

ment officers alike — must work and act together. We must accept our responsibility as parents and know where our kids *are* and *with whom*, and *what they are doing*. We cannot afford to ignore much longer this threat to our right of peaceful enjoyment of our property and pursuit of happiness. We must insist on enactment of more stringent laws and stricter enforcement. We must cast aside our dangerous, indulgent attitude towards crime, filth, and corruption.

No one can deny that motion pictures are defiantly pursuing a bold courtship with obscenity. No one can deny that television is bringing lurid portrayals of violence and sadism into our family rooms. We must admit, also, our tolerance of the sensual trash that is racked on the shelves of our newsstands, book stores, and libraries — and which are available to fill the minds of our children. Billy Graham said, "We must watch what we put in our minds as carefully as what we put in our stomachs. You are what you eat. You become what you read."

In Timothy II, in the New Testament, in the third Chapter, the Apostle Paul predicted our present "*perilous times*," when he said — "For people shall be lovers of their own selves — *disobedient of parents — unthankful — unholy — without natural affection — fierce — and despisers of those that are good — lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God.*"

In closing, our youth needs *strength — not weakness*. They need *discipline — not indulgence*. They need guidance from law-respecting parents and the environment of a decent home, untolerant of misbehavior.

If we will recognize our civic obligations to uphold the rightful actions of *all* law enforcement officers, and abolish our *attitudes* of apathy and complacency towards our responsibilities of good citizenship and our duties as parents — as educators — as officers. If we try hard enough and cooperate with one another — we may not "cure" the "under privileged" — the "ultra sensitive" — the "misunderstood" — but we may "re-rail" some of the better kids who have an occasional tendency to "jump the track."

It has been nice talking to you. You have been a most attentive audience. I apologize for taking so much of your time.

## SUPERVISION OF A GAME WARDEN TRAINEE

By H. H. PITTMAN, JR.

*Virginia Game Warden*

Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries

First, I would like to make a few remarks about Virginia's system of selecting a game warden trainee. This system was developed after a careful study of North Carolina's fine recruitment program, as well as those of the Virginia State Police and other Virginia agencies.

An ad is placed in newspapers with statewide coverage — "Game Wardens, age 21-34, height 5' 8" to 6' 4", high school graduates. For other information, contact your nearest Virginia Employment Service." When an interview was granted, they were required to bring to the Virginia Employment Service their birth certificate, verification of being a high school graduate or equivalent, criminal history report, medical history report, the written examination they had taken to cover ability, aptitude, wildlife background knowledge and personal adjustment. Persons passing the above test and qualifications were invited to appear before an oral examining board and also required to complete a strength and agility test. During our last recruitment, out of about 500 applicants to apply for game wardens, approximately 100 were asked to appear before the Board.

The Board consisted of three employees of the Law Enforcement Division, one from the State Merit System and one from the Wildlife Section of one of the State universities.

A background investigation was run on all the men who were

approved by the Oral Examining Board. This was done by our regular game wardens. The wardens were furnished forms in various categories of the investigation such as contact employer, school record, criminal record, school teachers, neighbors, wife and other persons who might be of help in supplying information concerning the particular applicant. After completion of the investigation, a selection is made by the Chief of Law Enforcement according to their grades and investigation. The men selected are given fifteen days' notice to report to a training school for two weeks. They are paid \$1.50 an hour while attending the training school classes, eight hours per day. The training consists of instruction on Court Procedure, Search and Seizure, Public Relations, a review of our Regulation and Law Books, Hunter Safety Course, reports and other subjects pertaining to their job.

At the completion of the two-week training period these men were assigned to an experienced warden, or to a vacant area where they would be under the supervision of an experienced warden. The warden was required to make a progress report to his Supervisor at the end of each month, for six months, about the trainee's work habits, etc. These men were put on a two-week expense allowance and were requested to rent a place to live during that time. They were equipped with uniforms and an automobile if available.

