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## Jock Graham, Dean of Wardens, Marks 17th Year

September 1, J. C. (Jock) Graham, the dean of Iowa conservation officers, completed his 17th year of service as a game enforcement official for Iowa. Jock, born in Ayrshire, Scotland, removed to America with his parents at the age of two. In his inimitable Scotch burr, Jock has been teaching the gospel of conservation in his territory longer than any other warden in the service. In a reminiscent mood, Jock explained his duties as a game warden in the old days as strictly enforcement.

"We walked in those days, and although we didn't cover as much territory or get around as often as we do now, we were a little closer to nature most of the time, even if we weren't quite as close to the people. We would leave our headquarters, take a train, get off at the far side of our territory, and walk home, following the streams most times but sometimes taking a compass route overland.

"Our job was the job of a policeman—to arrest everyone we found violating and fine them. The more we caught, the better job we were doing. We had no wildlife census to take in those days, no fish to rescue, no conservation talks to make—none of the many other tasks that are now assigned to us. Even the fish and game exhibit at the State Fair was housed in a tent on the fair grounds. Things certainly have changed, and changed for the better. We have more hunters and even have more to hunt.

"In the old days violations were common. It was the 'smart' thing to do, and the plea that we received most often was, 'Don't arrest me, Mister. I won't do it again.' Violations of the conservation laws aren't 'smart' any

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## Trapping---Thrill of Boyhood, Is Almost A Million Dollar Business



Trapping pays dividends in cash, nature lore, and healthful recreation.

## Marshall County Wildlife Club Maintains Year 'Round Program

By W. L. HARVEY  
Conservation Officer

One of the most practical and most successful conservation programs in operation is being carried out by the Marshall County Wildlife Club, whose motto is "A seed in the field of conservation." Sportsmen, farmers, and outdoor-minded citizens of the county are enthusiastic and sometimes a little surprised over the results of their combined efforts.

A brief of our conservation projects includes: pheasant raising, food patch planting, wildlife cover planting, raccoon rearing, beaver stocking, fish rearing ponds, fish rescue program,

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## Thrills and Profit Alike In This Sport

By REE M. BERRY

It was 9:30 a. m. on a cold November day, and the small overcrowded grade school room with windows closed was becoming "stuffy". A little black-haired girl in the fourth row attracted "teacher's" attention by a frantic waving of the hand.

"Miss Moore, there's something around here that smells like skunk, and it smells worse every minute."

"Dorothy, you must be mistaken," said the teacher. "There couldn't be a skunk in this room, and the windows are all closed tightly so you couldn't smell any outside odors."

"But I smell it, too," chimed in several other students.

A small blonde-haired boy in the fifth row slid down a little farther in his seat and busily concentrated on his history lesson, while a tell-tale flush spread over his face.

"I want every boy who has been trapping to come to the front of the room," exclaimed the teacher sternly.

The flush deepened on the youth's face as he made his way to the front of the room under the accusing eyes of "teacher" and his fellow students. A few sniffs by the teacher and I was on my reluctant way homeward with a strict admonition, "Don't come back until you've rid yourself of that terrible odor."

Gee, I thought, Mom will feel hurt 'cause I got sent home from school. But Moms the world over are wonderfully understanding.

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## IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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## Trapping

(Continued from Page One)

By a process of elimination she soon established the fact that the smell was only on my shoes. Then I remembered accidentally stepping on the "stink bag" of a skunk while "Bugs" (my buddy) and I were skinning our catch the previous day. A new pair of shoes enable me to return to school that afternoon, and by being required to pay for the shoes myself, I was taught a never-to-be-forgotten lesson about being careful in handling skunks.

Scenes of this kind are repeated in school rooms throughout the land when "the call of the trap line" makes itself heard in the ears of school boys each fall. And what better pastime than trapping could be pursued by boys on farms and in small towns? Trapping pays dividends—in cash—in nature lore—in healthful outdoor recreation. It is the one sport rewarding the sportsman in cash returns. Let's look at the record.

On the basis of average prices paid to trappers for raw furs taken in Iowa during the open season last year, approximately 25,000 trappers in the state received an aggregate total of \$903,874.09, or an average of \$36.15 per trapper. Considering the fact that of the 25,000 trappers a considerable number are persons who catch only an occasional fur, it is obvious the regular trapper receives a high monetary return for his efforts.

