Troop H History

Troop H was organized in August 1946. The troop headquarters was located in St. Joseph on a seven-acre tract of land in the northeast section of the city on business loop of Interstate 29 and U.S. Highway 169. Troop H encompasses the 15 counties of northwest Missouri. It is bordered to the north by the state of Iowa, on the northwest by the state of Nebraska, and on the west by the state of Kansas.

Troop H Commanding Officer History

- Captain James S. Poage - August 1946 to August 1947
- Captain Kinnard O. Duncan - August 1947 to January 1954
- Captain Earl L. Davis - March 1954 to January 1957
- Captain R.E.L. Walker - February 1957 to November 1962
- Captain P.M. Inman - December 1962 to May 1967
- Captain Robert E. Davis - June 1967 to February 1973
- Captain Roscoe M. Laurie - March 1973 to July 1979
- Captain Freddie H. Roam - August 1979 to June 1981
- Captain Edward F. Christman - July 1981 to July 1987
- Captain Herschel E. Sisk - August 1987 to September 1990
- Captain Frederick M. Mills - October 1990 to September 1991
- Captain Donald A. Schmitz - October 1991 to June 1993
- Captain James R. Brooks - July 1993 to August 1996
- Captain Johnnie B. Hoggatt - September 1996 to June 2007
- Captain Duane L. Robinson - July 2007 to March 2014
- Captain James E. McDonald - April 2014 to February 2020
- Captain Clark N. Stratton - March 2020 to October 2022
- Captain Shawn P. Skoglund - December 1, 2022 to May 2026
- Captain Andrew O. Tourney - June 2026 to present

The original superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol was Lewis Ellis, a resident of Harrison County, who lived in Bethany. Colonel B. Marvin Casteel of St. Joseph was the second superintendent of the Patrol.

1946-1949

The newly formed Troop H installed a state-of-the-art FM radio communication, giving troopers car-to-station and station-to-car calls. Two relays were also planned to enhance the car-to-station performance. Four radio operators operated the site 24 hours a day. The radio room was in the basement of the Missouri Highway Department building located in St. Joseph. Until now, radio contact with the 22 patrolling officers was broken off at midnight.

Commanding officer of Troop H, Lieutenant James S. Poage, released the activity report for the first 15 days of operation of the newly formed Troop H. Thirty-eight accidents were investigated in the 15 counties of Troop H. Three

fatalities were reported also. A total of 998 cases were investigated during the 15 days of work. The cases included 316 written traffic warnings, 525 services rendered, five recovered stolen vehicles with three arrests, eight felonies, 78 misdemeanors, 15 license violations, 21 public service commission violations, 22 motor vehicle offenses, and 10 drunk driving violations. All charges brought before the court were prosecuted. There were no acquittals.

Troopers R.T. Burks and M.B. May arrested three teenage servicemen in a stolen car in Oregon less than an hour after they drove away from a service station in St. Joseph without paying for their gasoline. This was the first demonstration to the residents and criminals of the effectiveness of the FM radio equipment troopers possessed.

Troopers Norman Eader and G.H Alkire also arrested two armed men in a residence just east of St. Joseph near the old Water Works Road. The duo had just completed a seven-year sentence in the state penitentiary. At the time of their arrest, the two were in possession of a stolen .410 shotgun and a radio.

Northern Missouri was in the grips of a burglar-arsonist that terrorized the area in October and November 1946. Patrol superintendent, Colonel Hugh H. Waggoner, put troopers on alert for the pyromaniac as towns formed community vigilance committees. Trooper Walter Wilson finally arrested the burglar-arsonist and ended the scare. Elopus Walker confessed to setting fire to many buildings in northwest Missouri.

In January 1947, Lieutenant James S. Poage was promoted to the rank of captain. At the time, Captain Poage was a 15-year veteran of the Patrol and the officer-in-charge when organizing Troop H.

Traffic deaths in northwest Missouri declined by 50 percent during the first month of 1947. The four fatalities represent the lowest number since the troop was formed.

What ended up as a four-fatality crash in Buchanan County began as a “road rage” incident. Two vehicles stopped on the roadside of U.S. Highway 71 just south of St. Joseph, and a passenger from each vehicle began to fight. One of the men was armed with a hunting knife and stabbed the other. The stabbed victim was raced toward Missouri Methodist Hospital. But, before they arrived, their vehicle struck another car head-on. The bloody hunting knife was found in an elevator at the hospital. Troopers Miller Asbury and William Wood worked the investigation.

Sergeant Jack Inman and Buchanan County Sheriff Lowell Nash were busy in March investigating a burglary at a dairy just east of St. Joseph on Woodbine Road. The person entered the business and, using a hammer, opened a safe and removed the contents.

Troopers Lester Thompson and William Wood found a 17-year-old Iowa girl who had been kidnapped at knifepoint and forced to accompany a 22-year-old war veteran on a two-day nightmare trip of abduction and threats. The girl was returned to Iowa and the suspect was taken into custody.

Members of Troop H raided several area roadhouses and arrests were made on the charge of keeping a gaming device. Buchanan County Prosecutor O.A. Newcomer wanted to file lesser charges on the men who were arrested and that brought a protest from Colonel Hugh H. Waggoner. A total of eight men had been arrested on felony charges, and 20 others were charged with misdemeanors.

Troop H commanding officer, Captain James B. Poage, died unexpectedly on August 7, 1947, in Centerview, MO. Sixteen original members of the Patrol served as honorary pallbearers.

Sergeant Jack Inman arrested a 47-year-old Savannah man on kidnapping charges after he took a 19-month-old child from his home in Savannah, MO.

An armed robber held up the Bungalow Park service station near Savannah in February. Members of Troop H and the Andrew County Sheriff's Department set up roadblocks in the area to apprehend the suspect, but the robber eluded capture.

The Patrol and Highway Commission awarded a contract to construct a new Troop H Headquarters Building located at the junction of Missouri highways 169 and 71. The troop was conducting business from the basement of the Highway Department building in St. Joseph. Work on the new Troop H Headquarters began on June 4, 1948. The contractor expected the structure to be ready for occupancy by September 1, 1948.

On May 23, 1948, troopers arrested a 24-year-old Albany man after he stole two cars in the Gentry County area. Both cars were found abandoned in the Albany area.

Two young ladies reported being attacked by two men after a dance. Members of Troop H responded to a service station near U.S. Highway 36 after the girls called the Patrol. The girls reported being beaten by the two men and then dumped out on Highway 36. One of the girls required nine stitches to treat an eye wound. Troopers and Buchanan County deputies arrested the two men the next day.

In August 1948, Trooper J.S. McClanahan chased one of two federal prisoners who escaped from the penitentiary in Leavenworth, KS. Tpr. McClanahan followed the vehicle and tried to force it off the road near the Red Clock Tavern. As the car spun into the ditch, a great deal of dust prevented Tpr. McClanahan from observing the escape route of the fugitive. As a result, he disappeared into the brush.

Governor Forest Smith appointed Lieutenant David E. Harrison, of St. Joseph, MO, superintendent of the Patrol. Colonel Harrison was an original member of the Patrol.

A gasoline transport truck missed a bridge on Missouri Highway 4 in Gentry County. Both driver and vehicle became submerged. Troopers spent the day trying to extricate the driver from the middle fork of the Grand River.

Three Albany men were arrested for a murder and theft of over $5,700 in old currency and gold certificates in a bizarre burglary in Albany. It began after an 83-year-old recluse died of what appeared to be natural causes in a barn on her Albany farm. The three suspects said they read about the woman's death in the newspaper and believed she kept large sums of money at the farm. The men found a tin can under the floor of the home that contained $4,000 in old currency, gold coins, and gold certificates. In the weeks after the crime, the old currency began showing up in Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri.

1950-1959

Captain K.O. Duncan, commanding officer of Troop H, announced the arrests connected with a four-state cattle rustling operation at Rock Port. The suspects admitted to 15 cattle thefts that occurred in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri.

An Amazonia man was robbed at gunpoint on Missouri Highway K at 12:30 a.m. The thief took $70 during the robbery. State troopers conducted an intensive search for the subject during the early morning hours.

Earl Wilfong and his companion, Dale Clark, burglarized the home of Tom Thompson near Savannah. The duo was surprised when Mr. Thompson came to the house and called the pair out. As they ran away, Mr. Thompson fired a shotgun round that struck Clark, who later died. However, Wilfong managed to escape. After days of searching for Wilfong, Sergeant R.T. Burks, Troopers Jack Huffman and John Johnson, along with sheriff's deputies, surrounded a home where he was staying. Sgt. Burks knocked on the door and said that he wanted to see Earl. Wilfong walked out of the house and looked at Sgt. Burk and said, "Hi Burks".

Trooper Ray Dreher arrested a man and a woman in a stolen car on Belt Highway. The couple had driven the car over 9,000 miles during the prior three weeks. The investigation revealed the couple had stolen an additional six vehicles.

Captain K.O. Duncan released the Troop H crash totals for 1950. A total of 52 persons were killed and another 1,019 were injured.

Troop H received a call from a South Dakota man who was forced at gunpoint to drive from South Dakota to Savannah, MO. The gunman ordered the man to stop near Savannah and get out of the 1949 Pontiac. Troopers, along with sheriff's deputies, searched for the car.

Buchanan County Prosecutor John Downs responded to criticism of whether warrants shall be issued for Patrol arrests. Downs said, "State troopers are fair and honest". In the past, many persons arrested by the Patrol were never formally arrested.

Three young men stole $40 in change from a service station on the Belt Highway while the attendant worked on their car. As the three left, the station attendant noticed the missing money and notified the Patrol. Trooper Roscoe Laurie found the vehicle 30 minutes later south of St. Joseph and a 90-mph chase ensued. The trio gave up and Tpr. Laurie recovered the money from the car.

Sergeant F.P. Roedecker and Trooper J.E. Shirley apprehended two escaped convicts who slipped away from the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. The troopers were looking for a stolen car from Parkville, when they found the two escapees driving the stolen car.

Two young men, one of whom was armed with a revolver, held up Bill Roe's service station near Atchison, KS. The two stole $275 during the holdup. Officers from Troop H sought the two men, who left the station driving a stolen 1940s Hudson.

Trooper C.V. Cundiff began following a vehicle on Missouri Highway 169 after the driver began driving carelessly. As Tpr. Cundiff followed the car, it ran off a curve and rolled several times. The driver was taken to Missouri Methodist Hospital for observation. Tpr. Cundiff said he was not sure if the man knew he was being followed.

Gentry County Sheriff Everett Bowman and Trooper Q.J. Watkins brought two suspects from a strong-arm robbery near Stanberry to St. Joseph. where they were given a lie detector test. A St. Joseph Police Department detective gave the test. After the test, it was determined that the two had no guilty knowledge of the crime.

Troop H members assigned to the Governors Inauguration were Captain K.O. Duncan, Lieutenant R.E.L. Walker, Sergeant Miller Asbury, and Trooper Walter Wilson.

Lieutenant R.E.L. Walker and Buchanan County Sheriff C.A. Jenkins traveled to Kansas City and returned with two men who were suspected of robbing the Bruns Market. Evidence used during the holdup, such as a double-barrel shotgun, a revolver, and ammo also was brought back from Kansas City. The two men were taken to the Buchanan County Prosecutor's Office for questioning. The victims of the robbery identified the men in Kansas City earlier in the week.

Troopers were called to the Jesse James Oil Company in St. Joseph after a man wandered into the station with a gunshot wound. The St. Joseph man had taken an overdose of sleeping pills and then shot himself in the chest. He then walked to the oil company for help. He was taken by Meierhoffer-Fleeman ambulance to the hospital.

Captain K.O. Duncan announced an order to his men to arrest motorists who fail to stop for school buses. The announcement came after the commanding officer learned drivers who did not stop for a school bus while loading and unloading schoolchildren struck 56 percent of schoolchildren killed. Until now, warning letters from the troop commander had followed violations.

A committee within the Missouri House of Representatives approved the expansion of the Patrol to 400 members and a salary increase, making a trooper's annual salary $3,600. The current size of the Patrol was 295 men.

Three Davenport, Iowa, men walked into the Imperial Central States Oil Company located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 36 and the Belt Highway and robbed the business. The three men then ran to a getaway car and disappeared. Troop H released information about the getaway vehicle. Later that night, troopers in the Macon area arrested the trio. Trooper W.W. Wood interviewed the men and all three signed confessions admitting to the crime.

Missouri enacted new laws addressing overweight vehicles on Missouri's roadways. For example, a Lenox, IA, driver was fined $350 for being 3,380 pounds overweight on one axle of his truck, and 770 pounds overweight on one axle of his trailer. The scale fined drivers two cents per pound for the first 500 pounds overweight; five cents a pound up to 1,000 pounds; and 10 cents a pound for anything beyond 1,000 over the limit.

Nodaway County was the location of a 100-mph pursuit that ended when the suspect and trooper crashed into each other. Troop H was notified the previous day when the wanted suspect from Nebraska was spotted near Helena, MO, in a stolen car. Nine troopers in eight patrol cars were part of the search. Tpr. Rhoades spotted the suspect north of Ravenwood, and the chase began. Tpr. Rhoades fired four shots at the driver during the four-mile chase. The chase ended when the suspect lost control of the vehicle while crossing a wooden bridge at top speed. The vehicle hit an embankment and bounced back into the path of Tpr. Rhoades' patrol car. Although injured, the trooper made the arrest. Both men were taken to the hospital with minor injuries. The suspect was wanted by the state of Nebraska for rustling cattle.

Troopers received a new weapon to catch criminals in northwest Missouri. The first "Interceptors" hit the road. These unmarked, robin egg blue Ford cruisers were capable of tremendous speeds to catch almost any vehicle. The cars were undistinguishable from a regular sedan except for the Patrol license plate and the dual exhaust.

Members of Troop H solved a seven-month-old Grundy County murder case. Granvel Embry came to Troop H with the intention of clearing his name as a suspect in the case. Instead, he admitted calling the victim and distorted his voice to lure him out on a county road where he beat the victim to death. When Embry was first questioned about the murder, a hotel record put him in Kansas City at the time of the murder. The hotel clerk later admitted that Embry had paid him one dollar to change the record.

Thieves in Pattonsburg dynamited two safes at the MFA building and pealed another safe at the high school. A total of $898 dollars was stolen during the crime spree. Troopers believed the criminals were responsible for another burglary at the Maysville High School where a safe also was dynamited.

Two escapees from the Buchanan County Jail lasted 90 minutes before troopers arrested them in a stolen car. Trooper E.D. Green arrested the pair near Faucett. The prisoners were wearing old clothes they had taken from the jail during their escape. Trooper C.V. Cundiff arrested another jail escapee in St. Joseph. The suspect had escaped from the Ray County Jail and was arrested at 22nd Street and Lovers Lane.

Three Gallatin residents wanted in a series of burglaries were captured after a farmer escaped his home where the three were hiding out. The farmer, whose land was located near Chillicothe, had been beaten by the fugitives. Trooper W.W. Wood said the three fugitives had fled the farm in a stolen 1954 Ford sedan. As the manhunt began, Tpr. Wood spotted the vehicle six miles northwest of Chillicothe on a gravel road. The driver slammed the brakes upon seeing the trooper and started to back up when Tpr. Wood fired one round from his rifle into the car striking the female suspect in the leg, breaking it. Several stolen items were recovered including two loaded rifles.

1956 began with a 100-mph car chase in Buchanan County with shots fired. Troopers C.V. Cundiff and C.W. Wilson observed a 1954 Oldsmobile make an illegal pass on Missouri Highway 71, several miles south of St. Joseph. The troopers began to chase the Oldsmobile that was occupied by three convicts that had robbed a Kansas business the night before. As the chase turned west on 59 Highway, the men began to shoot at the troopers. Tpr. Wilson fired one round from his shotgun that struck the Oldsmobile and sent it out of control. The car ran off the road and rolled several times. One of the convicts died at the scene from injuries stemming from the crash. The other two were taken to the hospital with serious injuries. A loaded handgun and shotgun were recovered from the vehicle along with over $1,100.

Colonel Waggoner announced a new policy: Troopers will ride in pairs at night whenever possible. This change came as a result of recent instances where troopers were shot and assaulted by fugitives.

An 18-year-old Iowa man held up Mays Cafe just south of St. Joseph and stole $23. The thief held a gun on the waitress and warned her not to call the police. She called Troop H as soon as he left. Trooper Jim Shirley met the car at Lafonda Junction and gave chase. The 100-mph chase lasted three miles before Tpr. Shirley was able to crowd the vehicle off the road. Sergeant Jack Inman, Trooper C.V. Cundiff and Buchanan County Deputy Marvin Dycus assisted in the arrest.

Trooper W.W. Wood apprehended two fugitives from the Leavenworth Disciplinary Barracks. Troop H had been notified about the escapes and the fact that a car had been stolen from north of Kansas City the same night. Tpr. Wood arrested the two at the Lafonda Junction on Highway 71.

