

# New Computer Will Modernize Operations For Local Police Department

Jan. 1, the Mooresville Police Department will add a big byte to its law enforcement capabilities.

The local department, following a trend present at all levels of law enforcement and in all types of businesses around the world, will begin using a computerized records and report system the first day of 1988.

The Mooresville Town Board, at last week's monthly meeting, unanimously approved the purchase of the system, provided by the Cantus Corporation from Rock Hill, S.C. at a cost of \$15,882.25.

The system, according to Police Chief Joe Puett, is needed to modernize the department's record keeping and research operations.

"Today computers, especially in this business, are no longer a luxury," Puett said, "they are standard equipment."

Puett, who has headed up the local department for more than two years, said he has been pushing the purchase of a computer system from day one and was pleased that the system would be ready to use Jan. 1.

"This will be a big plus for the department," Puett said. "It's something we need and I'm glad there was room in the budget for it this year."

Puett said the system will make keeping records and finding stored information much easier for the department.

"Retrieval will be the biggest plus

for us," Puett said. "We will be able to cross-reference all kinds of information and find out the facts we need in minutes instead of hours."

The local department is already computer-linked to the Police Information Network, which provides access to drivers' license records as well as information about warrants, missing persons and other law enforcement correspondence between departments.

The new system will be more customized. It will be used to store information about the local department's activities.

Information concerning crimes, traffic accidents and other events involving police response will be placed into the computer system and

categorized. That will allow department officials to recall and analyze information quickly when called upon to evaluate crime or traffic patterns.

"Say, for instance, the town board asks the police department about the safety of a certain intersection," Puett said. "With the computer in service, we would be able to find out how many accidents we've responded to and all other information about that intersection in just a few minutes, instead of taking several hours to work through all the paper files."

Other information, like the number of false alarms or the times police assistance was required, would be used by the department to

find patterns or problem areas in the town.

"We could do all this now, using the manual files, but it would take hours or days," Puett said. "With the computer, we can find out what we need to know in minutes."

In addition to improving the department's efficiency, the computer system will also make growth and expansion easier for the department.

"We will be able to add to the system as the need arises," Puett said. "Down the road, we might set up a computer-aided dispatch system or make other improvements. This system has those capabilities."

Puett said the Cantus system will

also make personnel and budget operations simpler.

The computer itself is a basic system, but the software will be especially designed for the department's use.

"When we get it, it will be loaded and ready to use," Puett explained. "The software that will come with the system will be designed to our specifications and set up for the type of work we'll do."

He added that systems like the one Mooresville will get are highly recommended for smaller departments.

Cantus was the only company submitting a bid, meeting all the department's computer and software specifications. Even though the final cost of the system was over budget, the town board did not hesitate to accept the offer.

"We had \$15,000 set aside in the budget for this purchase," Town Manager Rick McLean said at the meeting. "The dollars over that are mostly sales tax and, considering the restrictive specifications, the chief wrote into the package. I think this is a good deal."

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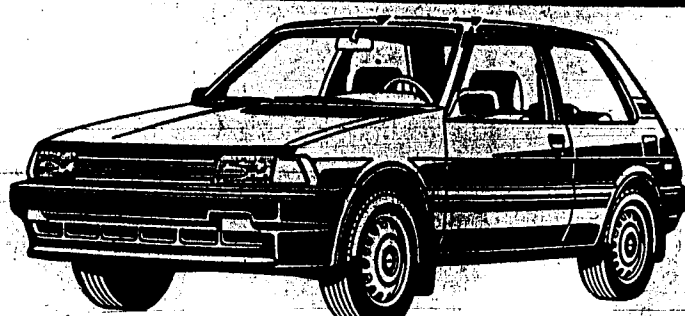
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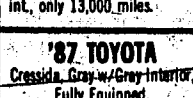
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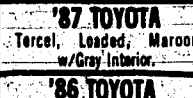
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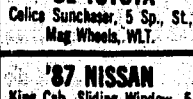
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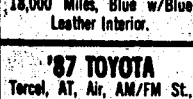
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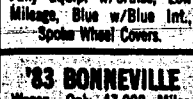
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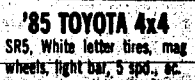
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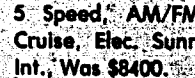
**'86 NISSAN**  
Maxima, 5 spd., loaded,  
sunroof, gray w/gray int.



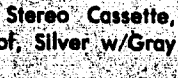
**'85 VOLKSWAGEN**  
Jetta, 5 spd., AC, stereo, like  
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**'84 CELICA GT**  
Coupe, 5 spd., AC, stereo, like  
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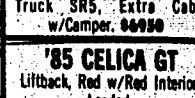
**1984 COROLLA SR5**  
5 Speed, AM/FM Stereo Cassette,  
Cruise, Elec. Sunroof, Silver w/Gray  
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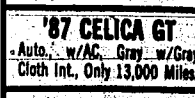
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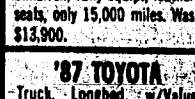
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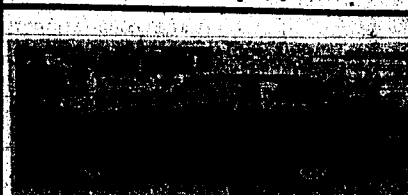
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