

# Woman to Wear Troopers Badge On State Force

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Cadet Joanne Mariani soon will be proudly wearing the badge of a trooper in the Illinois State Police force.

She is the first woman accepted for training in a 10-week course at the Illinois Highway State Police Training Academy.

She may also be setting a first in women's rights for equal opportunity. She is scheduled to be graduated July 12.

Mrs. Mariani, 39, is the mother of three teen-age children who live with relatives in Evanston, Ill.

Joanne served eight years with the Evanston Police Department. She was a patrolwoman and was given a leave to train for the state police job.

Her police career dealt with crimes involving women, young girls and children.

After she qualifies for her new police job, she likely will be attired in fashionable apparel as a plainclothes officer attached to the state's crime section.

As one of 33 cadets in her class, she joins in sessions beginning at 8 a.m. and often ending near 10 p.m. The school operates on a seven-day week schedule.

Mrs. Mariani lives with a family off the academy campus located on the Illinois State Fair Grounds. Male troopers are quartered in barracks at the school.

The course requires 638 hours of study and classwork. Subjects range from studies in criminal law, accident investigation, first aid, and firearms handling to public speaking.

Joanne neither asks for or receives special treatment.

"Other than the fact that she's female, she's like everyone else that goes through here," said Cpl. Robert Kearns, assistant director of the academy.

But Joanne likes school.

"It keeps you busy going to school," she said in an interview. "It's very interesting, and they do a very wonderful job."

Mrs. Mariani is divorced. Her desire for a police career fulfills her desire to work with people.

"They are about as interesting as anything on this earth," she said.

Joanne's appointment as a cadet is contingent upon her passing the course that has an average dropout of one in seven.

"But I'm passing," she said, happily.