Troop H and the Missouri National Guard will team up during the 1956 Memorial weekend in an attempt to patrol the roadways during the holiday weekend. Some 200 guardsmen that have been trained in police techniques assisted troopers statewide.

A third conviction for driving while intoxicated was too much for Magistrate Margaret Young. She sentenced the violator to 60 days in the county jail and fined him $50. Trooper Shirley testified the subject was so violent that Sergeant Jack Inman assisted taking the drunk to the county jail.

In 1957, a Chillicothe farmer notified Trooper Russell Purdy and Livingston County Sheriff Kelsie Reeder that he had found a plane wreck on his farm, just east of Chillicothe. The burned bodies of an Independence couple were found in the wreckage south of the airport. The private plane gouged out a 12-foot ditch as it crashed to the ground.

A 19-year-old Iowa man was captured after the stolen car that he was driving was involved in a crash in Trenton. The suspect ran away from the crash into a wooded area and his 8-year-old cousin, who was riding with him, gave up to police. Troopers cornered the man and after a volley of shots into the timber, the man gave up.

Captain R.E.L. Walker announced that troopers would be working around the clock during the 1957 Memorial Day weekend. The campaign termed “Slow Down and Live” became a statewide effort.

Six steers were accidentally set free at the intersection of the Belt Highway and Frederick Avenue when a gate from a transport truck opened. The driver, along with six members of Troop H, tried to corral the scared animals, which caused one crash on Belt Highway. Eventually, five of the six animals escaped into the city.

In 1958, the Buchanan County Sheriff C.A. Jenkins spoke against a bill that would give the Patrol the power of search and seizure. The sheriff stated, “I am

opposed making the Highway Patrol a state police ... They have enough work to do reducing the number of accidents on the highway".

Trooper Charles Wilson, Clinton County Sheriff William Ditto, and Prosecuting Attorney Melvin Griffon tracked down two escaped prisoners from the Clinton County Jail. The two were tracked to an abandoned barn seven miles east of Plattsburg. The arrests were made without incident.

Several troopers and sheriff officials broke up a car theft ring with the arrest of six individuals. The arrests were made in Caldwell, Daviess, and Gentry counties after a man in Liberty was arrested in a stolen car the night before.

Members of Troop H participated in an emergency blood relay to save a Ridgeway man's life after he lost his leg in a work accident. Troop H Radio Dispatcher George Crockett was contacted by Sergeant R.T. Burks at Bethany to set up the relay. The 95-mile relay was completed in 85 minutes. The following troopers participated: Troopers B.E. Wheeler, K.C. Kerns, T.H. Ferguson, and B.L. Bell. The blood enabled the hospital doctors to perform surgery.

A late snow in March 1959 covered part of Troop H with up to 15 inches of snow, causing travelers to become stranded and blocking all highways running north into Iowa.

Two men walked into the bank in Hale, MO, and robbed the business of over $22,000. They put the employees inside the vault, tied up other customers in the basement, and locked the door. The men were stopped and arrested by Troopers B.F. Patchen and Lloyd Meyer. One of the men first told the troopers that the $3,500 in his pocket were winnings from a poker game. The second man denied any involvement in the robbery. The rest of the stolen money was located under the floor mats of the getaway car.

Two men who attempted to burglarize the Gillispie hardware store in Fillmore were shot and later found in a nearby farm field. A third man got away and was still at large. Acting on a tip, the Andrew County Sheriff Carl Field, Deputy Dean Boyles and Trooper C. V. Cundiff went to the store and surprised the men inside. When the men tried to escape, the Sheriff fired one shot, and Tpr. Cundiff fired two rounds from a shotgun at the men. The two men that were shot were taken to the Andrew County Jail where a doctor examined them. He determined that the pellets were too deep in the tissue to remove and that the men should stay in jail and not go to the hospital. The three men had also burglarized two other businesses in the area before getting caught. Years after one of the wounded men got out of prison, Tpr. Cundiff would periodically see the man around St. Joseph. Each time the ex-convict would say to Cundiff, "Corky, I sure am glad that you didn't kill me that night".

1960-1969

Record temperatures in Troop H spawned a dangerous spring storm in Nodaway County during 1960. Daytime highs of 66 degrees triggered a 3.4-inch rainfall followed by a tornado that damaged several buildings according to Trooper H.M. Munsell. Tpr. Munsell reported a roof blown off a farm building, damage to a machine shed, and a barn that was moved several inches off its foundation.

Record snowfall came to northwest Missouri in mid-March dumping 18.5 inches of snow. The snow was so extreme the Missouri Highway Department stopped plowing, due to the heavy wind and poor visibility.

An Air Force six-engine jet plane crashed into a farm field five miles north of Plattsburg. Two of the airmen died in the crash. Some of the surviving airmen ejected and others crashed with the plane. Trooper F.C. Kling responded to the scene and transported one of the airmen to the Cameron Hospital. Another crewman parachuted to safety and became entangled in a tree. The local rural electric crew used a lift to free the airman.

The Troop H tower received a fresh coat of orange-red and white paint for high visibility. The painters drew a crowd of watchers as they did their work.

In 1961, Colonel Waggoner told sheriffs in northwest Missouri the bickering between them and the Patrol must stop. The disagreements stemmed from the Patrol's activities in criminal investigations in their counties. Col. Waggoner remarked, "The only objection to the state patrol in Missouri is centered in northwest Missouri. Nowhere else in the state exists a similar problem".

Trooper E.D. Green responded to a call on Highway 169 involving a car that forced another vehicle off the road several times between the Platte Falls Inn at Rochester and St. Joseph. Four St. Joseph men who were arrested in the incident exchanged words with the occupants of the other car that was damaged in the event. At one point during the exchange, two of the St. Joseph men were hanging out of the car they were riding in. They broke a window and antenna on the other vehicle.

Troop H members and the St. Joseph Police Department arrested a St. Joseph man who was splitting edgewise $20 bills and gluing $1 bills on the back side in an attempt to pass the bogus bills. According to the Patrol, the man attempted to pass the phony money at several businesses in St. Joseph before he was arrested.

Troop H troopers helped save a 30-year-old Buchanan County resident after a rattlesnake bit the man while he was working on his farm. Troopers gave the man an escort to St. Joseph where he was taken to Methodist Hospital. The man was listed in satisfactory condition after receiving first aid and anti-venom.

Four teenage men robbed the Hatcher's Service Station, located three miles west of Savannah, at 10:30 p.m. in 1962. The attendant was struck on the head and fell unconscious as the four men made their get away. The Andrew County Sheriff Dean Boyles was notified, and he contacted Troop H and the other county law enforcement agencies. An Atchison County deputy had stopped the men and let them continue to their home in Omaha, NE. The next day the Andrew County sheriff along with Trooper Robert Matthews and the attendant traveled to Omaha to pick up the four men who were arrested by the Omaha Police Department, after a phone call was made with the information.

Troop H officers joined a manhunt in extreme northern Missouri after an Iowa man killed five relatives near Haysville, IA. The suspect's car was found abandoned near Unionville, IA, and troopers assigned to area highways south of there were placed on alert.

Troopers assigned to Grundy County assisted the sheriff in a robbery and kidnapping investigation near Galt, MO. A gunman walked into the station, robbed it and took the attendant with him to a remote location. He then bound the woman up in an old, abandoned farmhouse before leaving. She managed to free herself and contact the Patrol and local authorities. Leads to the whereabouts of the suspect ran out the following day.

Colonel Waggoner visited northwest Missouri in an attempt to stop the violence and vandalism stemming from the National Farmers Organization's push for higher cattle prices. Governor John M. Dalton has been concerned about the stopping of trucks on area highways, a barn burning and numerous fence cuttings. Col. Waggoner said, "We have to stop this before they kill someone".

A total of 26 drivers received tickets as part of a statewide crackdown on improperly licensed trucks in 1963. The trucks were stopped on Highway 71 at the weight station located just north of Savannah. Truckers had been warned that all vehicles would have to display new license by January 15, 1963. Most of the owners had made application to the Department of Revenue for interstate licenses, but many applications had not been processed. The governor refused to permit the truckers to continue after being ticketed, and said, "They should have made application at least six weeks in advance".

Troopers assigned to Caldwell County investigated the theft of more than 36 rifles, shotguns, and hand weapons from a residence at Kingston, MO. Kicking down the front door, they made entrance to the home. The owner was not home at the time of the burglary.

Captain P.M. Inman, commanding officer of Troop H, announced a change in the Patrol's procedure in making speeding arrests. The change came following a Greene County court dismissing charges in a case in which a Patrol plane was involved and the trooper on the ground made the arrest. The judge said since the violation was not committed in the presence of the officer on the ground, he

dismissed the charge. Colonel Waggoner suspended the use of Patrol aircraft in traffic cases. He also said there was concern that the ruling would affect the troopers using ground-based radar.

A St. Joseph truck driver filed an injunction suit against the Patrol for illegally impounding his tractor-trailer. The driver and owner were charged with improper registration on the vehicle. Defendants named in the suit were Captain Jack Inman, Sergeant Lyle Krumme, and the prosecuting attorney.

Troop H officers participated in a Memorial Day crackdown on U.S. Highway 36 from Macon to St. Joseph. A total of 13 patrol cars were involved in the operation in the Troop H area. This highway has been designated as one of the six most dangerous highways in the state in 1963. A total of two arrests and 37 warnings, along with 15 calls for service, were completed during the mission.

In 1964, two men entered an occupied home in Cameron and robbed the two brothers who lived at the residence. The suspects tied up the brothers and stole $450 before leaving. The Overland Park, KS Police Department arrested the two suspects after receiving the information from Troop H. Both men had convictions for armed robbery.

The State Highway Commission approved plans to extend Interstate 29 another 12.7 miles. The extension began at U.S. Highway 71 to the Nodaway River in Holt County. Interstate 35 received an extension from the Clay-Clinton County line to Highway 121. The new section was 15.6 miles in length.

“This is the worst accident in the history of our troop,” stated Captain P.M. Inman after a crash on Highway 69, six miles north of Cameron killed five persons. The crash occurred on March 21, 1964, as a southbound vehicle from Minnesota lost control on the icy roadway and slid broadside into a northbound panel truck. Three others were also injured in the crash.

Lieutenant Walter Wilson, Sergeant J.C. Rhoades, and Trooper B.F. Patchen assisted in the investigation of a missing Hamilton man who was found dead in the city reservoir. The man was removed from the water and taken to the Bram Mortuary in Hamilton. Caldwell Sheriff Maurice Robison and county coroner Dr. Elster were also at the scene.

Two runaways from a Topeka, KS, boys’ institution stole a car in Atchison, KS, and drove it to St. Joseph. While driving on the Belt Highway, Troopers Bob Anderson and Dean Green observed the boys in the stolen car and began to chase the vehicle. The chase reached speeds of 90 mph before the boys lost control of the car, and crashed into a telephone pole, damaging two used cars in a local car lot. The two boys were unharmed and were taken to the police headquarters and handed over to the juvenile authorities.

In January 1965, Trooper Robert L. Owens stopped a Colorado couple for a traffic violation. The driver accompanied Tpr. Owens back to his car, where he

began to gather information. The man pulled a knife out and began to stab Tpr. Owens about the neck and ear. Tpr. Owens pulled his duty revolver and stuck it against the man's head and ordered him to drop the knife. Only when Tpr. Owens cocked the revolver did the driver drop the knife. Tpr. Owens received deep cuts that required several stitches to close. Both the man and his wife were arrested and taken to the Buchanan County Jail.

Trooper H.M. Munsell stopped an Iowa man on Interstate 29 for exceeding the 70-mph speed limit by driving 120 mph. The driver was taken to the Buchanan County Jail where he posted a $100 bond.

Troop H began to receive new patrol cars in equipped with the latest light bar called a "Visibar". The visibar consisted of an electric siren between two red lights that mount on top of the patrol car. The siren had five control positions, which were: radio, public address, wail, yelp, and sound alerts.

A Buchanan County Grand Jury returned 14 counts of possession and sales of illegal stimulants called "bennies". The suspect, Keith Howard, was accused of selling the drugs to youth as well as older persons. Trooper L.D. Jefferson was part of an investigative body that included the St. Joseph Detective Division and the Food and Drug Administration.

Two Kansas City men drove to Trenton and parked their car with the intent to burglarize the Whistler Jewelry Shop. An alert neighbor was suspicious when they saw the men leave their car carrying a satchel. Troopers J.F. LePage and Chester Baker were notified by the Trenton Police Department of the activity. As the two men came back to the car and left, Tpr. Baker pursued them as they went out of control, nearly striking a home before coming to a stop. Tpr. Baker pulled up behind them and exited his patrol car carrying a shotgun. The thieves then tried to run over Tpr. Baker as he shot at the duo, striking one critically and the other man gave up with out incident. The resulting investigation showed that the two men had entered the jewelry shop but could not peel the safe. Both men were ex-convicts.

In 1966, Sergeant Norman L. Eader followed a hunch and stopped his patrol vehicle on Interstate 35 near Cameron when he saw a set of skid marks that went off the shoulder of the interstate. Over the steep bank he observed a car in a creek that contained a critically injured man. Because of his actions, the driver was rushed to the hospital.

Trooper Bill Thomas was on patrol near St. Joseph when he observed five young men stripping a vehicle that was parked on the side of the roadway in 1967. Upon seeing Tpr. Thomas, the men jumped into two separate vehicles and left. Tpr. Thomas pursued one of the cars and arrested the driver. The other car was found wrecked and all but one of the occupants was injured. A subsequent search warrant revealed several stolen items.

Captain P.M. Inman retired in 1967. He was known as the “policeman’s policeman—always thinking of his officers”. He was the only original member to command Troop H. Troop A Lieutenant R.E. Davis took command of Troop H.

Sergeant J.E. Shirley drove upon a two-vehicle crash in St. Joseph in which an infant had stopped breathing, due to a piece of glass that was blocking the airway. Sergeant Shirley went to work clearing the obstacle, and by using CPR he saved the baby’s life.

In 1967, the makes of patrol cars at Troop H were Mercury, Buick Wild Cat, Chrysler, Oldsmobile, and the fancy Plymouth Fury. All of them had standard air conditioning. The patrol cars were traded at 35,000 miles.

In 1968, Sergeant J.C. Rhoades went to Lincoln, NE, to help demonstrate a new burglary tool known as the “burning bar”. The demonstration was held at the fair grounds. Accompanying Sgt. Rhoades was Lieutenant R.M. Laurie, Sergeants J.W. Whan and C.J. Baker, and Corporal F.C. Kling.

The Chillicothe Police Department asked for assistance from Trooper L.R. Stobbs in investigating what they believed was a routine investigation. That original case led to another large investigation in which 13 persons were charged with 26 felony charges and six misdemeanors. A truckload of stolen items was recovered.

Troop H Driver Examiner Forrest Dieter was asked to test a driver who was cited by Sergeant J.W. Whan. Her eyesight was so bad she would ask pedestrians for assistance to find her way home. On one occasion, she had trouble fitting her key in the ignition until another person told her that she was in the wrong vehicle. She did not pass the test.

Troop H began receiving calls on Halloween from some residents in Stewartsville who complained about kids throwing trash in the streets. Trooper E.D. Green responded to the call and remembering just how hard it was to catch them in the act, he parked just out of town and walked in. He found a good observation post behind a bush and just in time: a boy pulled out a bench into the street and left it there. A car suddenly started driving along Main Street, so the kid ran quickly and hid from the car in a bush—the same bush that Tpr. Green was hiding behind. Tpr. Green introduced himself and ended the boy’s Halloween early.

Troop H had several firsts in 1969: (1) First place in the intertroop pistol match; (2) The first motor vehicle inspection station in Union Star to receive a permit revocation from the state; (3) Sergeant Lyle Krumme’s pickup, which had been inspected at the station, became the first truck to have the official inspection sticker removed by Trooper Owens; (4) Trooper L.R. Stobbs, Troop H MVI officer, approved the employment of the first female motor vehicle inspector. Her name was Mrs. Carole Barton of Bethany, MO.

Trooper Brian O. Slater of Troop H was injured in March while chasing two teenagers who were drag racing. One of them hit a parked car and Tpr. Slater's vehicle hit the porch of a home to avoid the crash. Tpr. Slater suffered a fracture of the first lumbar vertebra. The two youths were uninjured and later arrested by the Maryville Police Department.

Sergeant J.C. Rhoades and the Stanberry City Marshal received information that the local hardware store was going to be burglarized so the two entered the store in civilian clothes, changed into their uniforms and waited. That evening, they heard a noise at the back door and on the roof. Three thieves entered the store through the skylight and made several trips outside and loaded items in their car. Sgt. Rhoades met one of the burglars by pointing his shotgun at him. Trooper M.C. Garrett arrested another suspect behind the store. The story made the front page of the Stanberry paper.

