

Troop H

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.

Captain James S. Poage was the original commanding officer of Troop H. The second commanding officer was Captain Kinnard Duncan. Captain Earl Davis followed him as the third commander. Captain R.E.L. Walker was the troop's fourth commanding officer. Upon his retirement, Captain P.M. Inman was in command of the troop. When Captain Inman retired, Captain Robert E.L. Davis assumed command. Captain Davis retired and Captain R.M. Laurie assumed command until F.H. Roam was named the eighth commander. E.F. Christman succeeded him until his promotion and Captain H.E. Sisk assumed command. F.M. Mills was named the 11th troop commander until his promotion, and Captain D.A. Schmitz took over. Captain D.A. Schmitz commanded Troop H until his transfer. Captain J.R. Brooks was named the troop's 13th commander. Captain Brooks was promoted and Captain J.B. Hoggatt became Troop H commanding officer. On July 1, 2007, Capt. Hoggatt retired. Lt. Duane L. Robinson was promoted to captain and transferred from Troop I, Rolla, to Troop H. Capt. Robinson is presently serving Troop H's commanding officer.

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

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

Commanding officer of Troop H, Lieutenant James S. Poage, releases 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.

Northern Missouri was in the grips of a burglar-arsonist that terrorized the area in October and November 1946. Missouri State Highway 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 a number of buildings in Northwest Missouri.

1947

Traffic deaths in Northwest Missouri declined by 50 percent during the first month of 1947.

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 the superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, 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.

1948

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 expects the structure should be ready for occupancy about September 1, 1948.

1949

Governor Forest Smith has appointed Lieutenant David E. Harrison of St. Joseph superintendent of the Missouri State Highway 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 in connection with 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

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.

Trooper Ray Dreher arrested a man and a woman in a stolen car on the Belt Highway. The couple had driven the car over 9,000 miles during the previous three weeks. The investigation also 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.

1951

Buchanan County Prosecutor John Downs responded to criticism of whether or not 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.

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.

1953

Troop H members assigned to the governor's 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, was also 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.

Captain K.O. Duncan announces 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.

1954

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. Trooper Rhoades spotted the suspect north of Ravenwood and the chase began. Trooper 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 Trooper Rhoades patrol car. Although injured, the trooper was able to make the arrest. Both were taken to the hospital with minor injuries. The suspect was wanted by the state of Nebraska for cattle rustling.

1955

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 distorting 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 Embry had paid him \$1 to change the record.

1956

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. Trooper 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.

Troop H and the Missouri National Guard teamed up on Memorial Day weekend in an attempt to patrol the roadways during the holiday. Some 200 guardsmen who had been trained in police techniques assisted troopers statewide.

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.

Captain R.E.L. Walker announced that troopers would be working around the clock this Memorial Day weekend in an effort to enforce the rules of the road. The campaign termed "Slow Down and Live" will be a statewide effort.

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

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.

1959

Two men walked into the bank at Hale 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 Trooper 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, Trooper C.V. 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

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 were 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 REA 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.

1961

Colonel Hugh H. Waggoner, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, told sheriffs in Northwest Missouri that the bickering between them and the Patrol must stop. The disagreements stemmed from the Patrol's activities in criminal investigations in their counties. Colonel 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."

1962

Colonel Hugh H. Waggoner, superintendent of the Patrol 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 had been concerned about the stopping of trucks on area highways, a barn burning, and numerous fence cuttings. Colonel Waggoner said, "We have to stop this before they kill someone."

1963

A total of 26 drivers have received tickets as part of a statewide crackdown on improperly licensed trucks. The trucks were stopped on highway 71 at the weight station located just north of Savannah. Truckers had been warned earlier that all vehicles would have to display the new license by January 15, 1963. Most of the owners had made application to the Department of Revenue for interstate licenses, but a number of 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."

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. A total of two arrests and 37 warnings, along with 15 calls for service were completed during the mission.

1964

"This is the worst accident in the history of our troop," stated Captain P.M. Inman after a crash on U.S. Highway 69 six miles north of Cameron killed five

persons. The crashed 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 injured in the crash.

