

## I Remember When...

By Lt. George Amans (ret.)

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



When World War II was declared, a nationwide blackout was imposed and for some time we would patrol with no lights. It was surprising how well you could see after a time of adjustment. Later slit, small night lights were used like the GIs used on their vehicles. Finally, restrictions were lifted.

Because of wartime conditions and the necessity of fuel conservation, the national speed limit was supposed to be 35 mph.

The majority of my speed arrests were 65 mph and over. Many were written at 70 and 80 and 90 down a long hill.

I was considered a high activity patrolman, because of the number of verbals, written warnings and "A" tickets issued.

We had a change of sergeants in about 1940 and an "old timer" came into the Everett detachment. There was one sergeant for the three beats, North, South and East.

In a short time I was advised I was making too many arrests. About a month later he contacted me and took my arrest book away and advised, "Let the fast ones go; the sooner they get out of our area the better." A week later, on a Sunday afternoon patrol, a car came out of the Halls Lake union picnic and headed south on U.S. 99 toward Seattle on the wrong side of the road, at 60 mph in the third oncoming lane.

It took about three miles to get him off the road. The driver, alone, was drunk from his beer bust and I put him in the back of my wagon and was about to head for jail when the "new" sergeant appeared and stopped. He wanted to know what I had. After I explained the whole thing, he went to the back of my wagon, opened the door and let the driver out, and said something like, "Don't do it again," and let him go!

About a week later and still without an "A" book on a late-night patrol, I stopped a 90 mph downhill speeder that turned out to be an FBI man. I wrote him a warning ticket for 90 mph.

When that arrived in Olympia, the stuff hit the fan. In a very short time I had my "A" book and a new sergeant.