I would like to make it clear that there are many things that are involved in supervising a game warden trainee that will not be brought out because time will not permit it. As human beings, we are all different in many ways, our manner, character, our approach in meeting people, our ideas, our methods of doing things, but the point is; we should all try to get the job done, remembering to treat all people with respect, justice, fairness and alike, no matter who they may be.

Knowing that the game warden trainee had just finished a two-week training school on Game and Fish Management, Public Relations, Regulations and Laws, etc., I felt it would help him to relate some of this into practical experience in dealing directly with law enforcement in the field.

In our Public Relations Classes, we are instructed to keep ourselves posted on the current events and especially those that are related to the Game and Fish Commission, other agencies that deal with wildlife, conservation, management and the latest in Game & Fish and Boat Laws so as to be able to join in intelligent discussion when attending a civic gathering, meeting sportsmen in the field or at the country store. The reading of our Virginia Wildlife Magazine is also a must. People read the conservation articles and they question you just to see if you have read them, or perhaps they want you to know that they have read them or to find out what you know about the subject.

I introduced my trainee to the County Officials and as we patrolled the county we stopped in at the country stores to meet and talk with the citizens of the county. As we traveled, I pointed out areas that are hunted more than others; in season and out of season. I discussed cases that I had made in certain areas (roads, streams, rivers) and how to better work that area. I tried to familiarize the trainee with the area and the habit of the hunters in that area and what to look for.

When I had complaints in my county I would take him with me to let him see how I would take care of it. If we were working in his county, I would let him answer the complaint and advise him. I encouraged the trainee to go out and patrol alone to help build up his confidence and gain experience.

We discussed the working of the Fiscal Division, Educational Division, Game Division, Fish Division and Law Enforcement Division of the Commission. The molding of a healthy attitude into the trainee toward his supervision and organization is a vital phase of his conditioning. I encouraged the trainee to be courteous to all people regardless of who they are. I have seen many a poor, uneducated person's eyes light up just because an officer had stopped and talked or just spoken to him in a public place. If a question about the law is asked and he is not sure of the answer, then he should always look it up and read it to the person asking the question. In discussing game, fish and boat laws with the trainee, I tried to bring out that it is

necessary to have the proper evidence to convince the judge or jury that the defendant is worthy of the penalty as provided by law.

In instructing the trainee about a person violating a law, he must understand it is not the officer's duty to decide if the violator should be penalized or not, but it is up to the courts to decide the penalty or dismiss the case. Also, that he must be on guard for the person with a hard luck story. Some do have hard luck, but many use the hard luck story in order to get the sympathy of the officer. Also he must be on guard of the defendant playing 'possum. That is, he will agree with anything you may say or do, and at the same time hoping by doing so you may let him go. Then there is the type person who will do most anything, hoping to get you angry.

Being alert at all times was one of the important things I tried to impress upon the trainee. Especially at night, and in the case of spotlighting deer. Usually there is a group of people, thus, two wardens working together make for the safest investigation. It is better for one to do the questioning or searching while the other stands guard. If you are alone, then just pray to God that the people in the vehicle are scared stiff. (This is a subject worthy of an hour's talk.) Always look for the unexpected in law enforcement.

The trainee was encouraged to always answer the complaint he receives, be it small or large, from the poor or rich, because we are servants of the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Virginia requires that we send in a weekly and a monthly report with an itinerary for the week. I understand from the Supervisor that a few wardens do not like making reports or sending them in on time. I encouraged the trainee to be systematic in making reports and other things, but that doesn't mean that he must be at the drug store or a certain area every morning at 9:00 o'clock.

