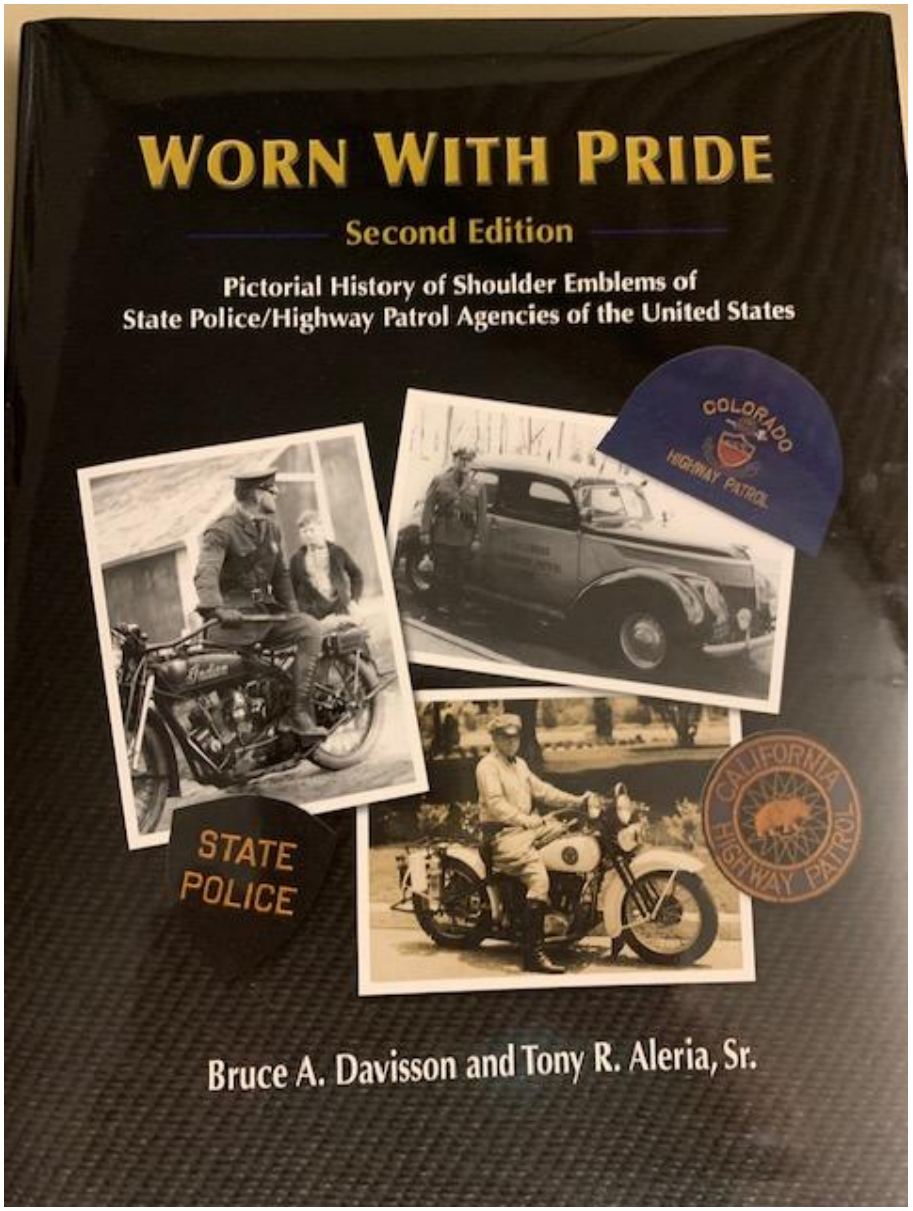
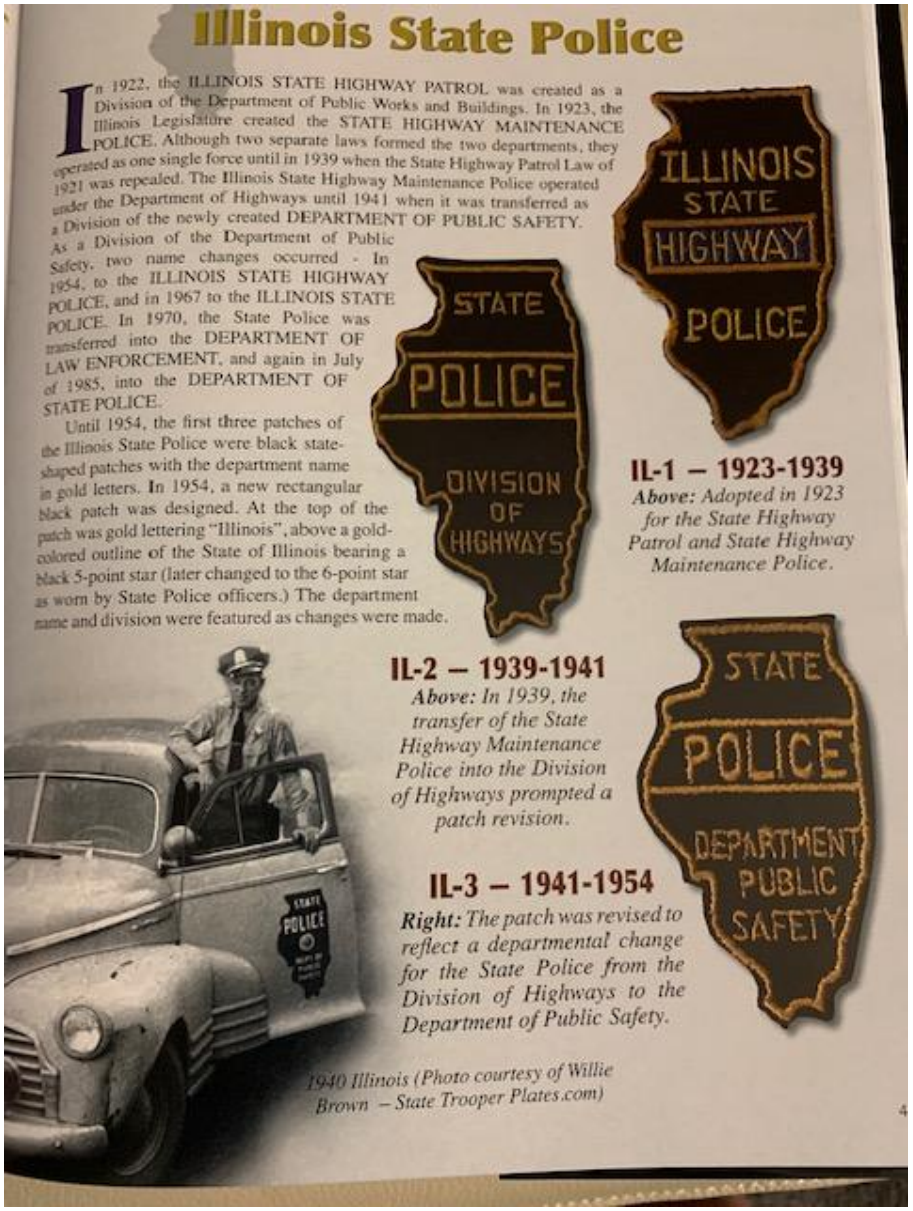
Book: **WORN WITH PRIDE**





