her husband's memory. She also inadvertently brings a reminder for all of us to be thankful for our loved ones and our fellow troopers. She reminds us to be proud of ourselves as troopers, as her husband always was **'so very proud to be a Delaware State Trooper'**.

Thank you, Mrs. Scott, for *all* of the gifts you bring!

*****In memory of Sewell Davis "Scottie" Scott*****



According to Mrs. Scott, although Scottie's favorite treat was Double Stuffed Oreos, he'd never turn down one of her oatmeal raisin cookies.



From the Archives



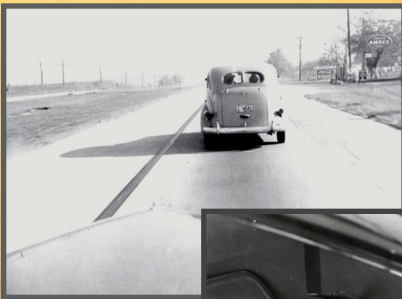
An Unsafe Car is a Risk

Journal
01/19/1945

In their effort to keep unsafe automobiles off the roads the state police will require official inspection of all machines they encounter which they believe not to be in good condition. Such orders are imperative. Disobedience results in suspension of registration.

While this program may not be to the liking of some car owners it is in the interest of public safety. In fact, the safety of users of faulty machines is jeopardized as long as the defects go uncorrected.

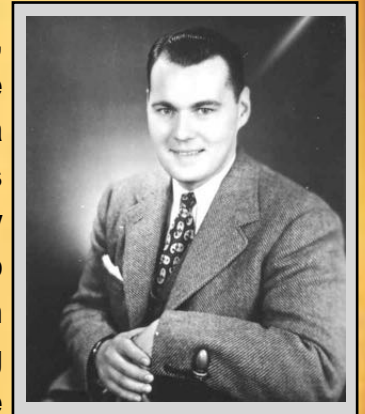
The advisable plan to follow is for person owning cars suspected of not being in good condition to have them examined by experts, and if faults are found, have corrections made at once. Failure to do this may have serious results.



Would Prevent Crime

News
07/15/1944

Paul W. Haviland, Superintendent of the state police, in a recent address before the New Castle Rotary Club stressed a point with which some young people may not be



familiar. He was discussing the attitude of the troopers toward the curbing of juvenile delinquency. The aim, he said, is to let young people know that the police are their friends and want to help them. The purpose is to try to prevent youth transgressing the law.

This is the general police policy. Arrests are made only when it is considered necessary to do so. The preference of the police is to prevent crime rather than mete out punishment to offenders. Youngsters should understand this and reciprocate in the promotion of cordial relations with the police, who, after all, are their protectors.



Dedicated Selfless Proud



In Memorium

*Our Fallen Heroes
Lest we Forget*

Paul H. Sherman
1909 - 1945



October 16, 1945



Robert A. Paris
1935 - 1963



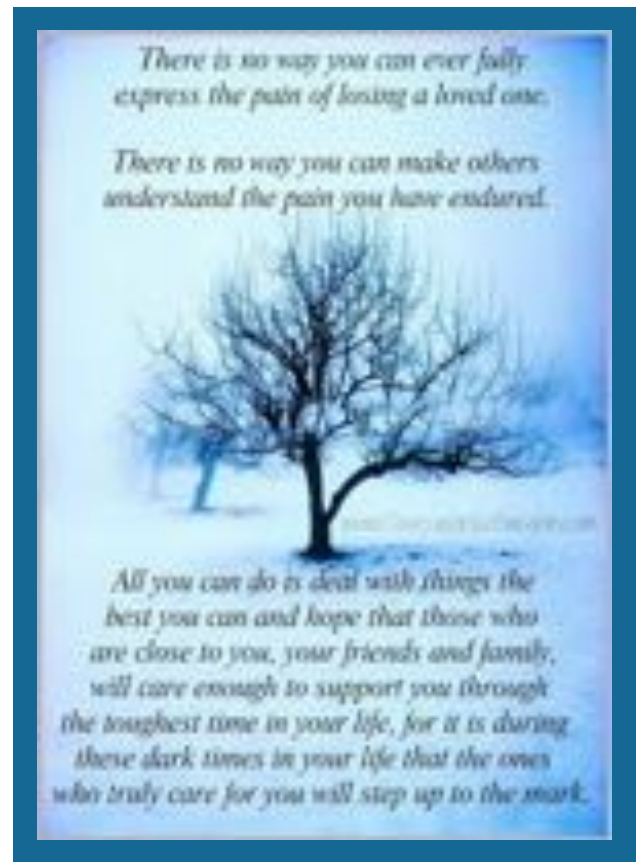
October 17, 1963



James D. Orvis
1916 - 1950



November 17, 1950





Dedicated Selfless Proud



In Memorium

*Our Fallen Heroes
Lest We Forget*

Francis Ryan
1891 - 1922



November 2, 1922



David B. Pulling
1956 - 1987



November 18, 1987



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Mark your calendar
for our upcoming events*

**Museum Board of
Directors' Meetings**
October 3rd, 10:00 AM
December 5th, 10:00 AM
Meetings are held at the Museum



DSP Annual Memorial Service

December 4th, 0930 hrs.
St. Polycarp's, Smyrna, DE



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



DSP Museum: <http://www.dspmuseum.com>



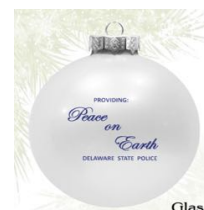
DSP Museum Quarterly Special



Brass - \$20.00



Glass - \$12.00



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

May your holidays be filled with peace and joy.



The Staff of the

DSP Museum

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<https://www.facebook.com/dspmuseum>





“Looking Back...”

“Museum Summer Day Program 2017”



*Building
a Legacy*