Trooper Thomas Eugene Pfaff stationed at Mound City reported for induction into the Armed Services on May 20, 1969. He was appointed to the Patrol on October 1, 1967. He was the son of Paul B. Pfaff, Trenton, MO.

Sergeant J.W. Whan received the American Legion Department of Missouri Law and Order Award. The top peace officer award was given in tribute to 30 years of service in the Patrol working with schools, Boy Scouts, and being a trainer. Sgt. Whan was the first trooper to receive the award.

Trooper C.E. Kincaid saved the lives of three motorists who had fallen asleep in their car, which was full of carbon monoxide. The three were on a trip from Des Moines to the Ozarks when they became sleepy and pulled off the road. Tpr. Kincaid found them at the Sunset Roadside Park near Princeton.

Sergeant C.J. Baker was attending court in Trenton when a man wearing a goatee came into the court to answer a charge of having a defective muffler. Judge Russell N. Pickett ordered the man to shave his goatee before he would hear his case. After the man shaved, he returned to court and was levied a fine for the violation.

1970-1979

Two humorous stories happened to Troopers John A. Leonardo and Jack M. Hooker in 1970. The first happened when Tpr. Leonardo received a try-to-contact while working in Nodaway County. After receiving the information, Tpr. Leonardo met a vehicle matching the description on U.S. Highway 71. While trying to make a quick turn around, he lost control of the patrol car and skidded through 100 feet of fence, posts, and a telephone pole. The owner of the farm, who was a supporter of the Patrol, contacted a local sign maker in Maryville who agreed to make a sign. The sign was posted at the scene of the crash and read, "John's Landing Strip".

The second occurred during a car stop made by Tpr. Hooker on U.S. Highway 59 in Atchison County. Tpr. Hooker had stopped a lady for speeding and intended to warn her about her driving. As the two were standing between the cars, he heard a large truck coming past their location. Knowing about the wind power of a semi, Tpr. Hooker held on to his hat as the truck passed by. The lady, not aware of the impending gust of wind, had her wig sucked off her head. Not fazed by the sight, Tpr. Hooker returned the wig to the woman who put it back on her head.

Trooper Myron C. Garrett took first place in the intertroop pistol match held at Troop F. The Troop H team took second place in the match.

Tpr. Garrett also received an additional honor that year. He was tapped as an honorary member of the Boy Scout Tribe of Mic-O-Say for the endless hours that he had given to the Boy Scouts.

In 1971, a truck driver passing through the Trenton area stopped to check his load and unknowingly to him, his wallet fell to the ground. The trucker did not notice it until he traveled to the state of Iowa. The trucker called the Trenton Police Department to report his lost wallet. After a Trenton officer failed to locate the wallet, Trooper Rex Stewart arrived, found the wallet, and made arrangements for returning it to the truck driver.

The winter of 1970-71 was one that brought nearly 20 inches of snow to northwest Missouri. Sergeant R.D. Matthews and Trooper R.E. Anderson recorded the snowfall in the Tarkio area. This snow created 12-foot snowdrifts and left many families without food and fuel. It was the duty of Troop H officers and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to help motorists and stranded families. The snow was so deep on some highways that a special snowplow was brought in to clear the roadway.

The Troop H bowling team won first place in the stragglers league at Olympia Lanes. The team consisted of Troopers Leonardo, Gary L. Wilson, and Mike DeSchepper, and Sergeant J.S. Shirley.

Sergeant E.D. Green, Corporal W.J. Hollingsworth, and Troopers G.L. Wilson and W.G. Loar were working a spot check near St. Joseph when a Pontiac stopped, and a 23-year-old girl jumped out of the car. She began screaming that the driver had a knife and that he had tried to sexually assault her. The driver was arrested ... then had an epileptic seizure.

Sergeant James Shirley was asked by the Andrew County Sheriff Reid Miller to administer a polygraph test to a deaf mute. Although the man could not read hear or speak, Radio Operator D.K. Stevens volunteered to use sign language to communicate with the subject during the test. After the test, Sgt. Shirley reported that the man posted good charts and was telling the truth.

Trooper R.D. Stuart saw a Camero coach with out of state plates on Missouri Highway 6 in Grundy County over the centerline. A pursuit began as Tpr. Stuart

started to follow the car. When Tpr. Stuart crested a hill, he saw the car had pulled over and stopped. He skidded past the Camero and stopped on the shoulder. The driver gave an excuse for the speed, and a search of the vehicle and four occupants turned up nothing. The driver posted bond at the courthouse and Tpr. Stuart went back to the scene to look around. As he shined his patrol car spotlight in the ditch, he observed a suspect lying in the ditch pointing a loaded revolver at him. The spotlight had prevented the subject from seeing his target and Tpr. Stuart ordered the man to put down the gun and he complied. The fifth passenger was on parole for armed robbery and other weapons violations. The next day, Tpr. Stuart went back a third time to the scene and found yet another handgun.

The Troop H Pistol Team won first place at the intertroop pistol match held at Troop F in 1971. Members of the team are Sergeant J.S. McClanahan, Sergeant E.T. Gillilland, Sergeant Lyle D. Krumme, Corporal Myron C. Garrett and Trooper Wayne H. Gardner. The annual event was nicknamed the Bang Bang Affair.

In 1972, Captain Robert E. Davis, commanding officer of Troop H was recently presented the American Legion Department of Missouri Law and Order Award in Jefferson City. The award is for outstanding service to his community through his duties as a police officer. Capt. Davis is the fifth recipient and second member of the Patrol to receive it.

Trooper L.G. Liebig began a pursuit after seeing a vehicle make a bad pass on U.S. Highway 36 in DeKalb County. The eastbound Ford accelerated to speeds in excess of 100 mph. As the pursuit neared Cameron, Trooper J.E. Christensen set up a roadblock. The Ford ran the roadblock and forced numerous cars off the road as the chase neared Hamilton. Tpr. Liebig shot at the vehicle several times, but even after being struck, the Ford continued to Hamilton. As the car entered the intersection of U.S. 36 and Missouri 13 highways, it struck another vehicle and continued a short distance before becoming disabled. The driver then fled on foot and was apprehended by Tprs. Liebig and Christensen. The driver had left the scene of an accident earlier in the day at St. Joseph.

Sergeant E.F. Christman and Trooper S.E. East were called to the Cameron High School after the school received a bomb threat. The troopers were advised an alarm clock had been found in a drop ceiling of the school. The two men examined the device and determined that it was not a bomb. While Tpr. East was attempting to remove the back of the clock, the alarm bell on the clock activated and sent Tpr. East jumping. Sgt. Christman said Tpr. East almost jumped over a four-foot-tall bookcase.

The small town of Clarksdale in DeKalb County had been the victim of multiple burglaries, so the citizens began an “eye ball” surveillance program. It was not long before three young citizens watched two men enter an engine shop and steal three chainsaws. The citizens chased the two burglars out of town, where they crashed their car and were pinned inside. Sergeant W.W. Wood and

Troopers G.L. Wilson, R.L. Puffer and T.E. Pfaff responded and arrested the men.

A plane crash occurred on an unopened new section of Interstate 29 in Holt County. The three occupants were killed in the crash. Corporal F.C. Kling responded to the scene and reported evidence at the site indicated that the Beechcraft Bonanza struck a broken power line that extended across the interstate. The FAA was contacted to conduct an official investigation.

The Buchanan County Sheriff's primary election results had a surprising result. Troop H Sergeant Lyle Krumme received five write-in votes. The winner of the primary was incumbent Sheriff "Sonny" Myers.

The first electronic weigh scales to be put into service by the Patrol were in Troop H at Eagleville on Interstate 35 in 1973. The electronics were installed in both the north and southbound scale houses.

Troop H employee Peggy Clark and her husband, Gerald, had the opportunity to work with movie star Ryan O'Neal on the movie set of "Paper Moon". The feature was filmed in northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas. Peggy and Gerald found out just how unglamorous appearing in a movie is. Their screen debut lasted 30 seconds and had to be done 43 times to get it right. The film also starred Ryan's daughter, Tatum.

Sergeant E.F. Christman and Troopers R.W. Johnson and J.W. Martin were involved in an unusual case. A city marshal had summoned both Troopers Johnson and Martin to conduct a driver's license check on a young man that had been operating a motorcycle at 65 miles per hour in town. After their check was complete, the pair left town. The next day, Sgt. Christman was called to the same town to work a crash. After arriving he spoke to the city marshal who said the father of the youth who was given a ticket for speeding called the mayor and complained. The father said that it was impossible for a vehicle to be traveling 65 mph, since the length of road is only two blocks until there is a stop sign. After this discussion, it was decided that the mayor and the boy's father would get in a car and try to see if it could be done. The city marshal and judge would follow in the police car. As both cars started west, the mayor and father raced to the stop sign and stopped. The city marshal and judge could not get stopped in time and instead of rear-ending the mayor, the marshal swerved out of the way and into the front end of another car at the intersection. Sgt. Christman kept his composure after hearing the story and worked the accident. And, yes, the city marshal received a ticket.

The Farmers National Bank Vice President in Ridgeway was abducted from his home by three men and forced him to open the vault at the bank. The men stole $2,800 and forced the bank official into the vault and locked him in when they left. After the robbers left, the bank official retrieved a screwdriver from within the vault and unlocked the timer. After freeing himself, the bank vice president called

the Harrison County Sheriff. The sheriff then called Troop H and the FBI. After an intensive manhunt, the bank robbers were caught at the Des Moines, IA, airport.

In 1974, Troop H played a role in the first cornea transplant to take place in St. Joseph at the Methodist Medical Center. Sergeant Dean Green drove to Kansas City International Airport and met an Ozark Airlines flight that contained the eye for the transplant. Sgt. Green secured the eye and began the relay to the hospital. When Sgt. Green arrived at the hospital, the patient was already on the operating table. Dr. Robert Tobin reportedly called the troop after the operation saying the operation was a success.

A section of U.S. Highway 59 in Atchison County was given the nickname the "Ho Chi Minh Trail". The name came due to the amount of wrecks and destruction occurring along its route. For example, Troopers J.E. Lane and John A. Quinley arrived to work an accident. The crash was minor in nature, but there was considerable property damage. A 30-foot sailboat was sitting in the middle of the roadway. As the troopers were working the crash, Tpr. Quinley observed a car drive through the scene that had a strong odor of incense coming from the vehicle. Tpr. Quinley searched the car and found the 17-year-old occupants were in possession of intoxicants. He also found some fresh picked marijuana in the car. The occupants were arrested and taken to jail. Tpr. Lane took over traffic control when Tpr. Quinley left. Soon a car came into the crash site and almost hit Tpr. Lane and the county sheriff.

In 1975, Corporal J.A. Leonardo attended a new citizens group calling themselves the "CB Eye Emergency Service". The group was formed in 1973 by area Sheriffs Maurice Robinson and Ray Boyd, along with a few local citizens. The focus of the 95 members was to aid law enforcement officers by the use of the citizen band (CB) radios. Cpl. Leonardo spoke to the group and explained what information was important to relay when a serious incident takes place.

Trooper Orval L. Townsend was recognized by the London Police Department for action he took in the arrest of two burglars while on vacation in London, England. Tpr. Townsend was vacationing with friends at the Kensington Hilton Hotel when he assisted the Kensington Police Department in catching the thieves. The London police sent a framed letter of commendation signed by the chief of police along with an English police hat.

Troopers Larry Bodenhamer and Leo Gentry were called to a possible fatality crash in Andrew County near Amazonia. After arriving, they learned that four motorcycles were traveling south with the lead cyclist taking the others to his brother's home. When the four cyclists got near the residence, the brother met a northbound motorcycle being operated by his brother. At about the time the two brothers met each other, the last cyclist in the southbound group pulled out to pass the group. The attempted pass resulted in a perfect head-on crash. The crash occurred as the southbound brother was watching. The two motorcycles that hit were the same make and model and tire tread. Neither cycle was

equipped with a headlight, and neither victim was wearing a safety helmet. The two bodies came to rest five feet apart.

In 1975, the Missouri State Highway Patrol kept track of CB radio contacts with the public. A total of 22,489 contacts were made during August, September, and October. There were 17,277 contacts concerning assistance needed and reports of dangerous road conditions. A total of 5,212 CB contacts related to violations. Patrol members made 1,307 arrests and 1,006 warnings because of these contacts. Of that total, 52 arrests were for felony violations.

Sergeant Ray Stufflebean was promoted to the rank of colonel in 1976. That is, “honorary” colonel of the Louisiana State Police after being assigned to escort a staff member of the Louisiana governor’s office to a family funeral in Atchison, KS. Sgt. Stufflebean received an official certificate from Governor Edwards for his service.

Trooper James W. “Jim” Martin was injured by gunfire during a car stop on U.S. Highway 36. Tpr. Martin had stopped the driver for driving while intoxicated and was attempting to handcuff the suspect when the violence began. The man shoved Tpr. Martin backward, retrieved a 30-30 rifle from his truck and began firing at him. Tpr. Martin was struck in the finger by a round. He returned fire and the suspect got into his truck and drove off with Tpr. Martin in pursuit. Other officers arrived and assisted in the pursuit that ended when the suspect stopped and gave himself up. The assisting officers that aided Tpr. Martin were Trooper R.W. Johnson, Corporal R. L Morris, and DeKalb County Deputy Dan Jones.

Retired Sergeant James G. Runkle was called on to make use of his talents in Latent Fingerprint Identification in solving two crimes. Sgt. Runkle retired after a 34-year career with the Patrol. At the time of his retirement, he was working in the crime lab. After retiring, he bought a farm northwest of Chillicothe. Shortly after he retired, Sgt. Runkle was called to examine a pop bottle that was left at the scene of an armed robbery at a service station near Chillicothe. He examined the bottle and the fingerprint on the bottle. It matched the prints of a suspect identified in the robbery. The crime lab re-examined the bottle and came to the same conclusion. All three suspects that executed the robbery were sentenced to 10 years for their crime.

The second incident came after Trooper J.W. Elliott and family had returned from a trip to find that their apartment had been burglarized. Tpr. Elliott’s service revolver, Sam Brown, and ammunition pouch were stolen. Living next door to the Elliotts was a juvenile that became a suspect. The juvenile authorities granted permission to the Patrol to fingerprint the youth. The prints were then compared to evidence collected at the scene and taken to Sgt. Runkle’s home. He made a positive identification that the prints were identical, and the youth was confronted with the findings. He admitted to the theft but refused to tell where the items were located. Later, through additional investigation, it was discovered that a friend of the youth was in possession of the weapon and ammunition. The youth was

sentenced to the Boys Training School at Boonville, and the suspect who had the items was on parole in Clinton County for theft.

In 1977, Troop H received a call from the owner of a grocery store east of St. Joseph who stated that his store had just been robbed and could give no other details. Officers from Troop H, the sheriff's department, and police department began to respond to the crime. Three off-duty St. Joseph firemen who were deer hunting overheard the traffic and set up a roadblock to assist. After speaking to the employees at the store, it was determined that a long line at the checkout created a holdup in the checkout line. There was no robbery, but rather a slow checkout line. The mix up came after an employee called the owner to jokingly report the busy day at the store.

Trooper Robert E. Herbert received a phone call at Troop H by a man complaining about a mean dog that was killing other dogs and scaring children in Country Club Village. Tpr. Herbert referred the caller to the village marshal for assistance. The caller said that he had called the marshal and was told the only gun the marshal had was a speed gun.

Members of Zone 9 became do-it-yourselfers when court officials from Livingston County offered the men space for a zone office. Until now the zone office was shared with the county court. Four members painted and cleaned the space. The workers that finished the space were Zone Sergeant Bennie F. Patchen, Corporal Rex D. Stuart, and Troopers Gary H. Bowers and John V. O'Connell.

Radio Operator Ralph H. Campbell got the big one while fishing at Pony Express Lake in DeKalb County. After catching several fish Ralph decided to call it quits and leave. As he walked to the parking lot, he observed a young man trying to lock the door on Ralph's truck. The man also had Ralph's FM converter tucked under his arm. Ralph walked up behind him and said he needed a key to lock the door. The young man jumped and ran away with Ralph in pursuit. The chase went around the parking lot and around the outhouse twice before ending on the dock. This is where Ralph made the big catch. Corporal R. L. Morris was called to take possession of the big catch. He deposited it in the DeKalb County Jail.

Driver Examiners Forrest D. Dieter and Larry D. Twaddell gave a driving test to a Stanberry man who wanted a driver's license. The man failed the test and was instructed to return for a re-examination two weeks later. The man began to use foul language and threatened to call the examiners' supervisors. Upon returning to Maryville, the two examiners asked for a computer check of the Stanberry man. The results showed two warrants for his arrest from the states of Nevada and Iowa. The warrants were issued for forgery and a parole violation. Sergeant S.E. East and Corporal M.R. Barnett were given the information and introduced themselves to the Stanberry man when he returned two weeks later to take the driving test. The Stanberry man waived extradition and was no longer a candidate for a Missouri driver's license.

