



Traffic Safety Bulletin

We Serve and Protect

JUNE 1986

FRED RICE, Superintendent of Police



AND



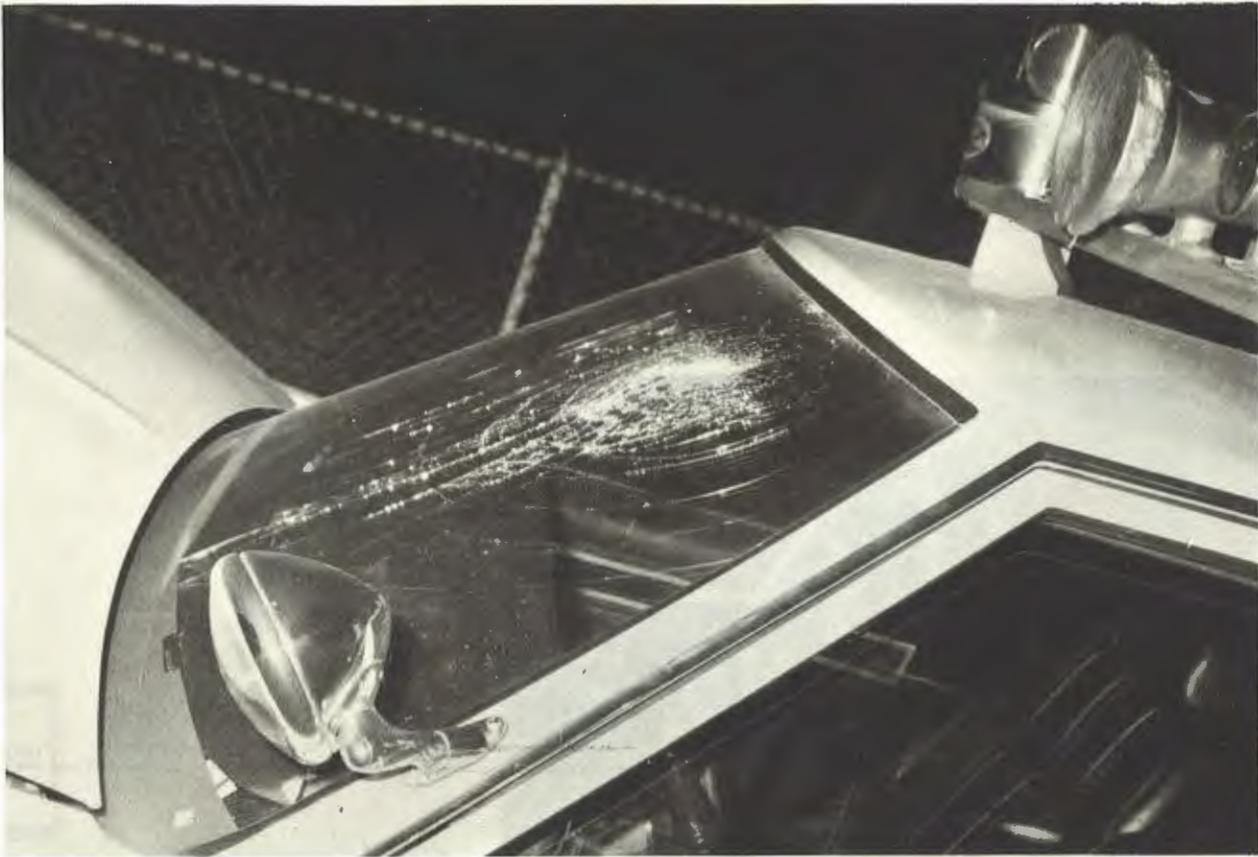
During a 24 hour period many police officers spend more time driving a motor vehicle than they do sleeping. Consequently their chances of being involved in an accident are much greater than they are for the average motorist.

Defensive driving can prevent accidents and save lives. Alertness, foresight, good judgement and skill are the techniques used by the professional driver.

Stop and think before entering an intersection, and make sure all traffic has stopped and yielded, even if you have the right of way.

It is of little consolation to the family of an officer who dies or is severely injured in a traffic accident that he was legally right.

THREE GUESSES . . .



THIS WINDSHIELD DAMAGE WAS CAUSED BY. . . .

1. A home run ball hit out of the park by one of Chicagos' Major league baseball teams.
(Not likely)
2. An overpowered blow dryer at the local car wash. (It's possible)
3. A meteorite. (You never know)

Well, they were all good guesses, however, this type of damage usually occurs when either the drivers or passengers head comes in contact with the windshield during an accident, often causing serious injury.

A second question requires no guessing. Was the officer involved in this accident wearing his seat belt? Obviously he was not.

And that brings us to our last question, which keeps all of us guessing. "Why not?" Maybe some of you are not convinced that the minor inconvenience and few seconds that it takes to buckle up are worth it.

Let's review these facts. In the first nine months since the state seat belt law went into effect, automobile occupant deaths have dropped 11.5%. This represents 92 lives saved. In the first three months there was a 25% decline in serious injuries to occupants. This represents 2,369 occupants who did not suffer serious injuries.

As the public becomes aware of the effectiveness of seat belts through education and enforcement, we can expect these percentages to increase; because we know that seatbelts save lives.