



The Pennsylvania State Police : A history of service to the Commonwealth, 1905 to the present

Philip M. Conti

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This 672 page book gives a detailed historical account of the Pennsylvania State Police, the first state police force in the nation. From the front flap: " This long-awaited history fills a void in the literature of America's elite crime fighting forces. The author, retired Lt. Colonel Philip M. Conti, has carefully documented the 72 year history of the agency he served so faithfully for over 38 years, tracing the emergence of a modern law enforcement agency in its personnel, techniques, and spirit. The story of the Pennsylvania State Police begins in the rubble of the Great Anthracite Strike in 1902. The Commonwealth was in a state of violent economic and social upheaval; day-to-day activities were paralyzed - there was no coal to burn in factories or houses. Many lives were lost, and millions of dollars in resources wasted during the lawlessness and anarchy that pervaded the 164-day strike. No local arm of the law could deal with this violence effectively; the infamous Coal and Iron Police, who were no more than thugs for the industrial bosses, had made a bad situation worse. A truly responsible force was needed to deal with the state-level administration of justice. In 1905, Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker abolished the Coal and Iron Police Commission in favor of creating a pioneering institution: the Department of State Police. Governor Pennypacker's experiment was a grand success. Today Pennsylvania State Police help preserve law and order throughout the Commonwealth, serving over the years as a model to be imitated by other state police forces and local law enforcement agencies. The history of the Pennsylvania State Police is a history of service to citizenry. It is also a history of growth - not only in physical size, from a force of 160 to 3,488, but in the reputation of Pennsylvania's state troopers as one of the most efficient and ethical law enforcement agencies in the world, and an integral component in the workings of the Commonwealth."

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