1965

In January 1965 Trooper Robert L. Owens stopped a Colorado couple for a traffic violation. The driver accompanied Trooper Owens back to his car. The man pulled a knife out and began to stab Trooper Owens about the neck and ear. Trooper Owens pulled his duty revolver and stuck it against the man's head and ordered him to drop the knife. Only when Trooper Owens cocked the revolver, did the driver drop the knife. Trooper Owens's received deep cuts that required several stitches. The man and his wife were both arrested and taken to the Buchanan County Jail.

1966

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

Troopers Robert Matthews and John Noyes chased two men after the duo held up a St. Joseph pharmacy in November of 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.

1968

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

The Chillicothe Police Department asked for assistance from Trooper L.R. Stobbs in 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 also recovered.

1969

Troop H had several firsts in 1969: (1) First place in the inner-troop pistol match; (2) the first motor vehicle inspection station in Union Star to receive a permit revocation from the state; (3) Trooper L.R. Stobbs, Troop H MVI officer, approved the employment of the first female MVI officer. Her name was Mrs. Carole Barton of Bethany, Missouri.

Trooper Brian O. Slater of Troop H was injured in March while chasing two teenagers who were drag racing. One of the youths hit a parked car and Trooper Slater hit the porch of a home in an attempt to avoid the crash. Trooper Slater

suffered a fracture of the first lumbar vertebra. The two youths were uninjured and later arrested by the Maryville Police Department.

Sergeant J.W. Whan received the American Legion Department of Missouri Law and Order Award. He was the first trooper to receive the award.

1970

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

1971

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, Sergeant Shirley reported that the man posted good charts and was telling the truth.

Trooper R.D. Stuart saw a Camaro coach with out-of-state plates on Missouri Highway 6 in Grundy County driving over the centerline. A pursuit began as Trooper Stuart started to follow the car. When Trooper Stuart crested a hill, he saw the car had pulled over and stopped. He skidded past the Camaro 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 Trooper 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 prevented the subject from seeing his target and Trooper 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, Trooper 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. Members of the team were Sergeant J.S. McClanahan, Sergeant E.T. Gilliland, Sergeant L.D. Krumme, Corporal M.C. Garrett and Trooper Wayne Gardner. The annual event had the nickname of the "Bang Bang Affair".

1972

Captain Robert E. Davis, commanding officer of Troop H, was presented the American Legion Department of Missouri Law and Order award in Jefferson City. Captain Davis was the fifth recipient and second member of the Patrol to receive it.

1973

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

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 who had been operating a motorcycle at 65 miles per hour in town. After their check was complete, the pair left town. The next day, Sergeant E.F. 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 given a ticket for speeding called the mayor and complained. The father said that it was impossible for a vehicle to be travel 65 mph in that location, since that part of the road was only two blocks long before a driver would come upon a stop sign. After this discussion, it was decided 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 swerved out of the way ... and into the front end of another car at the intersection. Sergeant Christman kept his composure after hearing the story and completed his investigation of the crash. Yes, the city marshal received a ticket.

The Farmers National Bank Vice President in Ridgeway was abducted from his home by three men who then 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, the 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 airport.

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. Sergeant Green secured the eye and began the relay to the hospital. When Sergeant Green arrived at the hospital, the patient was already on the operating table. Dr. Robert Tobin reportedly called the troop after the operation to report that the operation was a success.

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 use of the citizen band radios. Corporal Leonardo spoke to the group and explained what information was important to relay when a serious incident took place.

1976

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

1977

Driver Examiners Forrest Dieter and Larry 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. Sergeant S.E. East and Corporal M.R. Barnett were informed of the situation, 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.

1979

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 had 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.

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, a rather large man got out, and then 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. But, 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 ...

Post H-4 North, which is located north of Rock Port, contacted Corporal F.C. Kling and Troopers R.D. Stottlemire and J.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 scale house and weighed. The two trucks combined were overweight 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.

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. It knocked all the leaves off surrounding trees and destroyed a barn. Two teenagers were arrested and charged with first-degree arson and stealing.

1981

The unsolved murder of Ken Rex McElroy in Skidmore brought national media attention to this case. McElroy was known as a bully who escaped from some 50 criminal charges 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.

1982

While on patrol in the town of Gentry, Trooper H.C. Bruns noticed a citizen who appeared to want him to stop his patrol vehicle. After stopping, Trooper Bruns asked the citizen what was wrong. The man said he wanted to let the trooper know the visibar had fallen off the patrol car.