## Fur Is a Crop

Fur-bearing animals are a natural crop on every Iowa farm. The wild animals on a farm require food and shelter, and in the same manner, although in a different form, as the domestic animals. The barn houses the cattle and horses while the hollow tree and the den on the south forty houses the fur-bearers, and both should be kept intact for the comfort of their inmates. In the same manner that surplus domestic stock is marketed, surplus fur bearers may be marketed during open seasons each year, making sure a sufficient number are left for "seed" stock. Fur bearers require little food of a type which in any way conflicts with the

## 'Chee--Look at the ears on him'



The opossum, a marsupial, is increasing in numbers and extending its range in Iowa. There were 33,839 trapped last year in this state.

—Photo by Waldo Johnson.

needs of man or his domestic animals. The majority of fur bearers perform a service to the farmer in eating insect pests, rats, mice, etc. A "managed" fur crop will enable every farmer to harvest the surplus with a minimum of effort, yielding a large cash return in addition to serving him in the capacity of insect and rodent exterminators.

## Let's Harvest the Crop Intelligently

Furs should be taken only when they are prime. Open trapping season dates are based on careful study and research, predicated to assure primeness in furs with resultant top market prices. An unprime fur taken too early before cold weather, or too late in the spring, is of relatively small value on the fur market. Late spring trapping is also dangerous to future populations of fur bearers because females carrying young are frequently taken.

The preparation of pelts for

market is as important as catching the animals. Proper preparation will assure top prices; poor preparation will result in disappointing returns. Animals should be skinned as soon as possible after they are trapped. The pelts of skunk, civet, mink, muskrat, coyote, wolf, fox, weasel, and opossum should always be cased, while the pelts of raccoon and badger should be open.

To case pelts, skin the animal in the following manner: Cut from the sole of one hind foot to the sole of the other, on a line running along the rear edge of the hind legs and beneath the tail. Cut the tail along the under side its entire length and remove the bone (except animals having rat-like tails). Skin out hind legs and feet and cut off feet. The carcass may then be hung on nails or pegs by the hamstrings, and the skin pulled glove fashion wrong side out toward the head.

Skin out the front legs and cut

off feet and toes. Cut off the ears beneath the skin close to the skull and remove the thick cartilage. To avoid cutting the eyelids use the knife carefully close to the skull when the first trace of the eyes appear as the skin is being pulled off. Skin the animal completely to the very tip of the nose to assure a number one grade pelt.

To skin for open pelts: Cut from the point of the chin straight to the tip of the tail along the belly. Cut from the sole of each foot to the sole of the opposite foot along the under side. Then peel off the skin, using the knife as sparingly as possible.

Clean furs of mud, burrs, blood, etc., carefully before stretching, and remove surplus fat and muscle tissue from the skin with a dull knife or the edge of a square stick of hard wood, scraping from the head towards the tail.

Stretch cased pelts fur side in on board or wire stretches shaped to the natural shape of the pelt. Open pelts may be tacked on any convenient flat surface, flesh side out.

Don't over-stretch pelts. A pelt stretched too much results in a thin pelt and will be graded down accordingly by fur buyers. Stretch pelts only to their natural size, and dry them carefully in a cool, well-ventilated, shady place. Remove pelts from stretchers as soon as thoroughly dry and hang them in a cool place until ready for sale.

If furs are to be shipped to the fur buyer, pack them in well-ventilated, light boxes or burlap bags. Skunk and civet furs cannot be sent via mail because of their offensive odor, but must be shipped by express or freight. It is advisable to place an identification tag inside the package as well as outside, listing your name and address and the name and address of the dealer to whom the furs are being shipped.

Fur shipments to points outside the state require a special free permit tag, issued by the State Conservation Commission office at Des Moines. To obtain a tag, make application on one of the post card forms which are available at county recorder offices and from state conservation officers, or write to the Conservation Commission at Des Moines, giving your name and address, numbers and kinds of furs, name and address of the fur company to whom you wish to ship, and your license number, or state if trapped on your own land without a license.

