

# History of the Utah Highway Patrol

## Badge and Beehive

by Sergeant Les Langford  
Utah Highway Patrol (retired)

When Brigham Young and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly referred to as “Mormons,” came to the area now known as Salt Lake City in July 1847, the land was Mexican territory. The United States was engaged in the Mexican War (1846-1847). The United States won that war and the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo changed sovereignty to the United States. The Mormons applied for admission to the Union in 1849 as the state of “Deseret,” a Book of Mormon word meaning “honeybee” and signifying hard work and industry. The United States Congress rejected this proposal and created the Territory of Utah on September 9, 1850. “Utah” was derived from the Ute Indians meaning “people of the mountains.”



The “Territorial Seal” depicts a beehive and the date “Sept. 9th.” The beehive in this seal is in the form of an old-style beehive known as a skep. These dome-shaped skeps were made using twisted coils of straw. Mormon pi-

oneers brought five of them to Utah in 1848. The Mormons had adopted the beehive as a symbol of industry, unity, organization, and productivity. On the bottom of the Utah Territorial Seal are the Roman letters, MDCCCL, representing 1850.

An interpretation of the skep beehive appeared in Salt Lake City’s Deseret News, October 11, 1881, stating: “The hive and honey bees form our communal coat of arms. ... It is a significant representation of the industry, harmony, order and frugality of the people, and of the sweet results of their toil, union and intelligent cooperation.”

Utah received statehood January 4, 1896, as the 45th state and the Great Seal of the State of Utah was adopted on April 3, 1896 at the first regular session of the Legislature and is described in Utah law as: “The Great Seal of the State of Utah shall be two and one-half inches in diameter, and of the following device; the center a shield and perched thereon an American Eagle with outstretching wings; the top of the shield pierced by six arrows crosswise; under the arrows the motto “INDUSTRY”; beneath the motto a beehive, on either side growing sego lilies; below the figures “1847”; on each side of the shield an American Flag.; encircling all, near the outer edge of the seal, beginning at the

lower left-hand portion, the words, “THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF UTAH”, with the figures “1896” at the base.”



The first badge of the Utah Highway Patrol was designed in 1927 and was a shield with the words, “State Road Commission” on the top and “Police” on the bottom. In the center of the shield was a five-point star. The words “of Utah” followed by a number in the center of the star depicted the division the officer was assigned to rather than the badge number of the officer.



Early “patrolmen” were issued a forest green dress blouse and motorcycle pants. An emblem was sewn on the shoulders of these uniforms depicting a flying motorcycle

wheel with an arrow passing through the center. This emblem was also sewn onto the rigid, circular hat.



By 1930, a hat badge was adopted which included a facsimile of the Utah State Seal framed with crossed batons. At the bottom was a banner engraved with “Utah Highway Patrol.”



In 1932, the dress blouse, duty shirt and hat were changed to royal blue. Pants were changed to tan. The flying motorcycle wheel emblem remained on this uniform until about 1935 when the beehive was placed on the right sleeve. Years later the beehive was placed on both sleeves. This early beehive was blue and yellow in color and measured only 3.5 inches by 2.5 inches.

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A tan dress campaign or “Smokey” hat was issued in 1932. The hat badge for this hat was a circular emblem bearing a gold center of the Utah State Seal. The silver back and outer edge surrounded the State Seal with UTAH HIGHWAY PATROL.



Patrolmen wore both the dark blue hat and the tan Smokey hat with both the Class A “dress uniform” and the Class B “daily uniform.” Although the Smokey hat was never worn while operating a motorcycle. During the mid-1930s, patrolmen were issued a black leather motorcycle jacket with zipper front.

On March 21, 1935, the Utah State Legislature vested the Utah Highway Patrol with full statewide police authority. At this time the Utah Highway Patrol adopted a new badge that changed the banner at the top to read “Utah Highway Patrol.” The officer’s badge number was also engraved in the center of this badge upon the five-point star. The words “of Utah” were removed.



A new badge was adopted in 1946. The Utah Territorial Seal was placed on a shield as the center of this badge and the shape of the badge was changed to a six-point star. The five-point badge found in the center of the original badge was engraved on either side of the words “Utah Highway Patrol.” The word “Police” was also engraved on this badge, the same as the first two badges.



The patrolman’s badge number was engraved on a small plate, attached to the bottom point of the six-point star. Whenever badge numbers changed, every trooper had to submit their badge to headquarters for redistribution to match the new badge numbers. During the 1980s, the badge numbers were removed from all badges. The Utah Highway Patrol also adopted a new cocoa brown uniform in 1946.

The hat badge was also changed to the new six-point star with a banner across the top displaying “UTAH” and a banner across the bottom displaying “HIGHWAY PATROL.”



In 1947, the Utah Highway Patrol adopted the beehive, a symbol of industry, unity, organization and productivity, as an official emblem. These changes occurred on the centennial of the arrival of the Mormons into the Salt Lake Valley. The beehive was first placed on the uniform in about 1935. In 1947, the beehive was placed at all office locations of the UHP. In 1950, the beehive was placed on the doors of the patrol cars

of the UHP. October 1, 1947, members of the UHP were designated as troopers rather than patrolmen, except for those members still on their first year of probation.