Trooper G.C. Scott competed in the annual inter-troop pistol match that was hosted by Troop F. Tpr. Scott was named one of the three individual winners of the match.

A lone gunman walked into the King Oil Company at Mound City at 4:30 a.m. and robbed the station in 1978. The female attendant was tied up and put into a storeroom. Before the gunman left, he cut all communication lines and walked out with $495. The attendant was able to free herself and drive to Mound City to call for help. Sergeant Robert D. Matthews, Trooper Roger D. Stottlemyre, and the Holt County Sheriff began to investigate. Tpr. Stottlemyre started to notify the area truck stops and with a good description of the suspect interviewed a waitress at the Trails End Truck Stop. The waitress said she remembered a truck driver that matched the description and said his name was Tom. The man had said he would be coming back through the area on Monday night or Tuesday morning. The waitress described the truck he was operating as a blue and white Kenworth. The trio of officers set up in the truck stop parking lot Monday night and waited. Tuesday morning at 1:30 a.m. a Kenworth matching the waitress' description drove into the lot and parked. The driver who got out of the truck resembled the description given by the station attendant. The driver was confronted, and he denied any knowledge of the robbery. The driver gave consent to search his truck, and the following items were located: a .41-caliber pistol, clothing, and coils of white nylon rope matching the description of the cord the attendant was bound with. After confronting the truck driver with the items from his truck, he confessed to the crime and was arrested.

Trooper Henry C. Bruns received a call to check for a possible "walk away" from the state hospital on Interstate 29 just north of St. Joseph. While Tpr. Bruns checked the subject, he noticed that the collar of the subject's shirt was stamped with "#2 State Hospital". Tpr. Bruns attempted to handcuff the suspect and he resisted. The two men began to fight on the shoulder of the interstate as a truck driver from Alabama drove by. The truck driver stopped and ran to aid Tpr. Bruns. The truck driver yelled at the man, "If you hit that trooper again, that will be the last person you will ever hit!" Shortly after the trucker stopped, Trooper Leo E. Gentry arrived, and the subject was finally handcuffed.

Trooper Gary E. Spease was notified of a crash involving a truck and Oldsmobile four miles north of Trenton on U.S. Highway 65. Upon arriving, Tpr. Spease found the truck facing north in the southbound lane and located the Oldsmobile in a pasture one-quarter mile from the truck. After investigating, Tpr. Spease learned that the Oldsmobile had been driving northbound in the southbound lane and several cars had been ran off the road. The pick-up driver got in front of the Oldsmobile and intended to stop the car. The car hit the truck and shifted into reverse. The Oldsmobile then backed down the highway into a pasture. Two motorists went to the car to remove the keys. However, the Oldsmobile began to chase the two men in the pasture until they ran to safety. The Grundy County Sheriff arrived and pulled the driver out of the car. It turns out that the driver was an 87-year-old patient from the Wright Hospital in Trenton. He had been treated

for heat stroke and had no idea where he was, nor did he have any recollection of the crash.

During the week of March 25, 1979, Troop H officially moved from the old headquarters building to the new Troop H Headquarters facility. The former troop contained 4,000 square feet of space. The new troop building has more than 17,000 square feet. It also contained a large meeting room, a two-stall garage, a new telephone system with a public-address system, and a four-position indoor range. The dedication for the new structure was during the summer months.

Sergeant Roy R. Bergman selected Sergeant Myron C. Garrett for the Patrol's bullseye team. The tryouts were held at the Academy in Jefferson City.

In the spring of 1979, Trooper Henry C. Bruns stopped a young driver for speeding and gave him a warning. Two months later Tpr. Bruns stopped the same driver at the same location for speeding. This time he received a summons and again was told of the dangers of speeding. On June 1, 1979, Trooper Richard W. Johnson was called to work a crash and found the same young man dead. He had been driving at a high rate of speed and struck a bridge rail. June 1, 1979, was the young man's 23rd birthday.

1980-1989

In 1980, while working at Post H-3 West, near St. Joseph, Weight Inspector Wayne B. Rugg had an unusual experience. A vehicle pulled next to the scale and a rather large man got out and came into the scale house. He asked if the inspector could weigh him. Thinking that he meant the vehicle, Inspector Rugg told him to drive across the scale. However, what the man wanted was to weigh himself. He explained he was about to have his stomach stapled and he was unable to find a scale that would weigh him. As he stepped on the scale it registered 580 pounds. After the surgery, the man came back two times and posted weights of 540 and 500. After that, he must have found a scale that could weigh him, because he never came back.

Post H-4 North, located north of Rock Port, contacted Corporal Freddie C. Kling and Troopers Roger D. Stottlemyre and James E. Lane to inform them of a southbound truck that ran the scale on U.S. Highway 275. The three troopers set up a spot check and waited on the truck. Soon, two trucks came into view and were stopped. Both trucks were taken back to the scalehouse and weighed. The two trucks combined were overweight by a total of 53,380 pounds. The total minimum fine came to $5,396.

Several Troop H members were assigned to a temporary detail in Kansas City as a part of Task Force Henry to assist the Kansas City Police Department after the cities firefighters walked off the job. The Kansas City policemen manned the duties of the fire department and troopers from all over the state assisted in many different assignments.

Trooper Richard W. Johnson was on patrol on Interstate 35 when he observed an ambulance parked on the southbound shoulder. Tpr. Johnson stopped behind the ambulance and could see two EMTs giving CPR to a patient. Tpr. Johnson offered his assistance and the emergency personnel asked if he could drive the ambulance to Liberty Hospital. He agreed and drove to the hospital where the patient was pronounced dead. Sergeant Myron C. Garrett arrived and relayed Tpr. Johnson back to Cameron.

The Troop H slow pitch softball team, “HI-PATS”, won first place in the Continental League of the Y.M.C.A. in St. Joseph. Members of that team were Larry Bodenhamer, Boyd Denton, Earl (The Pearl) Weatherspoon, Ken Sears, Tom Meyer, Larry F. Lock, Leland C. Burnett, Dennis G. “Won Ton” Hahn, Larry G. Liebig, Thomas L. Capps, and Jamie Crippen.

Two Caldwell County men broke into the Maynes Explosive Company at Braymer, MO, and stole a truck. The two men drove around in the truck and then decided to burn it north of town in an attempt to erase their fingerprints. The men set the truck on fire and left the area. What they did not realize is that the truck contained two hundred cases of dynamite and five cases of blasting caps. When the truck exploded, the blast was heard 20 miles away. The blast created a hole in the ground that was 30 feet wide and 18 feet deep. The blast knocked all the leaves off surrounding trees and destroyed a barn. Two teenagers were arrested and charged with first-degree arson and stealing.

Sergeant Jimmie E. Shirley passed away at the age of 56. He was appointed to the Patrol in 1949 and served in Troop H his entire career.

The unsolved murder of Ken Rex McElroy in Skidmore would bring national media attention to this case. McElroy was known as a bully who escaped some 50 criminal charges that were brought against him over several years. His luck ran out on July 10, 1981, when an unknown gunman walked up to McElroy’s truck as he sat in it and shot him to death in Skidmore.

Before this happened, McElroy and Trooper Richard D. Stratton met one night on a traffic stop at 2 a.m., west of Skidmore. Tpr. Stratton walked up to Ken’s truck. Ken was seated with his left elbow resting on the window. As Tpr. Stratton spoke with McElroy he noticed the barrel of a shotgun poking out from under his arm as it rested on the window. Knowing he was in a bad position, Tpr. Stratton finished the contact and backed away. This incident was one of many encounters Tpr. Stratton would have with McElroy over a 19-year period. McElroy once said of Tpr. Stratton, “He was the only lawman that I was afraid of”.

Trooper Henry C. Bruns was working on U.S. Highway 71 just north of Troop H when he checked a northbound Ford at 71 mph. As Tpr. Bruns tried to stop the vehicle, a pursuit began that would last 18 minutes and cover 32 miles, reaching speeds of 124 mph. Tpr. Bruns finally apprehended the driver with the help of

Corporal Louis D. Weyer and Troopers Miles S. Parks and Bruce A. Richards. The suspended driver from Iowa received 11 summonses from three counties.

Sergeant J.W. “Deacon” Whan began his career with the Patrol in 1939. After serving in Troop C, he was transferred to GHQ and was promoted to sergeant. Sgt. Whan transferred to Maryville in 1945 and remained there until his retirement in 1971. One month after retiring, he became a Nodaway County Deputy sheriff. He served as a deputy until he was elected the presiding judge of Nodaway County. Sgt. Whan had the duty during his career of “breaking in” 12 troopers, including Lieutenant Lester E. Thompson and Captain Edward F. Christman.

Selected Troop H personnel attended Driver Energy Conservation Awareness Training program held at Troop H. In addition to Patrol employees, other law enforcement persons from 17 agencies also attended the training. The goal of the instruction was to give tips on saving fuel in the operation of law enforcement vehicles.

Working the desk at Troop H is challenging, and when the weather gets bad the desk can bring out classic phone conversations with the public. In 1982, Sergeant Robert H. Mudd was working the desk after an evening rain had turned to ice. A lady called the to inquire about the road conditions. Sgt. Mudd told her that the area roads were mostly clear with the possibility of several icy spots. She quickly responded asking, “Sergeant, would you tell me just exactly where those spots are?”

Sergeant Russell L. Morris was also working the desk at Troop H one evening when a man came in and asked for help. He was having trouble with his “fuzz buster” and wanted to know if the good sergeant would help him fix it. He was sent on his way.

On a May afternoon, nine-year-old Jennifer Braden was kidnapped from her home in Gallatin. A truck pulled up in front of her home, and after speaking with the stranger, she got in and left with him. An intensive search for the little girl by law enforcement and community members followed with negative results. Later that day, a liquor storeowner in Hamilton reported two suspicious men in her store to the sheriff of Caldwell County. She recorded their license plate, and that number closely matched the plate of a stolen truck from Garden City, MO. It was also determined that the two men in the liquor store were escapees from jail in Louisiana. The two men left the state and drove to Texas where they became involved in a pursuit with the officers from the Sherman Police Department. One of the men was apprehended and the other managed to escape.

On May 12, officers from northwest Missouri went to Sherman, TX, and interviewed the man who was apprehended during the pursuit. He told investigators that while in Gallatin his buddy told him that they needed to get the hell out of town because he had just killed a guy and dumped him in a stream.

Officers were unable to interview his partner because he was killed a few days after the pursuit in Louisiana. While attempting to burglarize a home he was shot and killed by the homeowner. Jennifer's body was never recovered.

While on patrol in the town of Gentry, Trooper Henry C. Bruns noticed a citizen wanting him to stop his "California package" patrol vehicle for some type of important message. After stopping, Tpr. Bruns asked the citizen what was wrong. The man said that he wanted to let the trooper know that the visibar had fell off the patrol car.

Lieutenant Lester E. Thompson retired after 34 years of service. Lt. Thompson was appointed to the Patrol in 1946, and was the only trooper stationed in Atchison and Holt counties for many years.

In 1983, Corporal Harold Stanfield went to look out the window of his home and saw two subjects bending the antennas on his patrol car. Stanfield got dressed and got into his car in time to arrest the two subjects. Both were charged with tampering.

Troop H radio notified Trooper Joseph E. Christensen to respond to a hot air balloon crash site with injuries in Worth County. When Tpr. Christensen arrived, he learned that one of the injured parties was the wife of Flip Wilson, a famous actor and comedian. He and his wife were in separate balloons attempting to travel from St. Louis to Louisiana, but a change in wind direction sent them to Worth County. The balloon that Flip was riding in landed a few miles from the crash site, and he was able to accompany his wife to the hospital.

Sergeant Karl E. Reichman had the opportunity to interview movie star and host of Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" Jack Palance. Palance was in St. Joseph to film stories for the television series at the Patee House and the Jesse James home. Mr. Palance thought the uniform of the Missouri State Highway Patrol was the most impressive he had seen. He especially liked the campaign hats.

Sergeant Ray L. Stufflebean and Trooper Mervyn E. "E.J." Horne received information from Troop H radio about an apparent shooting and homicide at a mobile home in southern Buchanan County. Upon arriving, the two officers apprehended the perpetrator and charged him with manslaughter.

Troop H radio notified Corporal John R. Remick and Trooper E.J. Horne of a burglary in progress in southern Buchanan County. The two officers responded to the scene and found the suspect hiding in a nearby bean field. He gave himself up and was charged in the incident.

Sergeant M.H. Garrett graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, in 1984. Sgt. Garrett was a student of the 134th session. According to FBI statistics, 78 law enforcement officers were killed in 1983. In 72 of the incidents, firearms were used against officers.

Sergeant Robert E. Anderson was assigned to the Hells Angels “World Run” at the Lake of the Ozarks. Members from Canada, Argentina, Austria, Germany, and France were on hand for the meeting. Sgt. Anderson was one of several Division of Drug and Crime Control officers assigned to gather intelligence on the group’s activities.

A safety suggestion made by Sergeant Karl E. Reichman was implemented at every troop headquarters and General Headquarters. Sgt. Reichman came up with the idea to post buckle up signs at every driveway near Highway Patrol offices. The signs were designed by the Patrol’s Public Information Division and installed by Patrol maintenance crews.

The small town of Plattsburg in Clinton County became the scene of an intense farm foreclosure sale at the county courthouse in 1985. Many farmers were going bankrupt, due to high interest rates on farm loans and low grain prices. Numerous farmers and other supporters showed up at the courthouse to stop the banks from legally selling farms. Members of Troop H were asked by the Clinton County Sheriff Robert Defreece to assist with security during the sale.

The crowd swelled to between 300 and 400 persons prior to the sale. A squad of troopers tried to open the courthouse doors and start the sale. But as they tried to open the doors, the crowd pushed forward and began to shout, “Stop the sale!” A second squad was put in place to bolster the first squad, and the officers were able to open the doors and conduct the sale. During the pushing match, five people were arrested and charged with peace disturbance. At one point, a lady in the crowd pulled a trooper’s gun and passed it back into the crowd. The revolver was returned to the trooper.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson joined the farmer’s cause and brought national attention to the issue. A second farm sale in Chillicothe was rumored to be a repeat of the Plattsburg sale and numerous members of Troop H responded to Chillicothe. Singer John Cougar and Reverend Jesse Jackson were at the sale to protest. The sale was completed despite protests. Cougar gave a free concert to raise money and awareness to the problems of farmers.

Troop H officers received new radar units in 1985. The MPH S-80 replaced the Speed Gun 8. The new units were the first multi-piece radar with both front and rear radar heads.

Trooper Christopher C. Hoskins represented the Patrol during the Police Olympics that were held in Florissant, MO. Tpr. Hoskins entered the shot put and discus events. After grueling training, he was able to set a new Police Olympics record in the shot put and in the discus. Tpr. Hoskins brought home two gold medals.

The Mercer County Sheriff’s Office received a call from a psychiatrist in St. Louis advising that a patient of his in Mercer, MO, was about to commit suicide and

needed to be stopped. Sheriff Hobbs and Trooper Mitchel K. Allen responded to the residence and found a woman holding a butcher knife. Tpr. Allen talked the lady out of the knife and made arrangements for her to stay at the state hospital in St. Joseph. The lady became upset with the decision and stopped breathing. Tpr. Allen performed CPR until she was revived. Two more times the lady collapsed and stopped breathing, only to be revived by Tpr. Allen. The lady was taken by ambulance to the hospital in Bethany where she received treatment.

In 1986, Troop H hosted a pre-Labor Day weekend Operation C.A.R.E. news conference with representation from three states. The Kansas and Nebraska highway patrols were in attendance to explain their respective programs. Although the state agencies differ in uniforms, the safety message to drivers remained identical.

Trooper Donald R. Tyes stopped a vehicle on U.S. Highway 59, just south of St. Joseph, and found the occupants in possession of stolen items from a burglary they had just committed in Atchison, KS. Both men were charged with receiving stolen property and an additional three burglaries were also cleared up that had occurred in St. Joseph earlier in the year.

Trooper Larry F. Lock made a traffic stop and found a knife sticking out of the backpack of a passenger who had been hitchhiking. Tpr. Lock searched the bag and found it containing 15 pounds of marijuana along with a 12-inch hunting knife.

Sergeants Robert E. Anderson, Ray L. Stufflebean, and Jamie Crippen were en route to Caldwell County on U.S. 36 highway. Four miles west of Hamilton, Sgt. Anderson attempted to pass a truck, and the truck made a left turn into the Patrol vehicle. Both vehicles involved in the crash were totaled. Because the three men were wearing their seat belts, they walked away from the crash with minor injuries.

A pregnant Princeton woman and her husband left their home to drive to the hospital as the woman began to have contractions. On the way to the hospital, the husband lost control of the car, and it went off the roadway where it overturned. The couple was able to get out of the vehicle and walk to her brother’s house. The brother, however, did not have enough fuel to drive to the hospital. The three then walked to Trooper Gary L. Moore’s home and asked for help. Tpr. Moore called an ambulance to transport the pregnant woman to the hospital. A few miles down the road, a baby boy was born in the back of the ambulance.