1983

Troop H radio notified Trooper J.E. Christensen to respond to a hot air balloon crash site with injuries in Worth County. When Trooper Christensen arrived, he learned that one of the injured parties was the wife of Flip Wilson. 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 Reichman had the opportunity to meet movie star Jack Palance, while he was in St. Joseph. Mr. Palance said the uniform of the Missouri State Highway Patrol was the most impressive he had seen. He especially liked the campaign hats.

1984

Sergeant Robert 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. Sergeant Anderson was one of several DDCC officers assigned to gather intelligence on the group's activities.

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

1985

The small town of Plattsburg in Clinton County became the scene of an intense farm foreclosure sale at the county courthouse. Many farmers were going bankrupt due to high interest rates on farm loans and low grain prices. In an effort to stop banks from selling farms, numerous farmers and other supporters showed up at the courthouse. 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 persons 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.

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

Trooper C.C.F. Hoskins represented the Patrol during the Police Olympics that were held in Florissant, Missouri. Trooper Hoskins set new Police Olympics records in the shot put and in the discus. He earned two gold medals.

1986

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

1987

On February 16, 1987, Troop H suffered a tragedy: The first member of Troop H to die in the line of duty would be Corporal H.C. Bruns. Corporal 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 of Troop H was driving the Patrol car at the time of the crash.

1988

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.

Two members of Troop H won gold medals at the Missouri State Police Olympics in Hazelwood, Missouri. Trooper Chris Hoskins won two gold medals for the shot put and discus. Trooper Mike 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.

1989

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.

1990

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

1991

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 Tassel, Germany, in September. Ben was assigned to Trooper Sheldon A. Lyon.

1992

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 in excess of 21 million wild plants.

Troop H officers continued to vigorously enforce the traffic laws in 1992. Officers made 19,312 moving violation arrests, 2,893 seat belt arrests, and 492 arrests for driving while intoxicated.

Trooper S.A. Lyon and K-9 Ben proved to be a valuable asset. Several hundred pounds of drugs and over \$86,000 in cash were seized as a result 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, it was 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 site locations and other road information could be obtained. Patrol personnel updated the information callers received from Info-Line as conditions changed.

1993

Flooding along the Missouri River and its tributaries during July 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 breach 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.

Transmissions from Troop H Radio exceeded 580,000 -- a two percent increase over the previous year.

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.

1994

Enforcement efforts in Troop H during 1994 were highlighted by a 34-percent increase in DWI arrests compared to 1993. In addition to DWI arrests, seat belt arrests increased 46 percent and speed arrests increased 24 percent.

One of the highlights of the year was the troop's participation in the Town Hall Meeting program. Troop H conducted 15 such meetings--one in each county--during the months of February through May. The meetings were very well received in each community.

Four officers from Troop H participated in the Kansas City "Reaching Out to Form A Partnership" detail during the months of June and July.

1995

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. These were donated to Troop H. 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.

April 1, 1995, marked the creation of a new zone in Troop H. Zone 10 covers 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 Andrew counties and weekend 24-hour coverage in Clinton and Caldwell counties.

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

The 1995 marijuana eradication team, local law enforcement, and the National Guard worked together to set a record for the most plants ever destroyed (25 million) in Troop H.

1996

Troop H commemorated its 50th Anniversary by hosting an open house August 4, 1996. More than 600 people stopped to tour headquarters and see the many displays including patrol cars, SERT van, Patrol helicopter, K-9 unit, and other items.

The marijuana eradication team set a new record for the most plants ever destroyed in Troop H. Troop H member's 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 Missouri State Highway Patrol. Two were assigned to each troop. A new concrete driveway was constructed at Troop H in 1996.

1997

Officers arrested 774 persons for driving while intoxicated. Personal computers were assigned to each zone office. A LIDAR speed-measuring device was assigned to Troop H. 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 MVI salvage inspection. Special details included assisting Missouri Western State College with a visit from General Colin Powell; Rosecrans air show; Camp Quality; and crowd control at various Northwest Missouri State University events.

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 Wilson and Trooper Donald 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 \$1 million.

Troop H had a 10 percent increase DWI arrests. Trooper Jeffrey S. Karsten led the troop with 92 arrests. 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, Missouri became a movie set for a feature motion picture "Ride With The Devil." Troop H provided security during the filming of the movie.