The Utah Legislature adopted the beehive as the official state emblem and the official state motto “Industry” on March 4, 1959. Utahns relate the beehive symbol to industry and the pioneer virtues of thrift and perseverance.

For many years, when a trooper retired, he was required to surrender his symbol of authority, the uniform badge. Since the early 1980s, the Utah Highway Patrol Association has presented retiring members with a plaque as a symbol of faithful service. Attached to this plaque are the trooper’s badge, the beehive uniform patch, the trooper’s nameplate and service stars,

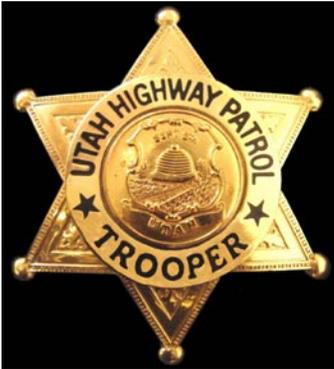


The 1950 Ford was the first patrol car of the UHP with the beehive located on the doors. Prior to this the Utah State Seal had adorned the doors of patrol cars of the Utah Highway Patrol. The distinctive black and white paint scheme plus top rotating red light was adopted in 1949.

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along with other awards such as service medals and pins.

Prior to 1985, all trooper badges had "POLICE" engraved across the bottom. Most of these badges were gold filled. A supervisor's rank was engraved on the bottom of their badge. In the late 1980s the rank of "TROOPER" was engraved on the bottom of the badge, replacing "POLICE."



To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Utah Highway Patrol and the vesting of full statewide police authority, the 1985 Utah State Legislature passed a bill that authorized a special license plate for the Utah Highway Patrol. This plate depicts scenic southern Utah across the top and the official emblem of the UHP, the beehive, in the center of the plate. To the left of the beehive are the letters "UHP." To the right of the beehive is the trooper's badge number. When badge numbers are changed the troopers are allowed to keep their patrol car license plates as a memento.

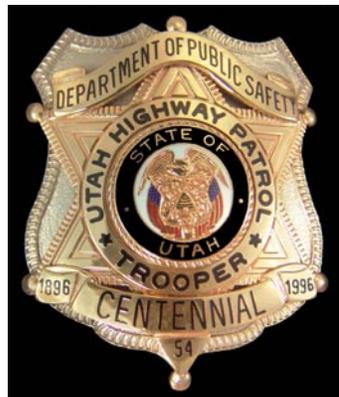
On April 14, 1993, the administration of the Utah High-



way Patrol adopted a mission statement and six values of the UHP. The six values represent the six-points of the Utah Highway Patrol badge. INTEGRITY, COURAGE, SERVICE, TEAMWORK, KNOWLEDGE, PROFESSIONALISM



The Utah Highway Patrol Association, in cooperation with the Utah Department of Public Safety, produced a special Centennial Badge in 1996, to celebrate 100 years of Utah statehood. The design selected utilized a combination of all badges worn by members of the Utah Highway Patrol. The center of the Centennial Badge is the Seal of the Great State of Utah. Sworn members of the department wore this badge during 1996.

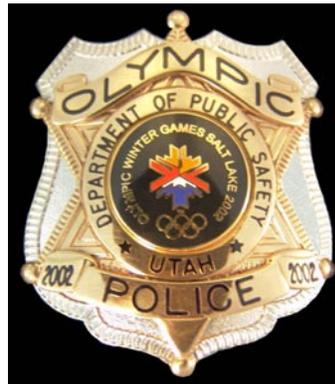


In 2002, Utah hosted the Winter Olympics and the Utah Highway Patrol Association created a special

Olympic badge to celebrate this occasion. The Olympic badge was based on the Centennial Badge design with the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympic logo in the center. Several



variations were available including a white and a black background in the center logo, plus personalized ribbons such as "STATE TROOPER", "OLYMPIC" or the officer's rank. Sworn members of the department wore this badge during 2002.



When first designed, each point of the 6-point badge contained rays of light and a small fleur-de-lis enclosed in a triangle. The fleur-de-lis is an ancient symbol used to represent direction or purpose. The fleur-de-lis was dropped from the badge during the early 1990s leaving only the rays of light. Later the center of the six triangles contained no

design. At the turn of the new century the six triangles were enlarged and again filled with rays of light and an arrow-head, honoring the six Indian tribes that roamed ancient Utah, the Bannock, Goshute, Navaho, Paiute, Shoshone and Ute tribes. The rays of light represent divine guidance for the people of the mountains – Utahns and the six arrow-heads signifying direction, purpose and values.



In 2010, the Utah Highway Patrol Association created a special 75th anniversary badge. This badge has the six UHP values in a circle around the traditional six-point star. The Territorial Seal was replaced with the beehive emblem and the words "75 years." Sworn members of the department wore this badge during 2010.

The Utah Highway Patrol is the only state police agency with a gold six-pointed badge.