## Description and Analysis of Fur Bearers

**Muskrat.**—The most abundant of our native fur bearers, the muskrat contributes the largest volume of furs of any animal in the state. The last season netted 262,007 muskrat pelts, sold at an

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## Trapping

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average price of \$1.32, aggregating \$345,849.24. Muskrats are aquatic rodents about the size of cottontail rabbits, dark chestnut brown in color above, becoming lighter on sides and under parts. They live in families in burrows in the banks of ponds, lakes, or streams, or in houses constructed of marsh grasses in marshes, lakes, and sloughs. Muskrat carcasses are edible and are served in eastern United States under the name of "marsh rabbits".

They are relatively easy to trap in runways or slides, using a number 1 steel trap set in a few inches of water or on floating logs. Traps should be set in a manner to permit the animal to reach deep water where it will quickly drown. It is unlawful to disturb muskrat houses in any manner, or to spear muskrats, or shoot them with a shotgun.

Their diet is largely vegetable—aquatic plants, vegetables, grain, with occasional frogs, clams, etc., if vegetable foods are not available.

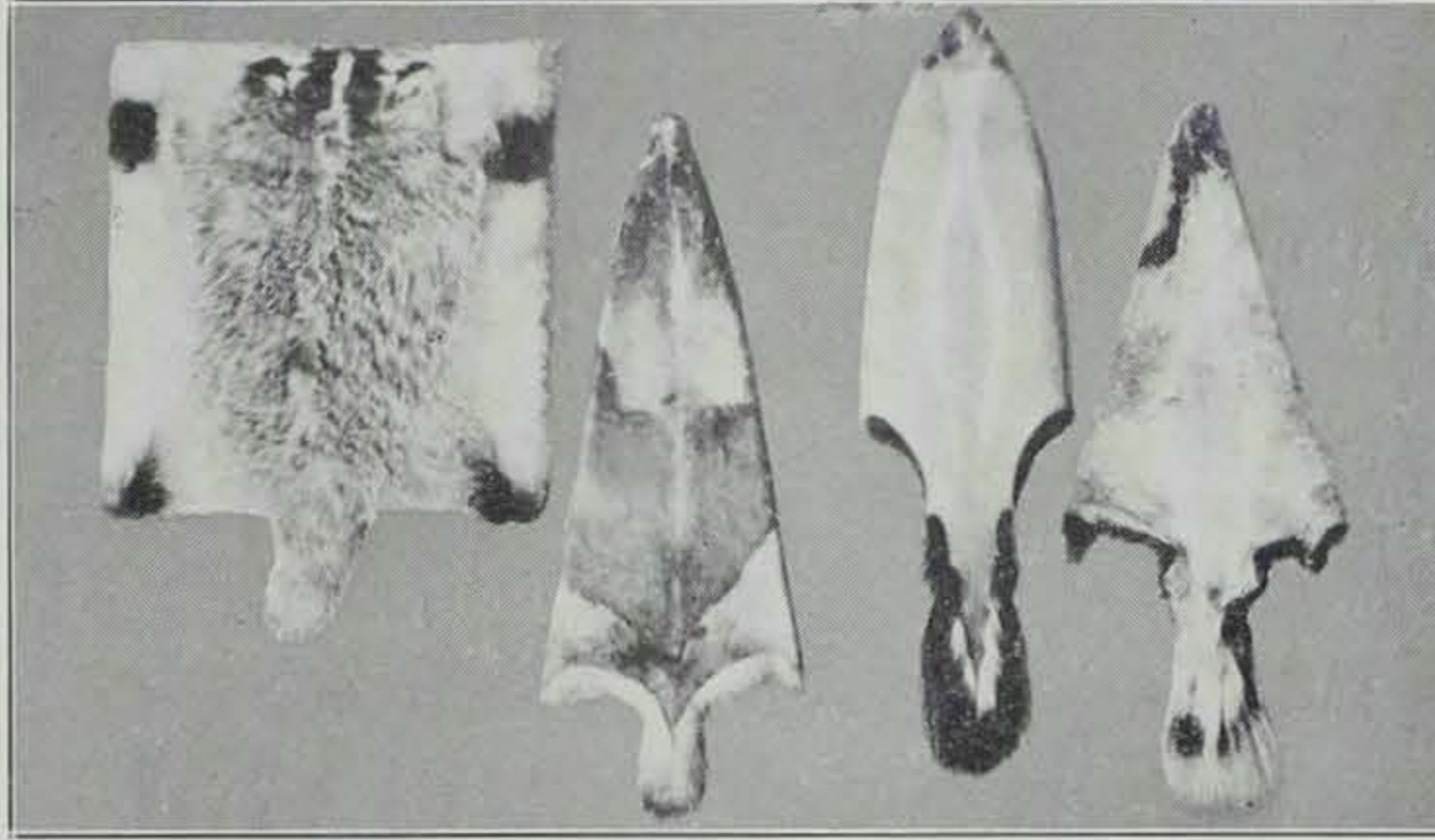
**Striped Skunk**—Second in volume of furs, 68,840 skunk pelts, \$1.80 average, were sold last season for a total valuation of \$123,912. Skunks are black with two varying sized white lateral stripes running from the nose toward the tail. Depending on the length and width of the stripes, they are classed as short, broad, and narrow in the fur trade. Their favorite living quarters are dens on slopes or under abandoned buildings near creeks. No. 1 or 1½ steel traps are recommended for trapping these animals, making sets in runways along fence rows, etc. Baited sets are very successful in trapping skunks.

