

Thursday, August 2, 1973

**Ronnie Germany, Former Teacher Slain  
On Duty As Game Warden**

## Ronnie Lee Germany

Ronnie Lee Germany, a Vocational Agriculture teacher in Grapeland High School, 1968-70, was killed while on duty Sunday, July 28, as Game Warden in San Augustine County.

According to an Associated Press story, the massive manhunt for his murderer ended Sunday night with the capture of Bernie Parish, 62. Parish was apprehended Sunday night in rural East Texas bottom area, and was taken to the San Augustine Jail.

Following is the account of the incident carried in Monday's Tyler Morning Telegraph.

The Most massive manhunt in the history of San Augustine County and possibly East Texas was underway Sunday following the fatal shooting of Game Warden Ronnie Lee Germany, 26, formerly of Tyler.

Germany was reportedly shot in the head and shoulder with a 22-caliber rifle while on duty in the Attoyac River area Sunday morning. The wooded area is approximately 30 miles from San Augustine in the Far western part of the county.

San Augustine Sheriff John Hoyt told the Morning Telegraph that he received a call about 10:30 a.m. from Germany's partner, William Barry Decker, asking for assistance and an ambulance.

"We now have more than 200 officers in the area searching for a suspect," said Hoyt. "The Department of Public Safety helicopter from Houston is patrolling the area and we have officers from many agencies and areas.

"I've filed murder charges, as a result of information received, in Judge C. A. Renfroe's court against Bernie Parish, 62, in connection with the shooting of Germany." Hoyt said.

Sunday was the first day back on the job for Sheriff Hoyt and Deputy Richard Davis. Both were wounded in a shooting near the Attoyac River June 2 while attempting to arrest a murder suspect. Hoyt lost his left eye in the shooting and Davis lost his right eye.

Search for the suspect was centered in the heavily wooded area along the western border of the county.

Germany, a native of Ben Wheeler, left his home in San Augustine with Decker shortly after 8 a.m. Sunday to work the area for general hunting violations.

"They had previously planned to work the waterways, but changed their plans over coffee this morning," his wife, Mrs. Belinda Germany said, "He put his vehicle in the service station to get it cleaned and serviced and rode with Bill. Ronnie wanted his car ready to drive to Palestine tomorrow for pistol match. He was an alternate on the district Parks and Wildlife Department pistol team."

Germany was assigned to San Augustine little more than a year ago after graduation from game warden school at Texas A. & M. Parks and Wildlife work had been a dream of his since high school days.

At the time he graduated from the law enforcement school he told a Tyler sport columnist: "When the going gets rough—that's when I like it."

"He loved his work," his wife said Sunday. "Ronnie was very proud and was always