On February 16, 1987, Troop H tragically experienced the first loss of life in the troop’s history. Corporal Henry C. Bruns was killed when the patrol vehicle he was riding in skidded on an ice-covered bridge and hit the bridge abutment. Trooper Keverne L. Dulle was driving the patrol car at the time of the crash. Cpl.

Bruns was appointed to the Patrol in 1968 and was promoted to corporal in 1985. He served in Troop H at Cameron, St. Joseph, Maryville, and Trenton.

Senate Bill 83 passed was by the 84th Missouri General Assembly and provided a maximum speed limit of 65 mph on interstate highways outside urbanized areas of 50,000 or more population for all vehicles except trucks registered with a gross weight of 24,000 pounds or more. Such trucks had a maximum of 60 mph on the same rural interstates. The maximum speed limit inside urbanized areas remained 55 mph.

Trooper Brian C. Jamison arrested a driver on Interstate 29 for driving while intoxicated. A passenger in the car was not cooperating so Tpr. Jamison called Trooper Jerel A. Schomer to assist with the drunken passenger. Tpr. Jamison took the driver to the Buchanan County Jail, and the passenger refused a ride from the scene. The passenger was told by both troopers not to drive the vehicle. Tpr. Schomer told the driver before he left that he would be waiting over the hill and the passenger shouldn't drive. Thirty minutes after Tpr. Jamison had left, Tpr. Schomer observed the passenger driving the same car and stopped it. The man was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Corporal John W. Elliott received an honor from the Jefferson City area Red Cross for saving the life of a fellow trooper while at the Academy. Cpl. Elliott was eating dinner at the cafeteria and noticed that Trooper Terry R. Spain began to choke on his dinner. The blockage prevented Tpr. Spain from breathing. Cpl. Elliott performed the Heimlich maneuver on Tpr. Spain to remove the food in his throat. Cpl. Elliott used his first-aid training to save the life of a co-worker.

In 1988, a new type of patrol car was unveiled. The Ford Mustang began service and was purchased primarily for the interstate highway system. The 302-fuel injected engine was combined with an automatic transmission and heavy-duty brakes. The officers who were assigned the new Mustangs had already graduated from the Ford Mustang Emergency Vehicle Operation Course in Clinton, OK. The acceleration of the Mustang allowed a trooper to close the distance between him and the violator quicker, thus making the traffic stop safer.

Troop H received a number of new HK93 semi-automatic rifles as part of a gift that was donated to the Patrol by a wealthy Kansas City area businessman Delbert Dunmire. Mr. Dunmire was an avid supporter of the Patrol and had financially supported police agencies in the past.

Trooper Larry F. Lock was working traffic on Interstate 29 south of St. Joseph and discovered an unidentified homicide victim in the rear of a Volkswagen bus. The man had died from several bullet wounds. Sergeants Larry R. Stobbs, Miles S. Parks and Corporal Larry M. Bodenhamer worked the investigation with the Nebraska State Patrol. The victim was identified as Raymond Thompson, a tax protestor who had purchased a farm in Falls City, NE, from a fellow protestor, Matthew Sikora. Mr. Sikora was a suspect in the case and had moved to Yakima,

WA, to live with his brother. Sgt. Stobbs and a member of the Nebraska Patrol made arrangements to interview Sikora and flew to the airport in Washington to conduct the interview. At the meeting, Matthew Sikora confessed to the murder and was taken back to Nebraska after he waived extradition.

Two members of Troop H won gold medals at the Missouri State Police Olympics in Hazelwood, MO. Trooper Christopher C. Hoskins won two gold medals for the shot put and discus. Trooper Michael J. Noellsch won a gold medal in the 198-pound power lifting class. He squatted 535 pounds, bench pressed 375 pounds, and dead lifted 540 pounds. Tpr. Noellsch was named the best lifter of the meet.

Troop H was active in all programs associated with carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the Missouri State Highway Patrol during 1989.

In the area of enforcement, the officers in Troop H continued their emphasis on speed enforcement, enforcing laws relating to driving while intoxicated and drug enforcement. Members of the troop conducted 29 speed enforcement saturations in the 15 counties of Troop H resulting in 258 arrests and 390 warnings. Troop H officers made a total of 504 arrests for driving while intoxicated in 1989. Fifty-six arrests were made for drug-related offenses.

Troop H personnel also were active in the areas of safety and information, motor vehicle inspection, driver examination, commercial vehicle inspection, and communications.

1990-1999

Several noteworthy events took place during 1990. The following highlights are of interest:

Troop H was assigned its first pilot and aircraft. Larry L. Luikart transferred to Troop H and was assigned as pilot of 91MP, a Cessna 182 Skylane.

The summer of 1990 brought many out-of-state persons picking wild marijuana mainly in Atchison and Holt counties. This area has become widely known across the United States and the Troop H marijuana eradication team arrested subjects from at least eight different states.

The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program began to gain momentum with three graduations.

Troop H activity for 1991 was highlighted by an outstanding effort from the Marijuana Eradication Team. Between May and October, the team destroyed over 10 million wild marijuana plants. This is more than 10 times the total plants destroyed statewide in 1990. Persons from 14 states and Mexico were arrested while harvesting wild marijuana, and more than 3,500 pounds of processed marijuana was seized.

One of two German Shepherds purchased by the Patrol in 1991, was assigned to Troop H. “Ben” arrived at Lambert airport in St. Louis from Kassel, Germany, in September. Ben was assigned to Trooper Sheldon A. Lyon, Zone 5, St. Joseph.

The Marijuana Eradication Team again highlighted enforcement efforts in Troop H during 1992. Between May and October, the team destroyed 1,865 cultivated marijuana plants and more than 21 million wild plants. These totals accounted for 87 percent of the plants destroyed statewide.

Troop H officers made 19,312 moving violation arrests, 2,893 seat belt arrests, and 492 arrests for driving while intoxicated. Because of these enforcement efforts, there were 25 fewer fatalities in 1992 than in 1991.

Tpr. Lyon and K-9 Ben proved to be an asset in Troop H’s drug interdiction efforts. Several hundred pounds of drugs and over $86,000 in cash were seized because of traffic stops in 1992.

During the latter part of 1992, work began to establish a number with a computerized telephone answering service called Info-line, run by the St. Joseph News-Press. The line was to be used for motorists to call to obtain up-to-date road reports during inclement, winter weather. During other months, construction sites, as well as other road information could be obtained. Patrol personnel update the information callers receive from Info-Line as conditions change.

Flooding along the Missouri River and its tributaries during July 1993 closed numerous highways, caused major disruptions in the flow of traffic, and forced the evacuation of several towns. Troop H officers dealt with repeated closures along Interstate 29 in Atchison and Holt counties. At one point, a 75-mile stretch of Interstate 29 from St. Joseph to the Iowa state line was closed for almost a week. All bridges across the Missouri River in the Troop H area were closed for several weeks.

The Missouri River reached an all-time high level at St. Joseph and threatened to breech levees on the city’s south side. Federal, state and local officials monitored the tense situation hour-by-hour with the help of Troop H aircraft. Floodwaters knocked out St. Joseph’s water treatment plant, leaving Missouri’s fifth largest city without water for five days.

In general, Troop H continued to show increase activity in reactive calls for service during 1993. Transmissions from Troop H Radio exceeded 580,000—a two percent increase over the previous year.

Despite the flood, the Troop H marijuana eradication program continued to show success. Officers destroyed more than 13 million wild marijuana plants, with 30 related felony arrests and $64,000 seized.

Aggressive efforts at drug interdiction continued, resulting in the seizure of over 700 pounds of marijuana, five pounds of cocaine, and $105,000. Troop H officers made 355 felony and misdemeanor drug arrests.

Enforcement efforts in Troop H during 1994 were highlighted by a 34 percent increase in DWI arrests compared to 1993. Intoxicated drivers are involved in approximately one-fourth of all fatal crashes in Missouri. In addition to DWI arrests, seat belt arrests increased 46 percent, and speed arrests increased 24 percent. These increases reflect an outstanding enforcement effort by Troop H officers.

One of the highlights of the year was Troop H's participation in the Town Hall Meeting program. Troop H conducted 15 town hall meetings, one in each county, during the months of February through May. The meetings were very well received in each community. Participating officers received many positive comments about these programs, and many citizens expressed a desire that the Patrol continue these programs in the future. This project proved to be an excellent means of interacting with the communities in a positive way.

Four officers from Troop H participated in the Kansas City "Reaching Out to Form a Partnership" detail during the months of June and July. These officers all stated it was a beneficial project that should be continued.

Portable Breath Testers were purchased by the Buchanan County Community Drug Council through the Buchanan County Commissioners and the Buchanan County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and donated to Troop H in 1995. There were enough purchased to provide one to every officer assigned to Zones 5 and 6.

Troop H had an elevator and automatic door installed to comply with ADA requirements in 1995.

April 1, 1995, marked the creation of a new zone in Troop H. Zone 10 covered Daviess and DeKalb counties. This reorganization allowed the troop to eliminate a three-county zone. The creation of Zone 10, and 12 new troopers being assigned to Troop H, allowed the troop to begin 24-hour coverage in Buchanan and Andrew counties, and weekend 24-hour coverage in Clinton and Caldwell counties.

Troop H began a full-time Special Enforcement Team in 1995. Corporal Sheldon A. Lyon and Trooper Troy L. Pittman were assigned to the team and worked marijuana eradication during the summer months and were assigned to special criminal and traffic details during the other months of the year.

The 1995 marijuana eradication team set a record for the most plants ever destroyed in Troop H. Troop H officers eradicated more than 25 million marijuana

plants, both wild and cultivated, with the assistance of the Missouri National Guard and local law enforcement.

Troop H commemorated its 50th anniversary by hosting an open house August 4, 1996. More than 600 people stopped to tour Troop H headquarters and see the many displays including patrol cars, a Special Emergency Response Team van, a patrol helicopter, the K-9 Unit and other items.

Zone 4 and 10 moved their zone offices to MoDOT buildings in their respective areas. Zones 7 and 8 moved into the Cameron Police Department's new building.

The marijuana eradication team set a new record for the most plants ever destroyed in Troop H. Troop H members eradicated more than 60 million marijuana plants, both wild and cultivated, with the assistance of the Missouri National Guard.

The Troop H Special Enforcement Team had a very productive year. Along with the eradication efforts, the team made a total of 121 felony arrests and 57 misdemeanor arrests in 1996.

Notebook computers were assigned to the portable scale units in Troop H. Cameron Insurance Company donated 18 portable breath testers to the Patrol; two were assigned to each troop.

A new concrete driveway was constructed at Troop H in 1996.

In 1997, Troop H had the highest number of total contacts per officer in the state. Officers also arrested 774 persons for driving while intoxicated.

Personnel computers were assigned to each zone office, and officers were trained in the proper use of the computers. This is an excellent beginning in the process of streamlining Troop H's reporting system. A LIDAR speed-measuring device was assigned to Troop H and proved beneficial for enforcement operations.

Communication services were enhanced in 1997 with the remodeling of the radio room at Troop H Headquarters. New console and radio equipment was installed, bringing state-of-the-art equipment to the troop. A new lift was installed at the troop to assist in Motor Vehicle Inspection Division's salvage inspection.

A variety of special details kept officers busy in Troop H. These special assignments included assisting Missouri Western State College with a visit from General Colin Powell, Rosecrans Air show, Camp Quality, and crowd control at various events at Northwest Missouri State University.

Troop H completed a successful year in 1998. The Troop H marijuana eradication team was the most productive in the troop's history. In 1998, a group

of Kentuckians purchased four farms in northwest Missouri and turned them into marijuana farms. Eradication officers Sergeant Christopher E. Wilson and Trooper Donald R. Tyes investigated 166 cases and made 156 arrests. These arrests led to the seizure of over 20,000 cultivated marijuana plants. Other seizures included four farms consisting of 1,138 acres, three houses, numerous tractors, vehicles, and equipment. The combined estimated value of the seizures was well over a million dollars.

Troop H had a 10 percent increase in DWI arrests from 1997. Trooper Jeffrey S. Karsten led the troop with 92 DWI arrests in 1998. Sergeant Christopher E. Wilson and Trooper Donald R. Tyes received the Sertoma Club's Bradley Arn Award for their outstanding achievement in marijuana eradication.

In 1998, Pattonsburg, MO, became a movie set for a feature motion picture "Ride With the Devil." Troop H provided security during the filming of the movie. The old town was completely transformed to look like Lawrence, KS, for the movie, which portrayed the story of Quantrill's Raiders. The film starred actress Jewel, and the filming took several months to complete.

Troop H was issued two Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailers (SMART trailers) in 1998. The trailers were parked along the shoulder of area highways and collected data using the trailer's computer. The trailer also displayed motorists' speed as they pass the trailer.

Troop H Communication installed several new computers to upgrade for the Computer Aided Dispatch System in 1998.

On October 5, 1999, Troop H lost Sergeant Robert G. Kimberling, the second Troop H member who had paid the ultimate sacrifice, during traffic stop on Interstate in St. Joseph. Sgt. Kimberling and the mentally unstable driver exchanged gunfire. Sgt. Kimberling died at the scene and the assailant, Jason M. Friske died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Troop H employees continued to work through this tragedy with tremendous support from the citizens of northwest Missouri.

Troop H's original K-9, Ben, retired January 1, 1999, and was replaced by K-9 Barry. During Ben's seven-year career, he was responsible for the seizure of over 2,500 pounds of marijuana, several pounds of cocaine, methamphetamine and cash seizures over $500,000.

Corporal Jeffrey M. Owen received the first annual Sertoma Club's Sergeant Robert G. Kimberling award for outstanding achievement as a trooper and member of the community.

Unique details to Troop H in 1999 were assisting with the first ever Olympic Triathlon trial held in St. Joseph, providing security during Northwest Missouri State University's football season that ended with the team repeating as NCAA Division II National Champs.

Troop H impacted Special Olympics in a big way in 1999. Troop H employees collected $20,900 for Special Olympics through T-shirt sales. This was a 70 percent increase from the previous year.

2000-2010

The work ethic of Troop H members was visible in 2000, as Troop H led all other troops in contacts per officers for most of the year. The responsibility and mission of highway safety was reflected by the commitment of effort in Troop H.

In 2000, the Troop H facility received two major updates. The heating and cooling units were replaced, making the troop a more efficient building. The original 21-year-old emergency generator for Troop H was also replaced. Troop H had a new highway sign on Interstate 29, thanks to the MoDOT. This sign marked the exit to Troop H Headquarters, and its design was one of a kind.

Three members of Troop H were taken to a hospital for treatment following a car stop on Interstate 35. An occupant in the vehicle dumped a container of anhydrous ammonia on the ground and caused a toxic cloud to form. Upon contacting the driver, all three troopers began to cough uncontrollably. The dangers associated with mobile methamphetamine laboratories are a reminder of just how difficult a trooper's job is.

Two Midwest bank robbers were also arrested thanks to the efforts of Troop H troopers. The two robbers had held up five banks in three states prior to being arrested. Two of these banks are in St. Joseph. While robbing a bank in Omaha, one of the men shot an off-duty policeman, who was working in the bank. After hearing of the crime, Troop H members began pursuing one of the robbers on Interstate 29. He was arrested without incident after his car engine quit and his handgun jammed.

Our children are the most precious things we have, and in 2000 Troop H began a program to protect them. "Operation Safe Seat" was started to check car seats to ensure they are being properly used. On the first Monday of each month, motorists could make an appointment to have their seat checked free of charge at Troop H.

In 2000, Troop H was selected for the second year in a row to host an Olympic Triathlon event. The triathlon was held in St. Joseph, with several members of Troop H assisting with traffic control along Interstate 229. The Troop H area is a favorite among the athletes and plans for another race were under way.

The St. Joseph community honored five Troop H members in the year 2000. Sergeant John F. Harrison and Corporal Rodney J. Helfers were recognized for their arrest of a bank robbery suspect. Corporal Jeffery M. Owen and Trooper Heath A. Sears received awards for their work in Troop H.

Fallen Troop H member Sergeant Robert G. Kimberling was honored by the Tri-County High School in Jamesport. Sgt. Kimberling attended the Tri-County High School, and they dedicated a new gymnasium in his name. Sgt. Kimberling was also honored with a memorial, which is located just off Interstate 29 at exit 50. The memorial is a rock outline of the state, with a large piece of granite in the middle. The granite contains a plaque, which is dedicated to Sgt. Kimberling. The United States Postal Service also honored Sgt. Kimberling with a commemorative stamp. Troop H employees adopted the highway around the memorial, and MoDOT placed an “Adopt-a-Highway” sign on the Interstate. An oak cross was erected in front of Troop H with the names of Sgt. Robert G. Kimberling and Corporal Henry C. Bruns, the fallen heroes of Troop H.

