

LAW ENFORCEMENT RESEARCH — A NEED

Gerry I. Moilien, State Conversation Commission, Lewis, IA

Abstract: Law enforcement research is needed to provide better tools for detecting and prosecuting game law violations.

Proc. Annual Conf. S.E. Assoc. Fish & Wildl. Agencies 31: 669-670

Law Enforcement is no longer a seat-of-the-pants type of operation. Today there are full degrees in Law Enforcement from accredited colleges. There are courses in methods, approaches, reasonings, public reactions, scientific evaluation, criminology and psychology.

Today's Law Enforcement Officer is expected to be an accurate observer, with almost electronic recall of details and happenings, a digester of facts and circumstances, and exacting in tabulations. He is expected to be an expert in handling the problem to the satisfaction of the individuals, his superiors, and the public. Later, in the cool unhurried atmosphere of a court room his actions will be rehashed and digested for any and all errors of misjudgment or procedure.

Yes, today we expect a Law Enforcement Officer to be almost letter perfect at all times. That's in *Law Enforcement* and we expect almost the same exacting accomplishment in all of his other additional duties as well!!

To what, do we as administrators or managers, address ourselves towards this goal of better training for our Officers? To be sure, we look towards younger more efficient men, with broader backgrounds, higher intelligence, more education. We're more selective in our hiring, work toward earlier retirement for the older officers, and advancement in rank for the aggressive.

We've established training schools for the newly appointed, and in-service training for established Officers on all the new court opinions and the ever-changing laws, rules and regulations.

And we, in Fish and Game especially, must train our people in the reasons behind these rules and regulations so they can better gain public acceptance and backing. We've always known public acceptance through understanding and willing compliance for the majority works better than strictly law enforcement. So we have even more recently addressed ourselves to the direct problem of training the individual Officer. And we include even the supervisory force on leadership and management training.

But what have we done towards giving this better trained individual better tools to work with? I'm not addressing myself to bigger and better cars, boats, motors, snowmobiles, etc., important as they may be, *I'm speaking of scientific research for specific problems in the field of Fish and Game Law Enforcement.*

We have regulations as to hours with only one tool, a watch, and regulations as to species and sex with no more than the names of them in a book. Now, we need to develop the tools for these men to assist them in better determination and results of investigation. We need to provide tools to determine such items as time of death, and feather, hair, blood, and sex identification.

Some of the states have been working towards this in one way or another; we in Iowa have developed a feather identification series, showing wing, tail and body feathers of our upland game species of pheasant, quail, grouse, etc. We have done this also for waterfowl and for the protected species. Beak and feet collections for training and identification, and sex determination of dressed game such as pheasants and deer have been set up. To improve our ability to determine time of death we have approached it from temperature, electrical reaction, and eye appearance with a high degree of success.

I would like to suggest that we need an organization within this group dedicated to the development of Fish and Game Law Enforcement tools thru research, combined and coordinated with all of us, so that we may better do our job.

Every other Section of our various departments have not only operational but research branches. It's time we took on this job on responsibility too. No one else

knows the particular problems which exist in this area. No one else knows the material or methods needed to convince a judge or jury.

It's clearly our problem and we have the people who can do it! Because of our many other duties and responsibilities we will have to lean on one another. But let's begin!

One of the greatest compliments I've heard in recent years came from a scientist in one of our neighboring states crime lab, who said 'If you get shot in Wisconsin, tie on a set of antlers before you die and those wardens will get your killer.'