

I Remember When...

By Capt. Ed Baker (ret.)

Captain Baker was in the 8th trooper cadet class and was commissioned June 21, 1937.



In those days, if you were from the west side of the state you were sent to the east side, and if from the east side, then to the west.

I had never been to Spokane before 1938. I drove into town and down the whole length of Third Avenue before I saw a traffic light. They were on the corners and I was used to seeing them in the middle of the street. But there were no collisions when I was there.

The Spokane office was moved from the police station to the State Armory while the Patrol was looking for new quarters. In those days we did everything, working radio, sweeping floors, all the cleaning. I had the job of putting the first three coats of shellac on the floor before we moved in.

I was finally given a patrol car and was transferred to the north beat. At the time, I found a house in Deer Park. The rent was \$12.50 per month. The owner later sold it and I found another house at \$15 per month.

My beat was everything north of Spokane to the Pend Oreille County line and to Stevens County. When the patrolman in those counties went on vacation, I went to the Canadian border.

We had only receivers and we got our calls from the Spokane Police Department. They would put out the call, telling us to head in a certain direction and call back to the office to make sure we got the call.

Sometimes they would put the call out directly. Sometimes, while riding the motorcycles fairly close to town, we could grab the tip of the antenna and hold onto it so we could listen to the local radio station's music.