The muscular-walled perineal glands of the skunk, in which its "perfume" is generated, render it safe from attacks from other animals, and it treads its domain unafraid and almost unmolested. It is an unparalleled helper to the farmer in destroying insects, rats, mice, etc.

**Little Spotted Skunk**—(Commonly called civet cat). A cousin of the striped skunk, this little animal ranks third in numbers taken in Iowa—60,944, averaging \$0.83 each for a total of \$50,583.52. It differs from the skunk in size, being considerably smaller, and in its markings, which consist of white stripes and spots on a black background on back and sides. Its habits are similar to those of its larger cousin, and it is an even better mouse and rat exterminator. The spotted skunk, too, secretes an offensive odor, its protection against man and animals.

**Opossum**—This marsupial is increasing in numbers and extending its range in Iowa, there being 33,839 taken last season. Their fur is relatively low in price, averaging only \$0.27 each, for a total

## Give Your Pelts Proper Care



Prime pelts, correctly skinned, fleshed, stretched and dried, bring the best prices in any fur market. One and three right, two and four wrong.

—Photo Courtesy Sears Roebuck & Co., Fur Marketing Service.

\$9,136.53. It is chiefly nocturnal and is voracious in its feeding. It is grayish white in color, tinged with yellow, and is readily distinguishable by its prehensile tail, which enables it to hang head downward while sleeping soundly. The female opossum carries its young in a pouch similar to the kangaroo. A dozen or more young, weighing only four grains each at birth, are carried in a pouch the first few weeks, later being carried on the mother's back, to which they cling by their claws and tails.

The term "playing 'possum" is derived from the trick of the opossum in shamming death when captured. It will lie with mouth open, tongue extended, eyes glazed, without moving a muscle, and permit itself to be beaten or kicked, while waiting for a chance to escape in an unguarded moment. Bait sets using No. 1 or 2 steel traps are usually successful in taking opossum.

**Mink**—Mink pelts have the highest per pelt value of the Iowa fur bearers, bringing \$6.75 each for 33,650 pelts, a total valuation of \$227,137.50. Mink are chocolate brown in color with a rich gloss to the fur. They have a long, slender body with short legs and ears, and a somewhat bushy tail.

The mink is an extensive traveller, ranging along streams in search of food, killing any animal or bird he is capable of overpowering. He also eats fish, frogs, and mussels taken from the streams along which he travels.

No. 1 traps are used in trapping mink, making sets in holes in banks of small streams, or in driftwood, or between large boulders where the animal swims in following a stream. Sets are commonly baited to assure optimum results. Mink are equipped with musk glands, producing an unpleasant odorous fluid used defensively by the animal.

