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On march

Cadets of the Illinois State Police, taking riot training at the State Fairgrounds in Springfield, march toward a group of "demonstrators."

Learning how to curb riot

By Michael Robinson

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — "Get extra hero, pigs!" A tear gas container lands hissing inside the wedge of state troopers and from a window pokes a spot of mottled camouflage; a glint of sunglasses and a rifle muzzle.

Three sharp cracks and the troopers are diving for cover. Somewhere a machine gun is erupting.

"Awright, break it off. Break it off and try it again."

A figure in baseball cap and coveralls is puffing on a whistle and motioning to the troopers impatiently like a football coach.

The scene is the Illinois State Fairgrounds and the troopers are actually state police cadets receiving riot training—a day and night of stinging winter winds; burning CS gas; booming shotguns; hollering instructors, and heckling "demonstrators."

Slowly, the cadets form up for another "clearing operation" and the tears from the gas grenades begin to freeze under their eyes.

Beginning with the growth of the civil rights movement in the early 1960s, riot training has become a major phase of state police work.

Realistic approach

More recently, millions of federal dollars have been furnished under the Safe Streets Act of 1968 to train and equip police to crush uprisings in the ghetto and on campuses.

And although college towns and inner cities have been comparatively relaxed over the last year, the riot fighting business is booming.

At the Fairgrounds session, officials placed the accent on what they termed a realistic approach.

As the wide-eyed cadets lockstep self-conciously toward the "demonstrators"—all veteran state troopers—a bewildering variety of signs and symbols pops up.

One inscribed "death to the Fascist pigs" is embellished with the semaphore symbol of the peace movement. Others say, "Black Power," "We will die for our freedom," "Oink, Oink, Oink" and "We will kill."

The demonstrators hurl obscene taunts and then ieeboils at the cadets.

Several cadets shout angrily and flail wildly with their three-foot "riot batons" only to be pounced upon and pulled into the swirling crowd.

With that, the "demonstrators" sit down in the street, link arms and begin hoarsely to chant the civil rights hymn "we shall overcome."

Can never relax

At one point the cadets are told to take a break. They huddle against the wall of a nearby building, sheltered from the wind.

As soon as they drop their guard, a bombardment of smoke grenades rains down and furious instructors shriek, "Scatter! Take cover! Are you crazy! You can't take a break in the middle of a riot."

Alone among the 88 trainees is a solitary black cadet. The "demonstrators" coax him away to a cattle shed.

There, they cuff his hands behind his back, smear his face with white grease, lower an empty feed bag over his head and fasten to his brown wool troopers coat a sign borrowed from one of the stalls. It says, "lamb and ewe."

Once before the trainees, the feed bag is ripped from his head, exposing the white grease smeared over his impassive dark face.

The cadets blink for a moment and burst out laughing.

Such exercises are held police say, to show that troopers must not under any circumstances wander off in the middle of a riot.

Worth cost

They estimate that the cost of a day and night of such training costs $8,500.

State officials say the use of black power slogans and peace symbols is unlikely to prejudice young cadets against protest groups.

Capt. Dwight Pitman, director of the training for the state police, says he believes such tactics are valuable "because the instructors who take part in the training have all seen those very things done at demonstrations."

"The cadets are going to find that we show them what really has been happening at recent demonstrations," he said.

Pitman said any emotional reaction the cadets might have to the juxtaposition of protest symbols with iceballs and obscene insults would most likely be offset by textbook teaching.

"We provide 30 hours of classroom training to show the social and psychological causes of the problem," he said.

"Maybe we shouldn't have them sing 'we shall overcome.' But, damn it, that's what they're going to hear when they go out to the demonstration."

Make it realistic

Street skirmishing is far from the only exercise. Cadets are also asked to flush out snipers from fairgrounds buildings.

In one instance, cadets are led to a barn where four men appear to be scuffling in the snow.

At the sight of the troopers, though, they scamper into the barn and reappear as snipers in windows of the loft.