Illinois State Police

In 1922, the ILLINOIS STATE HIGHWAY PATROL was created as a Division of the Department of Public Works and Buildings. In 1923, the Illinois Legislature created the STATE HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE POLICE. Although two separate laws formed the two departments, they operated as one single force until in 1939 when the State Highway Patrol Law of 1921 was repealed. The Illinois State Highway Maintenance Police operated under the Department of Highways until 1941 when it was transferred as a Division of the newly created DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY. As a Division of the Department of Public Safety, two name changes occurred - In 1954, to the ILLINOIS STATE HIGHWAY POLICE, and in 1967 to the ILLINOIS STATE POLICE. In 1970, the State Police was transferred into the DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, and again in July of 1985, into the DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE.

Until 1954, the first three patches of the Illinois State Police were black state-shaped patches with the department name in gold letters. In 1954, a new rectangular black patch was designed. At the top of the patch was gold lettering "Illinois", above a gold-colored outline of the State of Illinois bearing a black 5-point star (later changed to the 6-point star as worn by State Police officers.) The department name and division were featured as changes were made.

IL-1 – 1923-1939
Above: *Adopted in 1923 for the State Highway Patrol and State Highway Maintenance Police.*

IL-2 – 1939-1941
Above: *In 1939, the transfer of the State Highway Maintenance Police into the Division of Highways prompted a patch revision.*

IL-3 – 1941-1954
Right: *The patch was revised to reflect a departmental change for the State Police from the Division of Highways to the Department of Public Safety.*

1940 Illinois (Photo courtesy of Willie Brown – State Trooper Plates.com)