Troop H received several updates in 2001. Three of the aging radio repeaters at Martinsville, Polo, and Skidmore were replaced. New computers were installed at the headquarters and 91MP, the Troop H aircraft, received a new engine. A new Kobota lawn tractor was put into service at the troop. After the events of September 11, 2001, physical security was enhanced at Troop H, limiting access to the grounds and building.

Trooper Mark A. Wilhoit and his assigned K-9, Barry, responded to the most unusual Troop H vehicle crash in 2001. Upon arriving at the 52-mile marker on Interstate 35, Tpr. Wilhoit spoke with the female driver whose car had left the roadway and impacted an embankment. After a few minutes, it became apparent this was more than an accident. Tpr. Wilhoit discovered several bricks of marijuana that had became dislodged from the vehicle upon impact. As it turned out, the Border Patrol arrested the same subject with 114 pounds while she was trying to cross the border several days earlier. The only problem was, she still had 25 pounds of the illegal drug, undiscovered, in the vehicle when she left.

In October, Troop H hosted its first Community Alliance program. The program was designed to familiarize area citizens with how the Patrol operates. To publicize the new program, Troop H invited the area media to take part in the first class. The participants receive hands-on instruction during the course in subjects like firearms, stop and approach, aircraft, canine, and the history of the Patrol. The program was very successful and continued.

In 2001, Troop H added a fourth lieutenant to the troop. This position eased the workload of the staff and enabled the troop to schedule an evening shift supervisor to assist the road positions.

On September 17, 2001, Troop H hosted a ceremony to rename a portion of Interstate 29 in honor of fallen Sergeant Robert G. “Bob” Kimberling. The “Robert G. Kimberling Memorial Highway” signs are posted at the Frederick Avenue interchange and at the North junction of U.S. Highway 169. The American Heritage Dictionary defines the word hero as “a man noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose” and “One who has risked or sacrificed his life”. The employees of Troop H define it as “Bob”.

Three members of Troop H were recognized for their outstanding achievements in 2001. Corporal Jesie C. Phillips was honored at the Sertoma annual law enforcement awards banquet in St. Joseph. Cpl. Phillips had been selected to receive the Robert G. Kimberling Memorial Award for her outstanding job performance as a D.A.R.E. officer. Cpl. Phillips was honored for her work ethic and being a positive role model to students all over northwest Missouri.

Sergeant Todd Zacker and Corporal William S. “Shane” Sims received the Gold Award, sponsored by KQ-TV and Missouri Western State College. Sgt. Zacker and Cpl. Sims had responded to a vehicle crash in which a van ran off the road and into a rain swollen creek. Without hesitation, the two troopers entered the water even though they were in great personal danger. Repeated underwater attempts were made to save a young life. For this reason, Sgt. Zacker and Cpl. Sims received the highest award in northwest Missouri.

Fundraising for Special Olympics has always been a source of pride for the employees in Troop H. In 2001, Troop H contributed more than $10,000 to this worthy cause.

2002 brought tragedy and the world’s attention to northwest Missouri. On June 10, a lone gunman entered Conception Abby in Conception, MO, and began shooting monks. By the time it ended, the gunman killed two monks and wounded two others before taking his own life. As the BBC and CNN watched, Troop H represented the Patrol with the professionalism the agency is noted for.

Troop H radio received computer upgrades, caller I.D., and a satellite link to other troops. Personal computers replaced the AS400 system at Troop H Headquarters. MVI gained online access to the National Insurance Crime Bureau. This service enhanced their ability to find secondary VIN numbers and other information to identify stolen vehicles. Troop H also received new technology at Post H-2 at Bethany and Post H-4 at Watson. Both scale houses were now equipped with the Fast Pass system. This system allowed previously checked commercial motor vehicles to bypass the scale reducing congestion for a more efficient operation.

Trooper Brian C. Logan’s sharp police skills led to Missouri’s largest methamphetamine lab in 2002. Tpr. Logan stopped a St. Joseph resident for a registration violation. A vehicle search revealed weapons and methamphetamine. Tpr. Logan continued the investigation and discovered the local task force was actively pursuing a search warrant for the suspect’s home. Tpr. Logan’s additional information led to the warrant and the seizure of the lab.

The NITRO Task Force began investigations in the Troop H area in 2002.

The Special Olympics held fall events in St. Joseph, and Troop H employees assisted by preparing meals and escorting the runners. In addition, Troop H

collected over $21,000 in T-shirt money. Troop H hosted the second Community Alliance program in September.

In 2002, several Troop H troopers were recognized for their outstanding efforts. Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) honored Trooper Gara N. Howard for her hard work arresting 36 intoxicated drivers. In December, Sergeants James E. McDonald and Sheldon A. Lyon; Corporals Mark A. Ott, Thomas L. Sakaguchi, and Rodney J. Helfers; and Troopers Travis L. Williams and Brian Rainey were selected as recipients of KQTV's 2002 Gold Award for their valor during the Conception Abby shooting.

On April 10, 2003, Trooper Brian E. Kelley was involved in a shooting during a traffic stop. Tpr. Kelley stopped a vehicle on Interstate 29 after receiving information from the Drug Enforcement Administration that the vehicle was transporting narcotics. While in Tpr. Kelley's patrol car, the driver fled back to his vehicle with Tpr. Kelley in foot pursuit. The two men entered the driver's seat and the car sped off with the door open and Tpr. Kelley hanging on. Fearing for his life, Tpr. Kelley shot the driver twice in the leg. The car then traveled off the road and the trooper fell out and was run over by the vehicle's rear tire. The two occupants were arrested and were in possession of several ounces of cocaine and a pound of marijuana.

On August 10, at 6:56 p.m., the Sedalia Police Department received a call regarding an unconscious male on the Katy Trail near the Missouri State Fairgrounds. The unconscious male was determined to be Sergeant Thomas L. Sakaguchi. Sgt. Sakaguchi was an eight-year veteran of the Patrol. He began his career at Maryville in 1995. Sgt. Sakaguchi was assigned as the Troop H property control and supply officer at the time of his death.

Troop H made improvements to the facilities and received several pieces of new equipment in 2003. The range was fitted with new ballistic glass. A new telephone system was installed at the troop. A new transmitter at Watson, MO, finally eliminated most dead spots while communicating with Troop H from the field. Driver examiners began using computerized written drivers' tests.

The Patrol played a key role in solving the murder of a 17-year-old girl. Due to the investigation of Sergeant Brian T. Deshler, along with Troop H DDCC members Sergeant David L. Merrill and Trooper Brad D. Ussary, 17-year-old Zacheriah Tripp was convicted of kidnapping and murdering Sarah McCoy, 18 months after the incident. Tripp received a life sentence without parole for his crimes.

In 2003, Troop H formed a two-person criminal interdiction team, which was designed to target criminals in northwest Missouri. The team includes "Cijo", the Troop H canine. The team worked the highways and assisted the local task forces in criminal investigations. This extra manpower was flexible and on-call 24 hours a day.

The troop raised over $ 21,000 for Special Olympics. A large part of the funds came from selling chances to win a new Harley Davidson motorcycle. Telecommunicator Sandy Lehr, the Troop H Special Olympics coordinator, was named the outstanding volunteer/unsung hero for Special Olympics.

Troop H again held a Community Alliance Program. The program gave citizens the chance to experience and learn about the Patrol in six weekly sessions.

Troop H formed a Honor Guard in 2003 for special events and funerals. Soon after its inception, the unit began receiving calls for area functions.

Sergeant James E. McDonald received the Troop H Officer Of The Year Award and CVO Clay A. Hilsabeck was awarded the Troop H Civilian Employee Of The Year Award. Trooper Gara N. Howard again earned the MADD top DWI producer for Troop H. At the KQTV Law Enforcement Awards For Valor dinner, Trooper Brian E. Kelley won the Gold Award for his actions during a car stop. Trooper Donald R. Tyes received the Bronze Award for assisting him. Sergeant Brian T. Deshler and Trooper Bradly D. Ussary were presented with the Silver Award for their investigative work during a homicide. Corporal William S. “Shane” Sims was awarded the International Association Of Police Chief’s Trooper Of The Year Award for entering swift floodwaters to save a motorist’s life. St. Joseph Sertoma Club awarded Sergeant Dale A. Chenoweth the Robert G. Kimberling Award for the work ethic and leadership he displays of a daily basis while serving the public.

Three critical incidents in Troop H brought the nation’s attention to northwest Missouri in 2004. The first came in the form of a pursuit, which started in Buchanan County and ended in a barrage of gunfire in Platte County. Corporal John E. Christensen initiated the 28-mile pursuit to stop the driver, Seth Martin. Martin chose to fire at the responding officers from Troop H, Troop A, and the Platte County Sheriff’s Department. Officers returned fire and eliminated the threat.

The second incident occurred in Nodaway County just before Christmas. Skidmore resident Bobbie Jo Stinnett was strangled to death at her home, and her eight-month-old fetus was cut from her womb. As the world watched, Troop H DDCC investigators responded to the scene and led the investigation which ended 23 hours later after arresting the perpetrator of the crime in Kansas and finding the baby unharmed.

An F-4 tornado struck northwest Missouri on May 29, 2004. This vortex destroyed several homes and killed three people in DeKalb and Daviess counties. Troop H members Corporal Roger A. Sherman and Trooper Joseph R. Johnston gave lifesaving first aid to the injured and coordinated first responders to locate other dead and injured persons. The two troopers received the Silver Award for valor along with five other Troop H members from the Northwest Missouri Law Enforcement Valor Committee.

United States Vice President Dick Cheney visited St. Joseph during the summer 2004 to rally support for President George W. Bush's re-election campaign. This marked the first such visit to St. Joseph since the 1970s. Members of Troop H were assigned to the motorcade route to help provide security for the vice president.

In 2004, Troop H raised over $17,000 for Special Olympics and was recognized as the "Outstanding Law Enforcement Organization for Northwest Missouri".

Troop H ended 2005 with several notable events and updates. The first event began near Cameron when an armed subject committed two robberies and was spotted by Corporal Kevin G. Haywood in Patrol aircraft 91 MP. Cpl. Haywood gave air support while Sergeants Mark A. Ott and Jeffrey H. Thompson, along with Corporal Roger A. Sherman and Trooper Douglas S. Christmas, pursued the suspect into Cameron. After successfully deploying stop stixs, the subject's vehicle became disabled in the median of U.S. Highway 36, and the driver exited the vehicle displaying a handgun. A Cameron Police Department Officer shot the subject with a less than lethal round to end the dangerous situation. The five troopers received Valor Awards from KQTV and Northwest Missouri Law Enforcement Valor Committee.

Troop H enhanced its ability to monitor stressful situations in the field such as pursuits by installing Loki software. Loki is a computer system that is utilized by radio personnel to plot each patrol car on a computer screen. The system can notify the closest officer to calls, give the last known location of an officer and give directions as an officer responds to a location. The most useful option to Loki is the ability to track officers during a pursuit, calling out curves in the roadway and positioning officers to catch the offender.

A new video teleconference center was installed in late 2005, to update the troop's ability to hold a videoconference with other areas of the state. The center enhanced training with new technology and made remote classrooms possible.

Each year Troop H supports Special Olympics by selling T-shirts, hosting events, and raffling a Harley Davidson motorcycle. In 2005, Troop H raised over $16,000 for the Special Olympics. Troop H was again honored as the "Outstanding Law Enforcement Organization for Northwest Missouri".

The security of the employees was improved in 2005 with the installation of bullet resistant glass at the main entrance of troop. A keyless entry was also added to enhance safety.

In 2005, a Bethany resident was en route to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE, from his home. The subject needed a liver transplant and the hospital in Omaha had telephoned him with the news to immediately drive to the hospital for a liver transplant to save his life. He had to have the surgery that night. On his way to Omaha, his vehicle broke down and the local ambulance

district refused to transport him due to insurance issues. Corporal Scott E. Pritzel was also on the scene and requested that Troop H arrange a relay with Sergeant Michael P. Quilty, the Iowa State Patrol, and the Nebraska State Patrol to get him to the hospital within the window of time to receive the life saving liver transplant surgery. The subject arrived at the hospital with just minutes to spare. A few weeks after the surgery, the liver recipient came to Troop H to thank the officers who saved his life.

Floodwaters returned to the Troop H area in May 2007. Troop H assigned extra troopers to patrol Big Lake. Troopers assisted the public and prevented would-be looters from taking advantage of the vacant homes. Troop H aircraft 91 MP assisted by flying over the Missouri River levees to keep track of the breaches.

On July 1, 2007, Captain Johnnie B. Hoggatt retired. Lieutenant Duane L. Robinson was promoted and named commanding officer of Troop H effective July 1, 2007.

On December 10, 2007, Troop H suffered the worst ice storm in a decade. The western of the troop area went without power for several days, and Troop H Headquarters was without power for three days. During that time, the troop's backup generator provided enough power so service to the public was not affected.

Troop H began 2008 with record snow for the month of January. On more than one occasion, Interstate 29 was closed to traffic due to deep snow making travel impossible.

On March 16, 2008, an armed subject walked into the Chillicothe Hy-Vee and committed an armed robbery with shots fired during the crime. Troop H officers received the information and pursued the vehicle. During the pursuit, the suspect fired shots at troopers who were pursuing him and setting up a roadblock. The suspect was able to escape, and a manhunt ensued. Three days later, Troop H officers learned the subject was hiding at a residence in Jamesport, MO. Officers responded to the location and arrested him without further incident.

In September 2008, the Tour of Missouri made its first appearance in St Joseph. Troop and area law enforcement officers secured the bike route, while riders showcased their talents to the citizens of northwest Missouri.

On September 30, 2008, Troop H hosted its first University Alliance Program. The program included Missouri Western State University students majoring in criminal justice. A total of 11 students participated. The program's purpose was to familiarize students with the Patrol and its mission and serve as a recruiting opportunity.

On October 20, 2008, a ceremony introduced new signs renaming a one-mile section of U.S. Highway 169 just south of King City, MO. The ceremony took place at the King City American Legion building in front of a standing room only

crowd. Representative Jim Guest sponsored the bill honoring one of the Patrol's fallen heroes.

In November 2008, Troop H assigned Sergeant Todd A. Zacher and Corporal Tyson B. Gardner as commercial vehicle enforcement troopers. Their duties include commercial vehicle enforcement and homeland security.

The winter driving season in Troop H was a deadly one for travelers in 2009. Heavy snows closed both Interstate 29 and 35 on several occasions. Deep snow and blizzard wind conditions made travel very difficult. In the week following one of the storms, Troop H recorded 10 fatalities.

The number of wind farms in the Troop H area continued to grow in 2009. Officers from several troops and divisions were needed to keep up with the daily escort schedule. The current arrangement assigned officers to move the windmill blades and tower pieces Monday through Friday. Each piece was an oversized load in length or width and required troopers to escort the loads to assist in arriving at their destination safely. On any given weekday, as many as 16 troopers had been assigned to super moves. This number did not include any of the oversized loads that came to the wind farms from the Troop D area.

The Tour of Missouri again visited the Troop H region in 2009. Troop H hosted the longest leg of the race, with bicyclists competing on a 110-mile course that started at Chillicothe and ended in St. Joseph. A total of 35 troopers, officers from several other agencies, and over 200 volunteers worked to make the race a big success in northwest Missouri.

Another growing event in Troop H was the tractor cruise. Several years ago, the Show Me Tractor Cruise brought together a unique collection of historic tractors for a good time, while raising money for Camp Quality, which serves children with cancer. In 2009, Troop H worked with five tractor cruise organizations. Troopers were assigned at strategic points of the routes, which could be 40 miles long, to help keep the cruises safe.

The Troop H marijuana eradication effort resulted in the arrest of three men connected to a marijuana growing operation in Caldwell County. Troopers working with the DEA and local authorities found 681 cultivated marijuana plants as a part of a three-month investigation. The three Hispanic men were living in an abandoned farmhouse on the property and tending the plants.

In 2009, the fatality rate dropped significantly from 2008. A total of 45 deaths were recorded in 2009 compared to 52 in 2008. While this drop was welcomed news to Troop H, the command staff felt the number could have been much lower if the winter season had been more moderate.

On May 1 and 2, 2010, the Sound of Speed Air Show took place in St. Joseph at Rosecrans Memorial Airport, which is the home of the 134th Air Wing of the United States Air Force. Twenty-two troopers and one communications employee

from Troop H provided security and traffic direction during the two-day event. The attendance for the show was estimated at over 40,000.

The mighty Missouri River flooded the northwest region of Troop H in June 2010. This included Big Lake State Park. The flood waters were at the same level as the Great Flood of 1993. Troopers from Troop H were assigned to 24-hour security of the park area and surrounding homes. Troopers manned checkpoints and rode with Missouri State Water Patrol officers, checking river levels and maintaining order. Troop H assisted with the disaster for nearly six weeks, until the flood waters receded.