Troop H was issued two Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailers (SMART trailers) in 1998. The trailers are parked along the shoulder of area highways and collect data using the trailer's computer. The trailer has a display to show motorist their speed as they pass the trailer.

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

1999

On October 6, 1999, Sergeant Robert G. Kimberling, the second Troop H member who made the ultimate sacrifice, was killed during traffic stop on Interstate in St. Joseph. Sergeant Kimberling and the mentally unstable driver exchanged gunfire. Sergeant Kimberling died at the scene and the assailant, Jason M. Friske, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

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

Corporal Jeffrey M. Owen received the Sertoma Club's first 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, and providing security during Northwest Missouri State University's football season.

Troop H employees collected \$20,900 dollars for Special Olympics through T-shirt sales. This was a 70 percent increase from the previous year.

2000

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 replaced. The Missouri Department of Transportation provided a new Troop H Headquarters sign on Interstate 29.

At a car stop on Interstate 35, one of the occupants dumped a container of anhydrous ammonia on the ground resulting in a toxic cloud. Upon contacting the driver, three members of Troop H began to cough uncontrollably. All three were taken to a hospital for treatment. Ammonia is one ingredient needed to make methamphetamine. These laboratories can be mobile and are dangerous.

"Operation Safe Seat" was started to ensure car seats being used properly used. The first Monday of each month, motorists can make an appointment to have their child's car 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.

Sergeant John F. Harrison and Corporal Rodney J. Helfers were recognized for their arrest of a bank robbery suspect. Fallen Troop H member Sergeant Robert G. Kimberling was honored by the Tri-County High School in Jamesport. Sergeant Kimberling was an alumnus of Tri-County High School, which dedicated a new gymnasium in his name. Sergeant 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 Sergeant Kimberling. The United States Postal Service also honored Sergeant Kimberling with a commemorative stamp. Troop H employees adopted the highway around the memorial and the Missouri Department of Transportation placed an "Adopt-a-Highway" sign on the Interstate. An oak cross was erected in front of Troop H with the names of Sergeant Robert G. Kimberling and Corporal Henry C. Bruns, the fallen heroes of Troop H.

2001

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. After the events of September 11, 2001, physical security was enhanced at Troop H limiting access to the grounds and building.

In October, Troop H hosted its first Community Alliance program. The program was designed to give area citizens a familiarization course on how the Missouri State Highway Patrol operates. In order 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.

In 2001, Troop H added a fourth lieutenant to the troop.

On September 17, 2001, Troop H hosted a ceremony to rename a portion of Interstate 29 in honor of fallen Sergeant Robert G. 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.

Corporal Jesie Phillips was the Sertoma Club's Robert G. Kimberling memorial award for her outstanding job performance as a D.A.R.E. officer. Sergeant Todd Zacker and Corporal Shane Sims received the Gold Award sponsored by KQTV and Missouri Western State College. Zacker and Sims had responded to a vehicle, which had crashed 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.

2002

2002 brought tragedy and the world's attention to Northwest Missouri. On June 10, a lone gunman entered Conception Abby in Conception, Missouri, 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 Missouri State Highway 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. Motor Vehicle Inspection gained access to the NICB (National Insurance Crime Bureau) online. This service enhances 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 of these scale houses are now equipped with the Fast Pass system. This system allows previously checked commercial motor vehicles to bypass the scale reducing congestion for a more efficient operation.

Trooper Brian Logan's sharp police skills led to Missouri's largest methamphetamine lab in 2002. Trooper Logan stopped a St. Joseph resident for a registration violation. A vehicle search revealed weapons and methamphetamine. Trooper Logan continued the investigation and discovered the local task force was actively pursuing a search warrant for the suspect's home. Trooper 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. 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 2nd Community Alliance program in September.

In 2002, several Troop H troopers were recognized for their outstanding efforts. Mothers Against Drunk Drivers honored Trooper Gara Howard for her hard work arresting 36 intoxicated drivers. In December, Sergeants Jim McDonald and Sheldon Lyon; Corporals Mark Ott, Tom Sakaguchi, and Rod

Helfers; and Troopers Travis Williams and Brian Rainey were selected as recipients of KQTV's 2002 Gold Award for their valor during the Conception Abby shooting.

