

I Remember When...

By Lt. George Amans (ret.)

Lt. Amans was in the 9th trooper cadet class, and was commissioned Aug. 16, 1937.



In 1941, because of personnel and equipment shortages, a new policy was established in several areas.

When a shift was completed, the patrol car was to be returned to the basement garage rented from a hotel in downtown Everett.

The next shift patrolman was there waiting for the wagon. It was necessary to drive our own cars there so we would have transportation to our residence.

On the night shift, which ended at midnight, just when things were warming up, we would park in the hotel garage and drive home in our own cars.

Many times on the night shift (where we were on call) we would get a phone call of an accident and be advised to cover it. Out of bed, into our own car, pick up the patrol wagon, drive to the reported scene -- everything and everyone were gone!

I remember one instance where the accident scene was reported to be about three miles from my residence in the south end. I hurried into town to the hotel, left my car, hopped into the patrol wagon, hurried back south, siren, red light and all, arrived at the scene at 3 a.m. Everyone and everything gone -- all dark!

This policy lasted about three months. For some time, though, the night shift ended at midnight, even on Saturday nights. Often I'd stay out two hours or so to "get the good ones by surprise."