

Because of the time limitation, we will not be able to show the complete course, but we will show a representative sample so you have a complete understanding of how the thing is put together, and afterwards I will be glad to answer any questions relating to the program.

## THINGS EXPECTED OF A ROOKIE CONSERVATION OFFICER

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I do not care how smart any of you are or what rank you now hold, you had to start out as a "rookie". Most probably things have changed a lot since some of you started your rookie year. All of you think back; try to remember some of the things you did during that first year with your department. I would be willing to bet that some of the things you did would astonish any young man just starting his career in Conservation today. Even though the things we did are greatly different, the things expected of us are mainly the same.

One of the first questions to arise when a new man has been hired is, can he follow the departmental rules and regulations. This is a must if he is expected to continue with the Department. Another important requirement of a young man is his ability to work with fellow officers. No one man can do all the work.

When I played football in high school and college, the first thing I was expected to learn was teamwork. This not only applied to football, but to conservation as well. The work one man can do alone, two men can do better.

Next in the line of rules and regulations would be care for state-owned equipment. Some young men might get the wrong impression regarding this equipment, which almost always includes a vehicle, and in many cases a boat, motor and trailer. Although we, the State Conservation Officers, do not have to pay for the up-keep of this equipment, we should treat it as though it were our own.

A young officer should concern himself with the service he has to render upon his community, state and country through firm but courteous enforcement of conservation laws. A Conservation Officer is specialized in his work, this being enforcement of state conservation laws and the protection of all natural resources. He patrols an assigned area to prevent and detect violations of game and fish laws; interprets conservation laws to individuals encountered on patrols and makes arrests of violators; makes reports of findings and appears in court as a witness in cases brought to trial; inspects state lands and makes periodic reports on conditions; works with farmers and landowners in proper land utilization involving observance of sound conservation practices.

Bring all these phases together, along with showing no partiality toward anyone no matter how rich and powerful or poor and ragged he may be, then you may consider yourself a servant of the community, state and your country.

A young officer should definitely be concerned about his personal appearance and moral standards at all times—on and off duty. He should, while on duty, and where working conditions do not otherwise require, have a clean shave, clean, pressed uniform, shined brass, polished shoes, neat haircut, clean hands and fingernails and no body-odor. Any one of these things can easily be very distracting. Also, when an officer puts on his uniform, he should put it all on, not just part of it. Most departments have a rule about being out of uniform.

When we think of morals—on and off duty—most of us immediately think of drinking in public. If an officer does drink, there is a time and place for it, but not while on duty.

Communicating and associating with people in the community are also important factors. Often a Conservation Officer has to patrol such a large area that it would be next to impossible for him to contact and get to know everyone. I believe it best for a young officer moving into a new territory to get acquainted with everyone he can as soon as possible. This can be accomplished by several different methods, depending upon the officer himself. The method I employed was simple. I asked a fellow officer working in the same county as I to introduce me as we made our rounds. During the following month, which we worked together almost entirely, I met many of the citizens. Since then I believe I have come into contact with most of the other people that live in my territory. Any Conservation Officer will quickly tell you that knowing the people and having their consideration and cooperation makes his job much easier.

Become familiar with your territory as soon as possible. Learn the major highways, dirt roads, rivers, streams, and lakes. Learn the major landowners, where their land is located, and what kind of organization they have. Most of this could be done by studying maps and aerial photographs, but your best knowledge will probably be gained by driving and walking over your territory. I found this true in my case. After all the map studying had been completed, off I went to patrol my newly acquired territory. This patrolling did not last long however, because I got so turned around and confused and I might add a little embarrassed when I had to stop and ask directions back home. Since then I have tried not to get completely lost. The way I finally learned my territory was mostly by trial and error. Each day I would patrol a different area. When I came to a road anyone could drive down, whether it was a pavement, dirt road, or just a log road, I followed it as far as possible or until it left my territory. This has proven to be a very efficient method for me in learning my territory.

It is my belief that all young Conservation Officers should become involved in the Community's civic and social life. Membership or otherwise participation, in organizations such as Rotary, Lions, Boy Scouts and school assembly programs, are of real importance. All officers should prepare or otherwise obtain a program to present before these various groups. These programs could hit upon the points of our present day Conservation laws pertaining to game and fish, gun safety, state parks, water pollution, clear cutting timber, or misuse of pesticides. These extra-curricular activities are fine but they should be coordinated with an officer's primary work of enforcement.

To sum up what I think is expected of a "rookie" officer, I would say, he is to strive in expanding and strengthening his previously acquired knowledge, skills, and abilities so that they may further help his Department.