2003

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.

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, Missouri, finally eliminated most dead spots while communicating with Troop H from the field. Driver examiners began using computerized written drivers' tests.

The Missouri State Highway 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 is designed to target criminals in northwest Missouri. The team includes "Cijo", the Troop H canine. The team works the highways and assists the local task forces in criminal investigations. This extra manpower is 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 gives citizens the chance to experience and learn about the Patrol in six weekly sessions. Troop H formed an honor guard this year for special events and funerals. Soon after its inception, the unit began receiving calls for area functions.

Sergeant James McDonald received the Troop H Officer Of The Year Award and CVO Clay Hilsabeck was awarded the Troop H Civilian Employee Of The Year Award. Trooper Gara Howard again earned the MADD top DWI producer for Troop H. At the KQTV Law Enforcement Awards For Valor dinner, Trooper Brian Kelley won the Gold Award for his actions during a car stop.

Trooper Don Tyes received the Bronze Award for assisting him. Sergeant Brian Deshler and Trooper Brad Ussary were presented the Silver Award for their investigative work during a homicide. Corporal 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 Chenoweth the Robert G. Kimberling Award for the work ethic and leadership he displays of a daily basis while serving the public.

2004

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 Christensen initiated the 28-mile pursuit in an attempt 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.

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".

2005

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 Haywood in Patrol aircraft 91 MP. Corporal Haywood gave air support while Sergeants Mark Ott and Jeff Thompson, along with Corporal Roger Sherman and Trooper Doug Christmas, pursued the suspect into Cameron. After successfully deploying stop sticks, 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 the 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 has the ability to 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 hold a videoconference with other areas of the state. The center will enhance training with new technology and make 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 added to Troop H to enhance safety in 2005.

In 2005, a Bethany resident was en route from his home to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. The subject was in need of a liver transplant and the hospital in Omaha had telephoned him with the news to immediately drive to the hospital for a liver transplant in order 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.

2006

In 2006, the Troop H area became the site of a large windmill farm located near King City with at least one other farm scheduled to begin soon. Officers of the troop have spent many hours escorting the oversized loads to their destination. Each blade, stand, and motor needed to be escorted due to its size. The wind farm will contain 27 windmills when it is completed.

On September 17, 2006, Troop H celebrated the Patrol's 75th anniversary and the 60th anniversary of Troop H by inviting the public to an open house. Residents from all over northwest Missouri came by to view the displays and to

congratulate the Missouri State Highway Patrol for their service to the citizens. When the estimated crowd of 700 persons left, the employees of Troop H and their families were treated to a dinner hosted at the troop headquarters. This was a very successful event that drew the interest of many residents.

Needed repairs were made to Troop H Headquarters in 2006. The steps leading to the rear of the building were replaced. The sewer lines outside the building were replaced to keep the system working properly. Other updates included a security camera system allowing many different views from inside and outside the building. The radio room is the site for the system's monitor. These views of the troop can also be seen at General Headquarters if needed.

2007

In January 2007, Commercial Vehicle Officers Dennis S. Kelley and Marlin T. White were conducting an inspection of a tractor-trailer on the northbound shoulder of Interstate 29 in Andrew County. While CVOs Kelley and White were inside their vehicle, a northbound tractor-trailer struck it from behind. Both of the officers were injured. They have since returned to duty.

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

The Troop H criminal interdiction team made several notable arrests in 2007. Included in this number was a Mexican national who was stopped on Interstate 35 for a registration violation. Troopers found 29 pounds of marijuana in the vehicle's spare tire and a half-pound of cocaine that was retrieved from behind the dash. Troopers also made use of the ruse checkpoint on Interstate 35, and seized 180 pounds of marijuana during a checkpoint in 2007.

In July 2007, Captain Johnnie B. Hoggatt retired and Captain Duane L. Robinson became the 15th troop commander of Troop H.

