



[TRIBUNE Staff Photo]

SPECIAL SQUAD CAR—Capt. Frank Pape, Shakespeare area traffic chief, and traffic Policeman Walter Kochanski lean on one of the department's specially equipped squad cars used to patrol the Kennedy expressway. The autos boast a high-powered, 270 horsepower, eight-cylinder engine which can move at speeds of up to 140 miles an hour. The police car is fitted with special nylon tires, three separate sirens, and a public address system which is used to warn motorists of driving irregularities.

Special Breed of Cop Patrols Expressways

Chicago's ever-increasing network of high speed expressways has become the major arteries of travel that allow a constant flow of men and material into the heart of the city.

In order to keep these roads open, the police department has been forced to find special men and equipment. Perhaps the toughest expressway to patrol is the Kennedy. Charged with this task are nine policemen of Shakespeare avenue traffic headquarters, led by Capt. Frank Pape.

They Are Special Breed

Capt. Terrence T. Doherty, traffic chief, said, "The patrolmen who work the Kennedy expressway are a special breed."

Patrolmen drive squad cars out of the ordinary. Squeezed

under the hood of their cruisers is a 383 cubic inch engine which can develop 270 horsepower and speeds of 140 miles an hour. Standard equipment also includes a special rear end designed for quick acceleration.

Make Expressways Safe

George Rupprecht, automotive maintenance director, said top speed is less important than acceleration. He explained, "If a policeman has the acceleration power to overcome a speeder in the first block, public safety is not endangered."

Capt. Pape compared driving on the Kennedy to traveling by air. He said, "Both means of transportation are by far the

safest, but when there is an accident, it's a bad one."

Last year accidents on the expressway averaged 280 a month, during the period 11 persons were killed. In the first 3 months of 1966, 8 persons have been killed—6 in one accident which was the worst in the expressway's short history.

To reduce the accidents and to protect themselves the nine policemen take special courses in "defensive driving." Working the expressway is also kept on a voluntary basis.

Capt. Pape said, "The Kennedy is no place for timid drivers."