In July, Troop H joined federal and local agencies in seizing a marijuana growing operation with two different locations in Buchanan and Clinton counties. Seventeen troopers from Troop H, the Troop A SWAT team, the Aircraft Division, and communication personnel from Troops A and H participated in the operation. The marijuana field in Clinton County yielded 3,300 plants and an encampment where the growers were living.

On September 24, 2010, a hazardous materials spill occurred near the junction of Interstate 35 and U.S. Highway 36 in Cameron, MO. A tractor trailer parked in a lot spilled 20,000 pounds of blasting agent on the parking lot. The ammonium nitrate mixture posed an explosive threat to the city of Cameron and the motoring public traveling on Interstate 35 and U.S. 36. Troop H and the Cameron Police Department evacuated a one-half mile radius of the site, which diverted the traffic of both highways. A total of 31 troopers and two commercial vehicle officers responded to assist.

Troop H experienced another significant drop in the fatality rate in 2010. Troop H recorded 22 deaths in 2010, compared to 45 in 2009.

2011-2019

Troop H began 2011 with one of the worst winters in memory. Heavy snow, blizzard conditions, dangerous temperatures, and the length of the winter season made 2011 one for the record books. Whiteout conditions closed Interstate 29 and Interstate 35, while Troop H members worked 12-hour shifts to ensure the safety of the motoring public.

The flooding in northwest Missouri closed Interstate 29 at the 110-mile marker to the Iowa State line in Atchison County on June 15, 2011. The interstate reopened on October 8, 2011.

Warm spring temperatures ushered severe storms into Northwest Missouri, and put an end to a St. Joseph landmark. On August 18, 2011, severe weather took down the 300-foot-tall Troop H radio tower, after it had stood for 65 years.

Once again in 2011, the Missouri River in Northwest Missouri flooded to record levels. This year, it took the life of a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper. Trooper Frederick F. "Fred" Guthrie Jr. and his assigned canine, Reed, were swept away by flood waters in Holt County on August 1, 2011. K-9 Reed's body was located the next day. After an intensive five and one-half months search, Tpr. Guthrie's body was recovered. On January 12, 2012, an excavator unearthed Tpr. Guthrie's body in a field southwest of the Missouri Highway 111 and Missouri Highway 118 intersection, bringing some closure to a tragic event.

Troopers who made the recovery were assisted by heavy equipment operators from Hill Brothers Construction. Hill Brothers Construction had been awarded a contract from MoDOT to remove the sand from the fields in the area where Tpr. Guthrie disappeared.

On May 5-6, 2012, the Sound of Speed Air Show took place in St. Joseph, MO, at Rosecrans Air Base, home of the 139th Airlift Wing. Twenty-six troopers, the MULES Coordinator for Troops H and B, and one communications officer from Troop H provided security and communications during the two-day event. The attendance for the show was estimated at over 15,000. Troopers also directed traffic flow to and from the show.

On August 19, 2012, troopers working Interstate 35 near Bethany, MO, received a call of a 2010 Kia Sorento traveling northbound more than 100 mph. The Harrison County 9-1-1 dispatcher indicated the Kia was accelerating out of control and the driver required assistance. Corporal Justin S. Johnson and Trooper Benjamin R. Hilliard responded and, with emergency equipment activated, warned traffic for the next 65 miles, traveling more than 40 miles into Iowa, helping to save lives. The trek ended safely after the driver was instructed to press the brake and lift the accelerator at the same time.

In October, the brand-new Troop H radio tower was completed. The previous tower was blown down during a severe thunderstorm in 2011. The new three-legged, 320-foot steel tower replaced the former 65-year-old tower.

Fatalities in Troop H dropped significantly in 2012. A total of 35 deaths were recorded in 2012, compared to 42 in 2011. This trend was welcomed news as the overall state total saw an increase for the year. Special enforcement operations, educational programs, and the continuous zero tolerance for seat belt violations made a positive, cumulative effect on the fatality rate in Troop H.

Troop H began 2013 with an officer-involved shooting on southbound Interstate 29 at the 91-mile marker. On January 28, 2013, a trooper stopped a southbound vehicle for speed and determined the driver to be intoxicated. The trooper placed the male suspect under arrest for driving while intoxicated, but the driver attempted to get back into his vehicle and drive away. The trooper deployed OC aerosol to gain control of the suspect. The suspect continued resisting and a

violent struggle ensued, at which time the trooper fired his weapon and fatally wounded the suspect.

The Patrol launched an enforcement project on August 1, 2013, on Interstate 29 in Andrew and Buchanan counties. This project was in response to an increase in traffic crashes that had resulted in the interstate being blocked. The focus of the project was to increase presence on Interstate 29 and for troopers to strictly enforce all traffic laws. The project concluded on September 30, 2013.

The Patrol was called upon to assist the Caldwell County Sheriff's Department on August 10, 2013, when a male prisoner escaped from the Caldwell County Detention Center. The prisoner was being held on numerous charges, including rape and kidnapping. He remained at large for a short period of time, and eluded capture by several different agencies; he was taken into custody near Cleveland, OH.

Troop H saw a change of command as Captain Duane L. Robinson was promoted to major and transferred to Jefferson City, MO. On April 1, 2014, Lieutenant James E. McDonald was promoted to captain and designated as the troop commander of Troop H. Captain McDonald was appointed to the Patrol on January 1, 1992, and had served his entire career in Troop H.

On April 7, 2014, the Troop H Criminal Interdiction Team stopped a 2013 Nissan Frontier on Interstate 29 at the 69-mile marker north of St. Joseph. The driver and passenger were identified and found to be from San Jose, CA. During the traffic stop, several indicators of criminal activity were observed causing the team to become suspicious. Consent to search the vehicle was requested and granted. That search revealed four packages believed to contain cocaine. The combined weight of the packages was approximately 10 pounds.

Troop H welcomed three new troopers from the 98th Recruit Class which graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy in Jefferson City, MO, on June 27, 2014. The new troopers reported for duty at Troop H on July 14 and continued their training under the guidance of their field training officers.

On September 9, 2014, Holt County received torrential rainfall in a very short amount of time which resulted in flash flooding. Troop H began receiving reports of water over Interstate 29 between the 86- and 88-mile markers. Shortly after the initial reports, Troop H began receiving reports of individuals trapped on top of their vehicles due to rising flash flood waters. Troop H officers, along with the MoDOT, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), Holt County Sheriff's Department, Andrew County Sheriff's Department, and the St. Joseph Fire Department, took decisive action and rescued eight motorists whose vehicles became disabled in the flash flood waters. Responding personnel utilized a MoDOT front-end loader and road grader to enter the swift flood waters over Interstate 29 to rescue seven of the trapped motorists. A MDC boat was utilized to rescue an eighth motorist whose vehicle became disabled in the flash flood

waters on Missouri Route N north of Mound City, MO. This multi-agency response and the decisive actions taken saved the lives of eight motorists during this flash flood.

Sergeant Michael P. Quilty was named November 2014 Department of Public Safety (DPS) Employee of the Month for his courage and innovative thinking during this rescue.

On October 27, 2014, Troop H officers, along with officers from the Daviess County Sheriff's Department, Grundy County Sheriff's Department, and Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), responded to a residence just east of McFall, MO, in Daviess County, attempting to contact a Kansas City, MO, man. The man was a suspect in a homicide that occurred in Trenton, MO, on October 26, 2014. When officers arrived at the residence on October 27, the suspect fired several rounds at them. He then barricaded himself inside the residence. Additional officers from the Patrol, Daviess County Sheriff's Department, Grundy County Sheriff's Department, ATF, Buchanan County Sheriff's Department, Clinton County Sheriff's Department, Harrison County Sheriff's Department, Gentry County Sheriff's Department, St. Joseph Police Department, and Cameron Police Department responded and established a perimeter. Negotiations with the suspect were ongoing, but, eventually, contact was lost. At approximately 8 p.m., entry was made into the residence where the suspect was found deceased from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Troop H began 2015 by welcoming four new troopers. The new troopers were members of the 99th Recruit Class, which began training on July 1, 2014. The new troopers reported for duty on January 5, 2015, and continued their training under the guidance of their field training officers.

On June 22, 2015, bicyclists from across the region converged on Troop H for the start of the Bike Across Missouri or "Big BAM". There were 1,000 cyclists signed up to participate in this inaugural event which lasted from June 22 through June 26. This was a recreational event with stops each evening in a different town which offered food and entertainment. The event started in Rockport, MO, and was scheduled to conclude in Canton, MO, but was cut short due to weather.

On September 1, 2015, Troop H welcomed a new lieutenant to Troop H. Sergeant Douglas J. Hedrick was promoted to lieutenant and transferred from Troop A to Troop H. Lt. Hedrick took over as District II operations lieutenant for Troop H.

On October 14, 2015, Troop H officers assisted the St. Joseph Police Department with a barricaded subject at the Motel 6 located at Interstate 29 and Fredrick Boulevard. The suspect shot a female victim in the arm, took her hostage, and barricaded himself in a hotel room which commenced an 11-hour standoff. During the standoff, St. Joseph police officers attempted entry into the hotel room to rescue the hostage, at which time the suspect fired several rounds

at officers. Negotiations continued and the suspect eventually agreed to surrender, ending the standoff.

On November 29, 2015, Troop H officers responded with the Dekalb County Sheriff's Department to a domestic disturbance at a residence. Upon the officers' arrival at the residence, a white male suspect exited the residence and pointed a rifle at officers. Several commands were given to drop the weapon, but the suspect failed to comply. There was an exchange of gunfire, and the suspect was fatally wounded.

On January 31, 2016, Corporal Robert P. Dudeck was working speed enforcement with Patrol aircraft 91MP on Interstate 29 just north of exit 65 in Andrew County. Sergeant Kevin G. Haywood was piloting 91MP and called out a vehicle that was traveling 10 mph over the posted speed limit. Cpl. Dudeck stopped the vehicle and brought the driver of the vehicle back to his patrol car where he detected the odor of marijuana. This led him to continue his questioning of possible contraband in the vehicle. Having probable cause, Cpl. Dudeck searched the vehicle. That search revealed $4,100 in U.S. currency, a loaded .410 pistol, and a total of 110 pounds of processed marijuana.

On February 11, 2016, Troop H officers responded to Tarkio High School in reference to a student possessing a handgun at school. Tarkio High School officials were made aware of a student possibly possessing ammunition on school property. School officials contacted the student and escorted him to a secure location in the high school and contacted the Tarkio Police Department. Upon arrival of the Tarkio Police Department, officers located a handgun in the student's backpack at which time he was taken into custody and the school placed on lockdown. Officers from the Patrol, Tarkio Police Department, and the Atchison County Sheriff's Office conducted a protective sweep of the school, and the school was taken off lockdown. The suspect, a 19-year-old white male, was later charged in Atchison County.

On June 12, 2016, bicyclists from across the region returned to St Joseph, MO, for the start of the Bike Across Missouri. There were 700 cyclists expected for the event, which lasted from June 12 through June 17. Bicyclists traveled a pre-determined route taking them across the entire width of northern Missouri. This event started in St Joseph, with stops in Hamilton, Chillicothe, Brookfield, Macon, Shelbina, and ending in Hannibal.

On August 1, 2016, a monument was unveiled at the intersection of Missouri Highway 118 and Missouri Highway 111 to honor the Patrol's fallen brother Trooper Fred Guthrie Jr. and K-9 Reed. August 1 marked the five-year anniversary when the search began for Tpr. Guthrie and K-9 Reed. Family and friends gathered for the unveiling of the beautiful monument that will forever stand as a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by Tpr. Guthrie and K-9 Reed. The monument was a cooperative effort by Troop A Marine Zone 19, family, Holt County citizens, and friends of Tpr. Fred Guthrie Jr. Tpr. Guthrie is the 30th

member of the Patrol to make the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting the citizens of the State of Missouri. The Patrol will never forget the "Ultimate River Warrior".

On September 20, 2016, Troop H hosted its Community Alliance Program at Troop H Headquarters. The curriculum included traffic stops, firearms familiarization, marine operations, and many other aspects of the Patrol. Troop H had 26 participants in the program that met every Tuesday evening for six weeks.

On September 1, 2016, Troop H welcomed new Lieutenant Mark A. Ott as part of the Troop H staff. Lt. Ott is no stranger to Troop H, having served his entire career in the troop. Lt. Ott took over as District I operations lieutenant.

On January 17, 2017, four new troopers reported for duty. These troopers were members of the 103rd Recruit Class that graduated from the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy on December 30, 2016.

The months of March and April were busy interdiction months for Troop H. Five interdiction stops made on Interstate 29 led to notable seizures. On March 5, 2017, a trooper interdicted eight pounds of marijuana and $5,000 in U.S. currency. On March 22, 2017, a trooper interdicted 47 pounds of marijuana and two handguns. On March 23, 2017, a trooper interdicted 20 pounds of marijuana. On March 26, 2017, a trooper interdicted 26 pounds of marijuana. On April 24, 2017, a trooper interdicted one pound of methamphetamine.

At approximately 9:07 a.m. on June 29, 2017, the Gentry County Sheriff's Office requested assistance rescuing a male subject who had been swept away in flood waters. The male subject was sighted clinging to a tree above the flood water. A trooper equipped with swift water rescue gear entered the water and threw the subject a life jacket and a rope to ensure his safety until a boat could arrive. MDC arrived with a boat and the subject was safely removed from the flood water.

On July 10, 2017, three new troopers reported for duty at Troop H Headquarters. These troopers were members of the 104th Recruit Class which graduated from the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy on June 23, 2017.

On December 2, 2017, Troop H troopers responded approximately four miles south of St. Joseph, just off Missouri Route JJ, to a reported plane crash. Upon arriving, they discovered a single engine, ultralight aircraft had crashed in a field. The only occupant was pronounced dead at the scene by an official with the Buchanan County Medical Examiner's Office.

Five new troopers were assigned to northwest Missouri on January 7, 2018. The new troopers were members of the Patrol's 106th Recruit Class that graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy on December 21, 2018.

On March 19, 2018, the Harrison County Sheriff's Department provided a description of a vehicle involved in an incident and advised the suspect vehicle was southbound on Interstate 35. A trooper observed a vehicle matching the suspect vehicle's description southbound on Interstate 35. While attempting to overtake the suspect vehicle, the trooper observed the vehicle exit Interstate 35 and travel westbound on Missouri Route N in Daviess County. The trooper observed the suspect vehicle as it slid through the intersection of Route N and U.S. Highway 69 and crashed into a ditch. The male driver and a female occupant fled the vehicle with the trooper pursuing on foot. The male suspect fired shots at the trooper, who returned fire striking the suspect. The man was subsequently taken into custody. The passenger was apprehended a short time later.

On August 25-26, Troop H troopers assisted with the Sound Of Speed Airshow at Rosecrans Air Base. The Blue Angels performed, which brought in a crowd of approximately 40,000 spectators. Troop H personnel were challenged as soaring temperatures affected those in attendance. Traffic proved to be a challenge as well due to the location of the air base. Troop H rose to the occasion and the event was a success.

On August 27, 2018, Troop H assisted with the execution of a search warrant in Daviess County, resulting in the seizure of approximately 2,464 cultivated marijuana plants. The value of the seizure was estimated at $9.7 million. Two Mexican nationals were arrested as a result of the search warrant. Several agencies took part in the investigation: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Northwest Missouri Drug Task Force, Daviess County Sheriff's Department, Grundy County Sheriff's Department, Buchanan County Sheriff's Department, Livingston County Sheriff's Department, DEA, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Troop H hosted a Community Alliance Program at Troop H Headquarters that began on Tuesday, September 18, and concluded with an awards banquet on Tuesday, October 16, 2018. Twenty-four citizens from across northwest Missouri completed the program.

On January 22, 2019, Trooper Keaton L. Ebersold was advised of a possible rolling domestic on Interstate 29 in Atchison County. Information was received that a female was holding the male driver at gunpoint. Tpr. Ebersold and Rockport Chief of Police S. Sherwood stopped the tractor trailer on Interstate 29. The driver immediately exited the vehicle and ran back to the officers. Tpr. Ebersold approached the vehicle and observed the female holding a cocked flare gun to a small child's head. Tpr. Ebersold and Chief Sherwood opened a dialogue with the female, and while speaking with her, Tpr. Ebersold noticed she lowered the gun from the child's head. At that time, Tpr. Ebersold lunged at the female and secured the flare gun. The female was taken into custody, and the child was put into protective custody. Tpr. Ebersold was later recognized as the

June 2019 DPS Sworn Employee of the Month. The Patrol honored his brave actions with a Valor Award.

Beginning in March 2019, Troop H again dealt with record flooding throughout the troop area. Troop H marine operations troopers responded to 138 rescues/evacuations due to the extensive flooding in 2019. Marine operations troopers were brought in from outside troops to assist in flooded areas. Typically, Atchison and Holt counties are hardest hit with flooding due to their proximity to the Missouri River. This flood season saw many secondary waterways in several counties at record levels, as well as the Missouri River. This created a widespread flood season for Troop H personnel, who rose to the challenge.