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

Tractors are a common sight for motorists in Missouri. But, each year in Troop H, they come by the hundreds to fight cancer. They come in all colors, shapes, and sizes. Some went out of service before most of us were born. Tractor enthusiasts bring their beasts of burden and join in a sanctioned event to raise money for Camp Quality (a camp for children who have cancer) and, in return, get to drive their tractors in a tractor cruise. This year the, "Show Me Tractor Cruise" consisted of 386 tractors and began the parade at Derr Equipment in Savannah. They traveled to the Hollywood theaters in St. Joseph, and then to Missouri Western State University for lunch. After lunch, they

continued to Cosby, and after a fuel stop, returned back at Savannah. To provide a safe route for the drivers, area law enforcement officers controlled traffic at many intersections. The event raised over \$50,000.

The positive impact made by the three-strand cable median on Interstate 29 from St. Joseph to Kansas City has been large. In 2006, before the cable system, there were six deaths as a result of "cross over" crashes. Since the project was completed in 2007, only one fatality crash has occurred on this stretch involving crossovers.

On March 7, 2007, officers from the Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Nebraska State Patrol, troopers from Troop H, and employees from the Patrol's Motor Vehicle Inspection Division served a search warrant in Chillicothe. The search warrant was served on the businesses of Contact America, Robertson Land Corporation, and Robertson Motor Company. The warrant was the result of an ongoing multi-state investigation conducted by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Nebraska State Patrol. This investigation continues with federal warrants expected.

2008

The winter season can be very harsh in northwest Missouri. In 2008, Troop H began the year 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, Draper Richardson 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, shots were fired at troopers who were pursuing him and setting up a roadblock. Richardson was able to escape and a manhunt ensued. Three days later, Troop H officers learned that Richardson was hiding at a residence in Jamesport. 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 H and area law enforcement officers secured the bike route and riders showcased their talents to the citizens of northwest Missouri.

On September 30, 2008, Troop H hosted the first University Alliance Program. The class included students from Missouri Western State University who are majoring in criminal justice. A total of 11 students participated in the program. The goal for the program was twofold. The first goal was to familiarize the students with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and its mission. The second was to use the program as a recruiting tool to reach potential employees.

On October 20, 2008, a very important event occurred in Troop H. Representative Jim Guest sponsored a bill that was passed into law, thus

renaming a portion of U.S. Highway 169 as the "Henry C. Bruns Memorial Highway". The ceremony was held at the King City American Legion building to a standing room only crowd. Corporal Bruns was killed in the line of duty in 1987.

In November 2008, Troop H debuted a two-man commercial vehicle enforcement team. Team members Sergeant Todd A. Zacher and Corporal Tyson Gardner were classified as commercial vehicle enforcement troopers (CVETs). Their responsibilities include commercial vehicle enforcement and homeland security.

2009

The winter driving season in Troop H was a deadly one for travelers in 2009. Heavy snows closed both Interstate 29 and Interstate 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 assigns officers to move the windmill blades and tower pieces Monday through Friday. Each piece is an oversize load in length or width and requires troopers to escort the loads to assist them in arriving at their destination safely. On any given week day, as many as 16 troopers have been assigned to super moves. This number does not include any of the oversized loads that come 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 is 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 can be 40 miles long—to help keep the cruises safe.

The Troop H marijuana eradication effort was rewarded by arrest of three men in connection with a marijuana growing operation in Caldwell County. Troopers working with the Drug Enforcement Administration 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 farm house 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 is welcome news to Troop H, the command staff feels the number could have been much lower if the winter season had been more moderate.

2010

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. 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

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, and 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 in severe storms in Northwest Missouri that put an end to a St. Joseph landmark. On August 18, 2011, the 300-foot tall Troop H radio tower, which had stood for 65 years, came down during an outbreak of severe weather.

Once again in 2011, the Missouri River in Northwest Missouri flooded to record levels. This time, it took the life of a Missouri State Highway Patrol

trooper. Swift moving flood waters in Holt County swept away Trooper Frederick F. "Fred" Guthrie Jr. and his assigned canine "Reed" on August 1, 2011. K-9 Reed's body resurfaced the next day. Tpr. Guthrie's body could not be found, so an intensive five and one-half month search began. 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 closure to all for this tragic event.

On October 1, 2011, one trooper was reassigned from the Patrol's newly formed Water Patrol Division to Troop H, marine operations. Trooper Robert M. Malone is assigned to Zone 6, St. Joseph, and handles marine operations for Troop H. (Tpr. Malone became a member of the Patrol upon the merger of the Missouri State Water Patrol on January 1, 2011.)