As these "snipers" are pulled from the loft by cadets and placed in handcuffs, they whine mockingly, "I demand my rights . . . I wanna see a lawyer." Constantly they shout, "police brutality . . . police brutality."

Since 1963 when Herbert Brown, now state law enforcement director was sent to Ft. Benning, Ga., to learn from the army how to cope with unruly crowds, the scope of the program has widened considerably.

Every state trooper now gets a week of riot training plus refresher courses.

With $350,000 granted under the federal safe streets act, the State Police also have established two teams that roam Illinois preaching the doctrine of scientific riot-fighting to law enforcement agencies large and small.

Shoot gas

The same type of arsenal of crowd quelling weapons used to train state troopers is taken from town to town to indoctrinate local police.

In a recent exercise at Camp Lincoln, a desolate National Guard installation north of Springfield, State Police cadets got acquainted with this unusual assortment of guns, bombs, missiles, grenades and sprayers all designed to paralyze the will to resist police authority without actually killing.

A key part of this collection is that old standby — the shotgun. These days shotguns shoot more than mere conventional shells.

Bright flare — hissing and spitting sparks — can be blasted high over a darkened riot area, to hang for five to six minutes suspended from tiny parachutes.

Snipers can be flushed out with shotgun-launched gas bombs from 75 yards away.

Two types of tear gas are used, CN, which is mild and CS which burns the eyes and nostrils fiercely.

Among the grenades are the "triple chasers" which were lobbed — split into three hissing, smoke-spewing sections that jump 20 feet in the air and are called bouncing bettys by some troopers.

If throwing is preferred, there are always the round "baseball grenades" which lend themselves to overhand delivery.

But lobbing and throwing are far from the only way to smoke out rioters.

Three machines

State Police units are experimenting with "pepper foggers," odd devices born of the turbulent 1960s that resemble a cross between a machine gun, a power lawn mower, and a sun lamp.

So far the State Police have invested in only three of these gas-spraying machines at $295 each but they also have beefed up their arsenal with three "turbo-foggers" which are similar to "pepper foggers."

Although the Camp Lincoln demonstration of the pepper fogger fizzled because of cold weather, State Police say they are among the most effective crowd control devices.

"But if you've got a man with a pepper fogger, send out a couple of shotgun men with him, too," added an instructor. "He's gonna be a target."

Most sinister-looking of these people-control devices is the $76 "stun gun" which police say has a lethal range of only 10 yards.

"After that it hurts a lot, though" an instructor added.

The stock of the "stun gun" resembles an elongated blackjack, the barrel a homemade pipe rocket launcher.

Used for defense

As ammunition, the "stun gun" fires "bean bags" filled with lead pellets and bright powdery orange dye to mark rioters for arrest later.

"Knocked that knee right out from under him," remarked a trooper enthusiastically as a "bean bag" went clanging into a camp Lincoln oil drum.

The two teams used to train local police in riot control techniques are each equipped with six stun guns, six special gas grenade launchers, 12 shotguns, two pepper foggers and two turbo-foggers.

Pitman was reminded that the Illinois Law Enforcement commission, which awards safe streets funds to agencies in this state, has a much-touted rule against financing the purchase of "offensive" weapons. He was asked how this squared with the purchase of 24 shotguns.

"Well I'd say that they're not being used offensively," he replied. "We can't very well teach them how to launch gas grenades with shotguns if we don't have any shotguns," he said.

Riot garb

Wearing helmet and gas mask, a cadet undergoing special riot training, carries a shotgun teargas grenade launcher.

Challenge

Cadets in State Police riot training course advance on "demonstrators" who stage a mock sit-down in middle of street at state fairgrounds. Role of demonstrators in training maneuvers is taken by veteran state troopers.

Tazewell health unit to expand services

PEKIN — The Tazewell County Health Department is hoping to expand its three immunization clinics into Health Resource Clinics, according to Gordon Poquette, public health administrator. This would be in keeping with the concept of bringing health services to the people.

