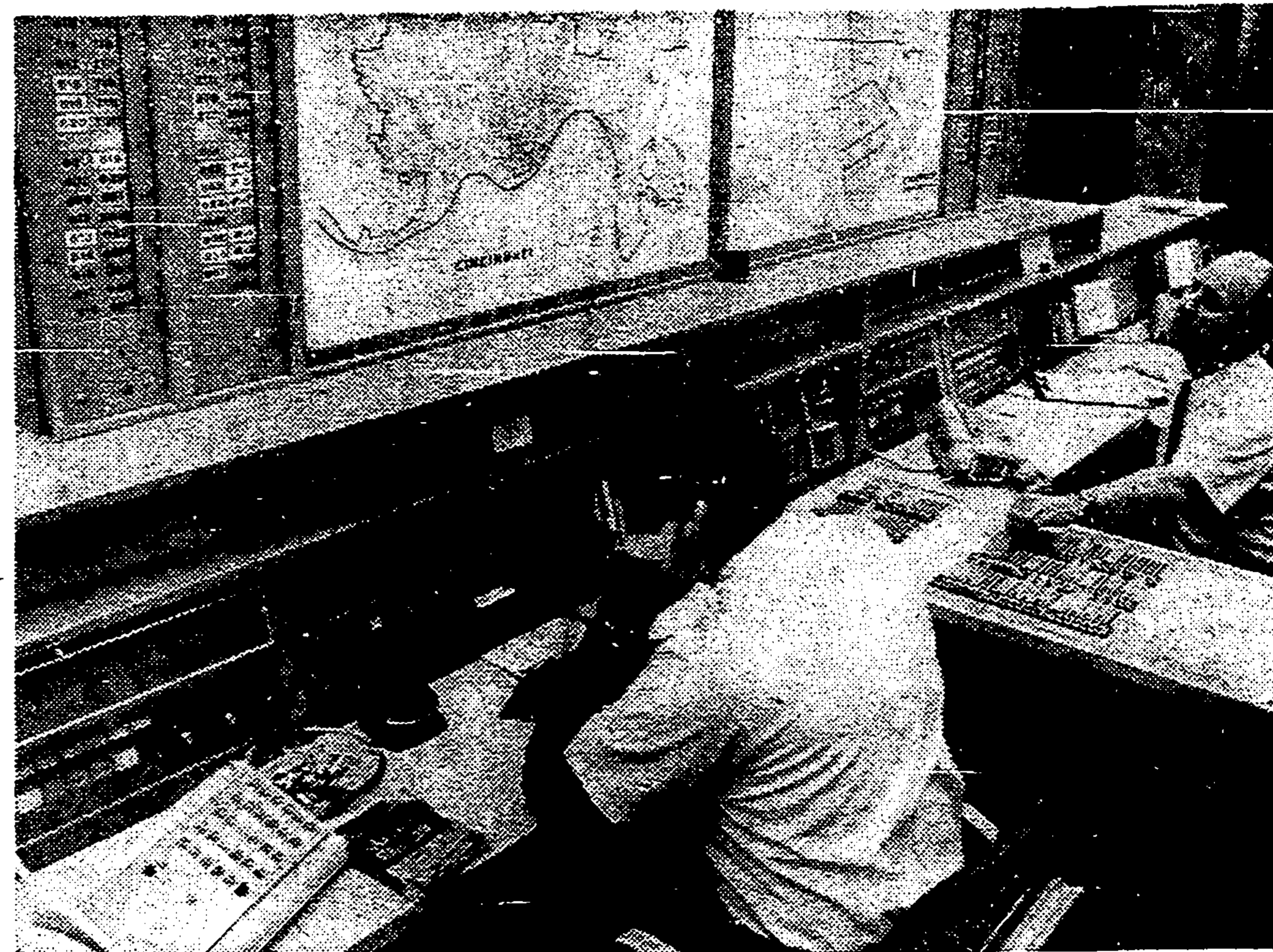


Station X moves into new center

Police communications reach new level of sophistication



Henry Sandman, Cincinnati safety director, left, and Vincent Grote, Communication Center superintendent, tour the new \$1.4 million center at 310 Lincoln Park drive.



Patrolmen Warren Roger and Ernest Harper man a portion of the center. Row of members, left, is list of patrol cars on duty. Center map is of the East zone of the city, the map right, is a census tract of the area.

BY STANLEY BRENNING
 Station X has come a long way in 40 years. If formality is required, Station X is officially KLY-957, alias KQA-387, alias WKDU, the official radio station of the Cincinnati Police Communications Center.

It's been broadcasting "cop-and-robber" stories and all the melodrama of human life that even fiction writers might not conceive, since 1931.

At 11 a.m. today, in the words of Vincent Grote, communications superintendent, Station X began "another new era in police communications," when it moved into its new \$1.4 million center on the third floor of police headquarters at 310 Lincoln Park drive.

Grote describes the new complex as "a center equal to or better than any in the country."

THAT'S NOTHING new for Station X. It was broadcasting to police cars long before such departments as New York and Chicago even thought of it.

The center makes possible the use of new battery-powered two-way portable radios. Policemen carry a combination microphone and speaker on the left shoulder of their uniform and transmitter on their belt.

The portables enable police to keep in communication with Station X while they are out of their cruisers. Total weight is less than 2½ pounds.

The center also has a command post for use during any community-wide

emergency. It contains a radio control center, a teletype room, quarters for two supervisors and a storage area. A magnetized master map of the city can be used by the police supervisor for establishing quadrants.

THE NEW Station X has six separate ultra high frequency radio channels each for a specific purpose. They are:

- West Zone for transmitting and receiving police messages from areas west of Vine street.
- East Zone for the area east of Vine street.
- City-wide operation. This channel is for broadcasts of a general nature to all police.
- Inquiry channel. This one is used to obtain information from the computer at the Regional Crime Information Center which began operations last March.
- Investigative channel for homicide, crime, vice control and juvenile bureaus. Remote control consoles at the crime bureau and juvenile center permit these agencies to keep in direct touch with their own people.
- Command channel for top echelon police officers for administrative and command functions.

THE RADIO CENTER has a complement of 53 trained police officers in addition to police cadets. By contrast in 1931 when the station operated from a small room in the basement of City Hall, a shift consisted of a police sergeant and a dispatcher. Today it has six dispatchers, a radio operator, a supervisor and a minimum of two cadets on each shift.

The initial center operated on a one-way only AM frequency to 51 police cars.

In 1941 the center was moved from City Hall to the former Water Works Pumping Station at 1430 Martin drive in Eden Park. Prior to that time there were no substantial records kept.

STATION X had 172,053 radio transmissions calls in 1941 (the first year records were kept) or an average of 471 a day. In 1969 (latest figures available) the station handled 1,522,585 calls or 4326 per day. It is estimated that more than 4500 calls are now handled daily.

The move to the 2000 square foot area in Eden Park provided for two dispatchers, a radio operator and sergeant. The system was changed to a two-way unit in February 1942, and then to a FM low band in 1944.

The department assigned 19 additional men to the center on Jan. 3 to familiarize themselves with radio dispatching prior to the

moving operations down-

Grote has served as superintendent of communications since 1963. Robert Connick is the assistant superintendent.

got its nickname before it got its first official call letters, WKDU. Because no one knew its real name, an engineer marked plans for the station "Station X." The name stuck through the 40 years.



Sgt. Robert Finn demonstrates new portable radio which now keeps Cincinnati police in contact with Station X at all times. Wire from radio unit on Sgt. Finn's belt goes under new police Eisenhower jacket to the speaker at shoulder level.

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