

# Officers Teach Public Safety



Florida Highway Patrol Safety Education Section  
Ft. Lauderdale, May 8, 1981

Pictured above left to right Front Row: Sgt. G. W. Wehrli, Lake City; Sgt. R. D. Getman, Deland; Sgt. K. D. Buckner, Lantana; Sgt. E. E. Anderson, Tallahassee ~~~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Sgt. P. J. Moan, West Palm Beach; Sgt. T. H. Thornton, Jacksonville; Sgt. S. S. Ward, Panama City; Sgt. G. G. Dodson, Bradenton; Sgt. F. C. Sowell, Gainesville; Captain B. J. Barnett, Chief Safety Officer, Tallahassee ~~~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Sgt. R. W. Downey, Miami; Sgt. W. R. Rossman, Ft. Lauderdale; Sgt. D. C. Conn, Ft. Myers; Sgt. C. L. Wise, Pensacola; Sgt. W. C. Kilpatrick, Palatka; Sgt. H. M. Mofield, Tampa. (Sgt. W. H. Tindle, Lakeland, not present)

The Safety Education Section was formed in January, 1951, with the main office located at General Headquarters in Tallahassee. One patrolman was stationed in each of the four divisions of the state. Prior to this, safety education activities were handled by troopers in their local area as additional duties.

Each safety officer was assigned a station wagon to carry his projector, projection screen and assorted safety education equipment necessary to conduct safety programs in schools, on TV and radio stations, with civic organizations, etc. During the year 1980, safety officers made 6,321 safety talks to audiences numbering 606,929 people. They also participated in 841 radio programs, 383 TV programs and made 132,441 radio spots and 4,379 TV spot safety announcements. In

addition, 4,469 safety films were shown to 535,982 people in schools, civic clubs, military establishments and industrial organizations.

Troop Safety Officers act as instructors for other troopers, not only in the field but at the Florida Highway Patrol Academy in Tallahassee. They serve as public information officers for their area and deal with the new media to keep the public aware of important events taking place.



The "NOISE TEAM", troopers who are equipped with instruments to measure motor vehicle noise statewide, line up for a group picture at Ft. Pierce for one of their regular meetings. The team operates out of the Safety Education Section under Captain B. J. Barnett and Sergeant B. G. Smith. In the picture left to right are: Captain Barnett, Troopers W. M. Sexton, W. M. Burrell, R. L. Sullivan, G. T. Walker, O. B. Sword, J. M. Hughey and Sergeant B. G. Smith.

The Noise Enforcement Control Program is also assigned to the safety education section and consists of one sergeant, six troopers and one secretary.

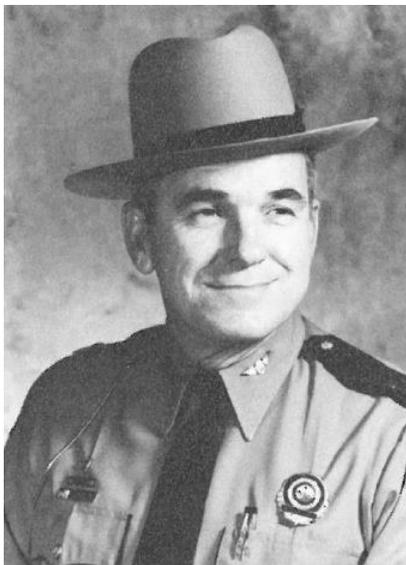
The men are divided into three two-man teams. One team works north Florida, one handles central Florida and the third team covers south Florida.

Each trooper is equipped with the most modern equipment available to measure sound output of motor vehicles.

All safety sergeants and men on the noise enforcement detail are also required to handle normal law enforcement duties as needed in addition to their special assignments.

Recently, additional duties have been placed on the safety education section dealing with annual inspection, certification and driver instruction for all private school buses operating in the state of Florida.

A large traffic safety film library is maintained in Section Headquarters for the use of the safety officers, driver education teachers and other persons interested in traffic safety.



←Captain B. J. Barnett is the Chief Safety Officer and supervises the Safety Education Officers and the Noise Enforcement Control Teams.