Three clinics are now being conducted and two more are in the planning stage.

Clinics will be expanded to offer hearing and vision screening. Pre-schoolers who are three or more may be brought to the clinic for testing. Also offered will be environmental health services, such as application for private sewer or water systems, advice on such systems, environmental health complaints, general environmental information and additional nurse health counseling.

This program will be on a six-month trial basis, Poquette said Friday. After six months, a total evaluation will be made in order to establish justification for continuing the program.

The first Health Resource Clinic will be held in Washington Wednesday at the United Methodist Church, 104 S. Elm; on Feb. 16 at the First United Methodist Church, 154 E. Washington in East Peoria; on Feb. 23 at St. Paul's United Church of Christ parish house, Seventh and Margaret Streets, in Pekin.

Rail signals rejected at Mansfield crossing

MANSFIELD — Piatt County's request to have warning lights installed at a railroad crossing on County Road 17 north of here has been turned down, Highway Supt. D. V. Johnson said Friday.

Johnson said the Illinois Commerce Commission, denying the request made last Nov. 15, said the "exposure factor" at the crossing wasn't high enough to warrant signals.

The exposure factor is the number of trains daily times the number of highway vehicles daily.

Johnson said the ICC used figures supplied by the railroad, the Norfolk and Western Railway Company.

He said the railroad's figures were lower than they should have been because they counted only eight through trains that use the crossings daily.

"But I've found out they also run two or three local trains a day," Johnson said.

He said he still thinks the crossing needs flashing signals. The spot is presently marked with reflectorized cross-arms.

The county will petition the ICC again after construction work on the road is completed this summer, he said.

Johnson said his department plans to widen and straighten the road, then take another traffic count.

He feels the new count will show the need for the flashing signals "for sure."

Candidates for Le Roy board may file starting Feb. 23

LE ROY (PNS)—Feb. 23 is the first day for filing petitions of candidacy for the Le Roy Board of Education. Elections will be held April 8, with the polls open from noon to 7 p.m.

The terms of Wallace Henry, the Rev. Jack Christian and George Flengel expire this year.

At its semi-monthly meeting Monday, the board:

—Hired Mrs. Jane Redding to replace Mrs. Lynn Monahan, who is on leave of absence while attending Illinois State University.

—Accepted the resignation of Philip Inwig, who has accepted a position with the office of the Illinois superintendent of public instruction.

—Approved payment of retroactive pay for teachers and other personnel.

—Approved unit participation in an intermediate social studies project with ISU.

Education

El Paso slates adult classes

EL PASO—Three adult education classes will be offered beginning Monday at El Paso High School. Registration will be accepted at the first session.

Classes, teachers and meeting places are:

Drawing and painting, taught by Mrs. Linda Hageman, art building; home economics, taught by Mrs. Virginia Brown, home economics room, and typing, taught by Mrs. Margaret Hanke, typing room.

All adult residents of El Paso Community Unit District 375 are eligible to enroll for the classes. A minimum of 10 persons must register for each class. The classes will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays.

Mrs. Newnam hostess

FAIRBURY (PNS) — The Belle Prairie Homemakers Extension Association Unit will meet at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Wayne Newnam. A potluck dinner will be held at noon. The major lesson will be given by Mrs. Horace Goenbel, and Mrs. Marvin Bahler on sewing with stretch material.

Minonk to view mini-Bloodmobile

MINONK (PNS) — The new mini-Bloodmobile unit of the Peoria Regional Red Cross blood program will be on public display in Minonk Monday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. It will be parked near the Illinois Central parking lot downtown.

The unit, which is for exhibit only, is specially designed to accommodate three blood donors at one time. It was built especially for collection in small communities or for businesses and organizations not large enough to support a full-scale visit Bloodmobile visit.

Beginning March 1, the unit will be put into regular operation.

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