



AWARD TO PATROL . . . Col. Edwin Guy, Commander of the N. C. Highway Patrol, accepts the first annual award to the patrol for outstanding performance in reducing traffic deaths on North Carolina's highways. Making the presentation is Paul A. Hoover, president of the Carolinas Association of Mutual Insurance Agents. The agents' association presented the award at the beginning of its two-day convention in the Capital city.

Protectors Declare War On Those Who "Firelight"

By **JIM DEAN**
 "There he is," said Bob Hazel suddenly, "see him?"
 "Yeah, I see him," said Carlton Spain of Edenton as he leaned toward the window of the airplane and peered out into the blackness. "He's shining a light into the woods."

I craned my neck and looked down. Off in the distance I could see a rash of twinkling lights that Bob who was piloting the plane, had said was Plymouth. Under us, the ground was black except for the paler blotch that was Pungo Lake and the lights of a solitary car which was deep in the swamp.

The car was moving slowly, and even from this distance, it was easy to see the spotlight from it playing back and forth in the woods. "They're firelighting deer," said Carlton. "I'm almost sure of it."

Bob quickly relayed directions to wildlife protectors in cars on the ground, then we sat back to await developments. We didn't have to wait long. The radio crackled into life and a voice from the ground gave us the details.

"There are four of them," said the protector. "They've got a .22 rifle and a possum, but we also found a high-powered rifle they threw out, so we're taking them in. You don't need a deer gun to shoot possums."

Firelighting is the same thing as "spotlighting" or "jacklighting." All are terms for the despicable practice of riding slowly down a road at night while shining a power-

ful light into the woods and fields.

When the light hits a deer, the deer freezes. While he is blinded and helpless, the firefighter guns him down. Firefighters could care less whether the deer are bucks, does, or fawns—or for that matter, even deer. Livestock and wildlife of all sorts are sometimes shot by firefighters.

It used to be, a few years ago, that a firefighter could easily shoot a dozen deer a year without ever leaving the comfort of his car, but not anymore.

It's too easy to get caught and the penalties are severe. The Wildlife Commission has four airplanes, and those planes can literally blanket the entire state on any given night. The planes work in close cooperation with wildlife protectors on the ground in fast cars equipped with radios and the combination has proven highly effective.

It's a lucky firefighter who doesn't get caught sooner or later, and the result is usually the loss of his car and guns, plus a fine that might be more than \$1,000. At that price, illegal venison is the highest price meat you can eat.

"Those firefighters would be amazed if they knew what we can see from the air," Bob told me as we flew to another area. "They know we're using the airplanes on them but they figure we won't use them at odd times. Some firefighters think we won't spot them if they stay in settled farm country and

out of remote areas. Believe me, those can be risky assumptions."

"By the way," I asked. "Isn't today Friday the 13th?" "Sure is," replied Bob. "You're not superstitious are you?"

"No," I said, "but I know four fellows who probably will be from now on."

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT
 Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Wood Jones of Edenton announce the birth of a daughter on Friday, November 13. This is their third child.

UPDW DIVIDEND
 The board of directors of the United Piece Dye Works has declared a quarterly dividend of 12½ cents payable on January 4, 1971, to stockholders of record December 15, 1970.

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Waff Receives Commendation

FT. HOOD, Tex. — Army Specialist Four John E. Waff, IV, whose parents live on Route 3, Edenton, N. C., recently received a letter of appreciation at Ft. Hood, Tex.

The award was earned for meritorious service during the present assignment.

Spec. Waff received the award while assigned as a wheeled-vehicle mechanic in the 553d Service Company, 553d Supply and Service Battalion of the 13th Support Brigade at the fort.

He entered the Army in June, 1969, completed basic training at Ft. Bragg and was last stationed at Ft. Lee, Va.

Spec. Waff's wife, Shirley, lives in Copperas Cove, Tex.



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