On May 31, 2019, Troop H received information about a small, red passenger car northbound on Interstate 35 whose driver shot into two vehicles as they traveled north, just south of Cameron, MO. The drivers of both vehicles sustained non-life-threatening injuries as a result. Trooper Nicholas A. Regan intercepted the vehicle and a pursuit ensued northbound on Interstate 35 from the 54-mile marker. The suspect fired shots at Tpr. Reagan as they traveled north striking his patrol car, at which time Tpr. Regan returned fire. As the suspect vehicle neared Exit 64, it traveled off the east side of the roadway and overturned. The suspect was found deceased inside the vehicle. The Patrol recognized Tpr. Regan's brave actions with its Valor Award.

On August 2, 2019, Communications Operator Abigail L. Howard was at Walmart Supercenter in St. Joseph, MO, when she observed a man collapse. Comm. Oper. Howard called 9-1-1 and administered CPR on the victim for 10 minutes until paramedics arrived and relieved her. The victim was transported to the hospital; he survived the incident. Doctors told the victim's family that the initial first aid Comm. Oper. Howard provided saved the man's life. Comm. Oper. Howard was recognized as the DPS Non-Sworn Employee of the Month for October. The Patrol recognized her actions with a Lifesaving Award.

On October 7, 2019, Governor Mike Parson presented 18 first responders with Missouri Public Service Medals for heroic, lifesaving, or extraordinary acts beyond the call of duty to protect the public during 2018. Trooper Bradley R. Muck was presented the Governor's Medal for his actions during a volatile standoff with more than 200 offenders at the Crossroads Correctional Center in Cameron, MO. Trooper Matthew W. Neely was presented the Medal of Valor for his actions in which he and a suspect exchanged gunfire. The suspect was wounded and captured.

The Patrol selected Commercial Vehicle Officer Supervisor I Kenneth L. Shewey, Troop H, as the recipient of its 2019 Superintendent's Award For Excellence In Public Service. CVO Sprv. I Shewey was honored for his professional commitment to commercial vehicle safety and his personal leadership and volunteerism within his community.

The Patrol honored Corporal Kurt A. Schmutzler, Troop H, and Trooper Schawnn Fogler, Troop D, with a 2019 Lifesaving Award. The recognition followed their rescue of a motorist who drove around traffic barricades onto a roadway closed due to floodwater. The incident occurred on Thursday, March 21, 2019, near Atchison, KS, near the area of U.S. Highway 59. Troopers from Troops H, A, and D responded. Cpl. Schmutzler and Tpr. Fogler deployed a Mercury inflatable rescue boat into the water. Cpl. Schmutzler navigated in the fast-moving water through barbed-wire fence rows, corn stalks, and log debris to reach the man's location, approximately three-quarters of a mile from land. The troopers pulled the man into the boat and secured him in a personal flotation device. Cpl. Schmutzler then navigated his way back through the swift current and debris to dry land. Emergency medical personnel treated the driver for hypothermia; he recovered from the incident.

2020-present

On March 1, 2020, Colonel Eric T. Olson announced the promotion of Lieutenant Clark N. Stratton to captain and designated him commanding officer of Troop H.

On March 12, 2020, Southwest Iowa Community College Criminal Justice Club arrived at Troop H for their Student Alliance Program experience. They spent the day with different divisions from the Patrol in both a classroom and hands on setting and learned what the Patrol was all about.

On August 2, 2020, Trooper Jonathan P. Lynch observed a large structure fire on South Poage Street in Pattonsburg, MO. He received information there was an occupant remaining in the residence, and disregarding his own safety, Tpr. Lynch entered the house. Unable to see due to thick smoke and flames, he began calling for the occupant. Tpr. Lynch instructed the occupant to follow the sound of his voice and then assisted him out of the house to safety.

On August 26, 2020, Corporal Jeffery D. Maudlin conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 29 in Buchanan County for a traffic violation. Criminal indicators led Cpl. Maudlin to request consent to search the vehicle, which was denied. Buchanan County K-9 arrived on scene and alerted on the vehicle. A subsequent search revealed approximately $360,000 in cash.

On September 22, 2020, Troop H conducted its Community Alliance Program at Troop H Headquarters. For five weeks beginning September 22, and concluding on October 20, applicants spent three hours every Tuesday evening learning about the Patrol. Fifteen students graduated from that year's program.

On Tuesday, December 1, 2020, Sergeant Douglas P. Little was watching television with his son at their residence. He heard a loud pop from the second floor, and his son saw that a fire had started in the doorframe of his younger sister's bedroom. Sgt. Little immediately ran upstairs. After seeing that his eight-year-old daughter's doorway was surrounded by flames, he instructed both of his

sons to leave the home and call 9-1-1. He then ran through the flames, picked up his daughter, and shielded her as went back through the fire then outside to safety. Both Sgt. Little and his daughter were treated for burns; he for second and third degree burns and her for first degree burns. Both recovered from the incident. Sgt. Little accepted a Lifesaving Award for his actions.

On December 27, 2020, Buchanan County Communications requested assistance from the Troop H marine operations troopers regarding a suspect who had reportedly jumped from the Pony Express Bridge into the Missouri River. Corporal Kurt A. Schmutzler and Corporal Nicholas J. Greiner located the subject alive on the Missouri side of the river 20 feet up an embankment. The subject was transported to Mosaic Hospital in St. Joseph for treatment.

At 12:27 a.m. on January 13, 2021, Troop H Communications notified Corporal Kaleb F. Jeffers of a single vehicle crash on Interstate 29, north of Exit 50. The crashed vehicle was originally southbound on Interstate 29, crossed the median and northbound lanes, struck a guardrail, and overturned down an embankment before coming to rest. Cpl. Jeffers arrived at the scene at 12:37 a.m. and went to the vehicle to check the occupants for injuries. The driver had sustained a severe injury to his left arm with arterial bleeding. Cpl. Jeffers quickly returned to his patrol vehicle and retrieved a tourniquet. He applied the tourniquet to the driver's left arm above the injury, which slowed the bleeding. Cpl. Jeffers continued to administer first aid until paramedics arrived on scene and took over lifesaving efforts. Buchanan County EMS Director of Field Operations Steve Groshong strongly believed Cpl. Jeffers saved the driver's life. Cpl. Jeffers was presented with a 2021 Lifesaving Award recognizing his actions.

At approximately 10:53 p.m. on June 24, 2021, Troop H Communications notified Sergeant Kurt A. Schmutzler of multiple water rescues/evacuations needed in Amazonia, MO, due to flash flooding. Sgt. Schmutzler requested Troop H Corporal Bradley E. Maudlin's assistance. One rescue occurred at a residence where the troopers determined it was not beneficial to use a patrol vessel. The troopers used pike poles to find a path through three to four feet of deep, swift moving floodwater for approximately 80 yards to reach the residence. They contacted the men, then walked them out of harm's way following the same path. Cpl. Maudlin and Sgt. Schmutzler later responded to a residence where five subjects needed to be evacuated. The current was strong, and the area posed multiple concerns regarding swift water strainers and other entrapment risks. Cpl. Maudlin and Sgt. Schmutzler walked through three to four feet deep water before coming to a 50-foot section of two-feet deep, fast moving current down a driveway to the residence. They utilized a 12-foot, flat bottom, aluminum Jon boat which they found near the residence. Cpl. Maudlin and Sgt. Schmutzler made three trips, pulling the Jon boat up the driveway to the water's edge to safety in order to rescue the five residents. With each trip, the water was deeper and moving more swiftly. In one instance, Cpl. Maudlin prevented the boat from capsizing. Both Sgt. Schmutzler and Cpl. Maudlin accepted 2021 Lifesaving Awards recognizing their actions.

On Friday, June 25, 2021, Troop H Communications notified Corporal Dale R. Reuter of two occupied vehicles stalled and submerged in flood waters from Wildcat Creek on U.S. Highway 65 in Mercer County. Cpl. Reuter parked his patrol vehicle across U.S. 65 to block further northbound traffic from attempting to cross the flooded highway. He then waded through the almost waist-high, swift moving water toward a minivan. Cpl. Reuter and MoDOT personnel removed a young couple from the minivan and placed them in a nearby MoDOT truck. Cpl. Reuter then waded toward the SUV. The water was deeper and flowing faster in this location. With the assistance of a MoDOT big loader, emergency personnel moved an elderly couple from their vehicle to the bucket of the loader. During the rescue, Cpl. Reuter placed himself approximately 15 feet downstream, so he could grab someone if they were swept away. The elderly couple were examined by emergency medical personnel and released. Cpl. Reuter accepted a 2021 Lifesaving Award recognizing his actions.

At Patrol Awards Banquet on April 29, 2022, Communications Operator III Melanie A. Stallsworth accepted the Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Public Service. Comm. Oper. III Stallsworth used downtime to search for projects to enhance the efficiency of the radio room. She reviewed the troop's training program and developed detailed study materials and tests for new hires. She handled the annual policy review for Troop H Communications where she identified policies that needed to reflect recent changes and made appropriate suggestions. She had also been recognized by MOAPCO's Teammates in Action for her part in the recovery of an abducted child through the AMBER Alert program. Comm. Oper. III Stallsworth was quick to assist coworkers in developing their own skills. Her leadership influenced coworkers to perform to the highest of standards to the benefit of the agency and the citizens the Patrol serves.

On July 19, 2022, Trooper Todd B. Heintz conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 35 in Harrison County, MO. Criminal indicators and the odor of marijuana provided probable cause for Tpr. Heintz to search the vehicle. A subsequent search revealed approximately 440 pounds of marijuana. Tpr. Heintz arrested the driver for trafficking drugs, first degree (class A felony).

On August 28, 2022, Standard Pictures of Los Angeles, CA, filmed scenes of a documentary in the Division of Drug and Crime Control office at Troop H Headquarters. Retired Patrol Sergeant Miles S. Parks was featured in the documentary. The documentary is related to the infamous Ken Rex McElroy of Skidmore, MO.

On September 24, 2022, troopers competed in the "Border War Top Cop Shoot Out" at RangeTec in Mercer County, MO. Trooper Michael S. Cline and Trooper Jared W. Smith (H) teamed up and earned the 1st Place Border War Top Cop traveling trophy. Trooper Allen D. Neighbors (H) and Trooper Adam J. Michels (C) shot their way to a 3rd place finish.

On November 1, 2022, Captain Clark N. Stratton, commanding officer of Troop H, retired with more than 30 years of service.

On December 1, 2022, Lieutenant Shawn P. Skoglund was promoted to captain and designated commanding officer of Troop H.

On April 1, 2023, Corporal Christopher J. Sullivan stopped a white Chrysler minivan for excessive speed on U.S. Highway 136 in Gentry County, MO. As a result of the enforcement contact, Cpl. Sullivan seized 60 counterfeit $100 bills, 85 gift cards, and a printer/scanner. The driver and passenger were subsequently arrested for 60 felony counts of forgery and possession of a forging instrument. The events stemming from Cpl. Sullivan's traffic stop turned into a multi-state investigation.

April 3, 2023, the eastbound H-3 weigh station on U.S. Highway 36 in Buchanan County was demolished and decommissioned. The area is now a designated truck parking lot. The commercial vehicle officers assigned to H-3 were reassigned to H-4 weigh station on Interstate 29 in Atchison County.

Missouri Department of Public Safety Director Sandra K. Karsten, Colonel Eric T. Olson, and Major Michael A. Turner recognized DDCC Sergeant Gregory D. Primm and Troop H Trooper Joshua H. Thompson for their efforts related to a kidnap-for ransom investigation on June 29, 2023. The superb investigation skills and teamwork of Sgt. Primm and Tpr. Thompson resulted in at least one suspect being identified and 20 individuals being rescued in Texas. Their hard work and dedication stopped the exploitation of at least 20 individuals and saved countless others. Director Karsten and Col. Olson expressed their gratitude and presented them with plaques and challenge coins.

On October 1, 2023, Troop H officers assisted with the apprehension in Caldwell County of an escapee from the Phelps County Detention Center.

On February 14, 2024, ten members of Troop H assisted with the 2024 Kansas City Chiefs Superbowl parade. At the conclusion of the rally at Union Station, chaos erupted as several individuals in the crowd became involved in a disturbance. Tragically, one innocent woman lost her life, and approximately 20 other individuals sustained injuries from gunfire and other means. Trooper Christopher R. Kottwitz and Trooper Matthew W. Neely responded immediately after shots rang out and their actions helped save lives.

On April 23, 2024, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office requested assistance from DDCC following the discovery of human remains in northeast Mercer County. A turkey hunter found the remains on private property, prompting an investigation. The remains were later identified as those of a 24-year-old male from Centerville, IA. The male had been reported missing by the Centerville Police Department six years earlier.

On June 27, 2024, an agricultural aircraft crashed in a field west of 270th Avenue in rural Harrison County. The pilot, who was the sole occupant, sustained minor injuries. The NTSB and FAA were notified. It is suspected the crash may have been caused by a mechanical failure.

From July 12-19, 2024, Troop H deployed four members to the 2024 Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, WI. Sergeant Mark A. Wilhoit, Sergeant Andrew A. Henry, Sergeant John C. Gilliland, and Corporal Michael J. Miller were tasked with a variety of responsibilities, including crowd control, resource protection, delegate escorts, security, general policing, and other related duties.

From September 14-15, 2024, members and civilians partnered with the 139th Airlift Wing and the City of St. Joseph to provide critical support during the 2024 Sound of Speed Airshow at Rosecrans Airbase. Officers managed traffic control, enabling a safe and efficient flow of visitors to and from the airbase. Marine Operations provided crucial support along the Missouri River. Communication Operators were assigned to the on-site command center, serving as the central hub for all event related information and communications. Members and civilians were assigned to a static display inside the base, where they interacted with attendees.

During 2025, Troop H Headquarters received significant facility upgrades to enhance safety and functionality. The aging concrete parking lot was replaced, the main entry doors were upgraded, and new flooring was installed throughout the building.

On January 4, 2025, a significant winter weather event produced blizzard conditions across northwest Missouri. The storm forced the closure of Interstate 29 from St. Joseph to the Iowa state line for approximately 12 hours due to extremely hazardous roadway conditions. Temporary warming shelters were established in Mound City to support displaced travelers and the Missouri National Guard assisted troopers along Interstate 29. During this event, Troop H received 432 calls for service, assisted 228 stranded motorists, and investigated 17 non-injury crashes and three injury crashes.

At the April 5, 2025, awards banquet, Communications Operator Stephanie M. King accepted the Superintendent’s Award for Excellence in Public Service. Operator King consistently demonstrates exceptional professionalism, resourcefulness, and responsibility in the performance of her duties while operating the radio console. She regularly goes above and beyond by assisting her colleagues through extended hours, arriving early, staying late, and working significant overtime within the Communications Division. Outside of her assigned duties, Operator King volunteers with the Missouri Law Enforcement Funeral Assistance Team, dedicating countless hours traveling throughout the state to assist with funeral preparations for law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Her unwavering commitment to serving the law enforcement

community, both professionally and personally, exemplifies the Patrol's Core Values.

On November 14, 2025, Trooper Byron D. Hahn received information regarding a vehicle traveling north on Interstate 35 that was suspected of transporting illegal contraband. Trooper Hahn initiated a traffic stop in Clinton County after observing a registration violation. As a result of the enforcement contact and subsequent investigation, Trooper Hahn seized 134 pounds of methamphetamine.

On November 15, 2025, Trooper Verland R. E. McBride observed a vehicle traveling 103 miles per hour on Interstate 35 in Daviess County. The driver failed to yield and a pursuit ensued. The driver ultimately crashed and was apprehended following a brief foot pursuit. As a result, $205,950 in U.S. currency, two kilos of cocaine, and 18 pounds of marijuana were seized.

On December 1, 2025, a winter weather event resulted in a 13-vehicle pileup on southbound Interstate 35 in Clinton County. The chain-reaction crash caused significant roadway blockage, leaving the southbound lanes closed for approximately six hours. Despite the extensive damage and challenging conditions, no serious injuries were reported.

Troop H Trivia

1. An ex-prisoner is the current Zone Sergeant of Zone 6. His name is Sergeant W.W. Wood. He was a pilot in World War II, was shot down, and spent two years in a German prison camp.

2. An original member of the Patrol is the current commanding officer. Captain Inman is an original member.

3. One member of Troop H has never shined his leather or shoes. Sergeant E.T. Gillilland's wife has always made his uniform the example of Zone 4.

4. Trooper M.C. Garrett placed third in the statewide inter-troop pistol match that was held at Troop F.

5. Troopers Robert Matthews and John Noyes chased two men after the duo held up a St. Joseph pharmacy in November 1966. With the help of the St. Joseph Police Department, the men were arrested along with their two girlfriends. The group had been responsible for at least 400 burglaries in a three-state area.