The importance of making sure the warrant of arrest is correct before serving it on a defendant is most imperative. See that it has been assigned by the Justice of the Peace, the dates, defendant's name, and charges are correct. A lawyer doesn't miss these things. Treat the defendant, during investigation or arrest, in a manner that he cannot embarrass you in court. After you have enough evidence to arrest a person and you know you are going to issue a summons or get a warrant of arrest, then I say do it as soon as possible. Because if you hesitate in writing, it leaves a doubt in the defendant's mind and the longer you are around the madder he gets. If you don't see enough evidence, don't tell the defendant, "I am going to give you a break this time because I didn't see it all," just let him go. He is going to tell all his friends who will expect the same.

Take notes on the statements made by the defendant and witnesses that are in the presence of the defendant during the investigation or arrest. Take notes on all evidence found as to the relation of the case. For instance, if you are checking an auto in a spotlighting case, the position of the firearms in the vehicle, muzzle down or up, on seat or on floor, on front or back seat, loaded or not, gauge or caliber, how many shells in firearms, empty shells and where were the extra shells or cartridges. Who was seated where in the vehicle. It is a must that you label all the evidence, because a defending lawyer is going to ask, "How do you know that this is his gun or shells, etc.?"

If it is a night violation, go back the next day and familiarize yourself with the lay of the land, width and length of field, banks of road, measure by pacing off distance of how far you were parked (if parked) from the road.

The trainee was encouraged to be suspicious of all hunters and fishermen, particularly if he sees some little unusual act, then be suspicious of his every act but don't let him know you are concerned. Many of our best citizens, when they get a firearm in their hands and go hunting, seem to lose all respect for game laws and think the law is for the other person. This is a hard thing to say, because a majority of the citizens are honest.

I tried to impress on the trainee the importance of being prepared for the courtroom. Always before going into the courtroom go over your notes on the cases thoroughly. Then think back over the event and

put your testimony together so that you can present it to the judge or jury as a chain of events in the order that they occurred. Don't memorize your notes, refer to them if necessary. I don't think any officer will fear cross-examination if he will do this.

It is a must when a defendant is represented by an attorney, that you discuss the case with an attorney for the Commonwealth before going in court.

In court, when giving your testimony, tell nothing but the facts in the case. If a question is asked and you are required by the judge to answer, then it is your duty to present the truth even if it helps the defendant. Don't ever volunteer information on the witness stand.

Being calm helps to create self-confidence as well as confidence on the part of the judge or jury in you and your testimony.

The time a seasoned game warden spends with a trainee may well be one of the greatest single contributions a man can make to his organization. Some of the patterns, habits and attitudes that he molds into the trainee will follow the man to his retirement.

This can also be a most satisfying assignment, for what is more gratifying than to know that you have contributed to the making of an outstanding game warden?

## TWO-WAY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

PAUL STRUNK

*Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement*  
Tennessee Game and Fish Commission

To say that a modern fish and wildlife enforcement program does not need a modern communications system would be much like saying that an astronaut does not need the booster rocket by which he gets into space.

In fact, I'm actually amazed when I think about what law enforcement officers were once able to do with the limited communication facilities they once had.

But things have changed a lot, and the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission now has in operation one of the finest communications systems in the United States. It is our "Booster Rocket," so to speak. It is what "gets us there!"

And this is so because at the present time we have:

- 12 Base Stations . . .
- 30 Relay Stations . . .
- 311 Mobile Units . . .
- 10 Handy-Talkys . . .
- 2 Airplanes . . . and
- 6 Boats. These enable us to maintain radio contact across

the entire State of Tennessee so that we may protect the fish and wildlife resources of which Tennesseans have always been proud.

It's easy to see how important this system is when one considers the approximates 1,100 miles from one end of the State to the other — from Bristol to Memphis.

\* \* \*

For instance, here are a few sample cases which illustrate the effectiveness of our communications set-up:

Not many years ago there was a serious outbreak of deer "Jack-lighting" on the Cumberland Plateau. At the time, our Officers weren't able to cope with the offenses. What was needed, of course, was a well coordinated "crackdown" which only good radio contact among our Officers could make possible.

With the installation of radios in our mobile units —and once our people were all fully acquainted with the handy-talky — for the first