**Raccoon**—Sixth in volume of pelts taken last season, the rac-

coon is second only to the mink in individual pelt value—\$4.90 each for 22,512, a total of \$110,308.80. A relative of the bear, the raccoon resembles the bear in shape, but is much smaller, about the body size of a small fox, but weighing more than a fox because of its heavier body. Their fur is a woolly gray undercoat with long guard hairs of black and grayish white. Their long, bushy tail is alternately ringed with brown rings on a gray background.

They are largely nocturnal, sleeping during the day in holes in trees or cliffs and travelling in search of food at night. Their tracks along streams resemble the imprint of a hand, as they travel along streams feeding on fish, crawfish, and frogs. Their diet also includes fruits, corn, birds, and small animals. Their peculiar habit of washing all food before eating it, whenever water is available, earns it the title "lotor" or washer, and it is sometimes dubbed the washing bear.

Their inquisitive and mischievous nature renders them easily adaptable to life in captivity, and they make interesting pets. No. 2 or 3 traps are used in trapping raccoon, utilizing baited sets along runways, particularly on logs where the animal habitually runs in pursuing his course along streams. Raccoon hunting with dogs is considered excellent sport and is widely engaged in during the early part of the open season.

**Foxes**—Red Fox, Gray Fox. The red fox is the most numerous of the two species in Iowa. The red fox pelt is also more valuable, bringing an average of \$4.50 each, compared to \$2.50 for gray fox. There were 6,137 red fox and 1,967 gray fox taken in the state last season, bringing \$27,616.50 and \$4,917.50 respectively. Foxes live largely in dens in rolling or hilly country where plenty of cover is present. Their principal food is animal matter, mice,

ground squirrels, rabbits, birds, and domestic poultry, with large insects also being eaten, and fruits in season.

Foxes are considered predators and volumes have been written on this subject, but the latest trend of thought substantiated by researches indicates the fox is not the useless predator he was formerly pictured. In the proper population balance foxes serve as rodent exterminators to the benefit of the farmer, and the good thus accomplished more than offsets the predations.

No. 2 and 3 traps are used in trapping foxes, and considerable study of habits, movements, range, etc., is required to outwit the wily animals. Foxes are hunted by tracking in deep snow, or with dogs.

Furs of other animals, including weasel, wolf or coyote, badger and rabbits, are marketed in lesser numbers, bringing the grand total of furs trapped last season to 495,124, with the total valuation of \$903,874.09. Isn't it important to perpetuate and protect an industry of this size? Do your share by respecting closed seasons, preserving seed stocks, preparing pelts carefully to obtain maximum benefit from pelts taken, and by preserving the natural habitats of fur bearers.

## Hunters, Not Farmers, Violate Rule of Courtesy

As we listen to hunters returning from the fields, we find two versions concerning the attitude of farmers. Some say that the farmers treated them in an unfriendly fashion and virtually chased them away. Others say they were greeted as neighbors and extended all possible cooperation and courtesy.

We wonder if the explanation for this varying treatment is not to be found in the behavior of the hunters themselves.

The average farmer will respond in a pleasant way if he is approached in that manner. If he realizes that the hunters have a proper respect for his property and are duly considerate, he is likely to grant them the privileges which they seek. But one can hardly blame them for being cautious if the hunters take a smart aleck attitude as some of them undoubtedly do.

He has been visited by such hunters before and knows that they may leave in their wake a dead sheep or chickens and damaged fences. Hunters should bear in mind that they have no more rights on a farmer's land than he has on their residential properties. —Davenport Democrat.



## Jock Graham

(Continued from Page One)

more, and although violations do occur, they are much less frequent, and now the plea of the violator is generally 'Don't put it in the paper, Mister'. Education has been a wonderful thing, and in recent years even the word 'sportsman' has taken on a new significance."

Jock's early days were spent on a farm in Grundy County, Ill., from which he went into the soft coal mines near Centerville, Ia. In his youth sports of all kinds were his meat. Soccer football, however, was his favorite as a player, having been on the U. S. championship soccer team of Coal City, Illinois, for three years.

"We won the championship first by meeting MacDonald's traveling team from Canada. They had cleaned up everything in the eastern United States and came west to Chicago. After whipping the better Chicago teams, their claim of United States championship glimmered when supporters of the Coal City kids insisted that they meet the juveniles. They condescended to meet the coal miners, and we taught them how to play soccer by the score of 3 to 1.

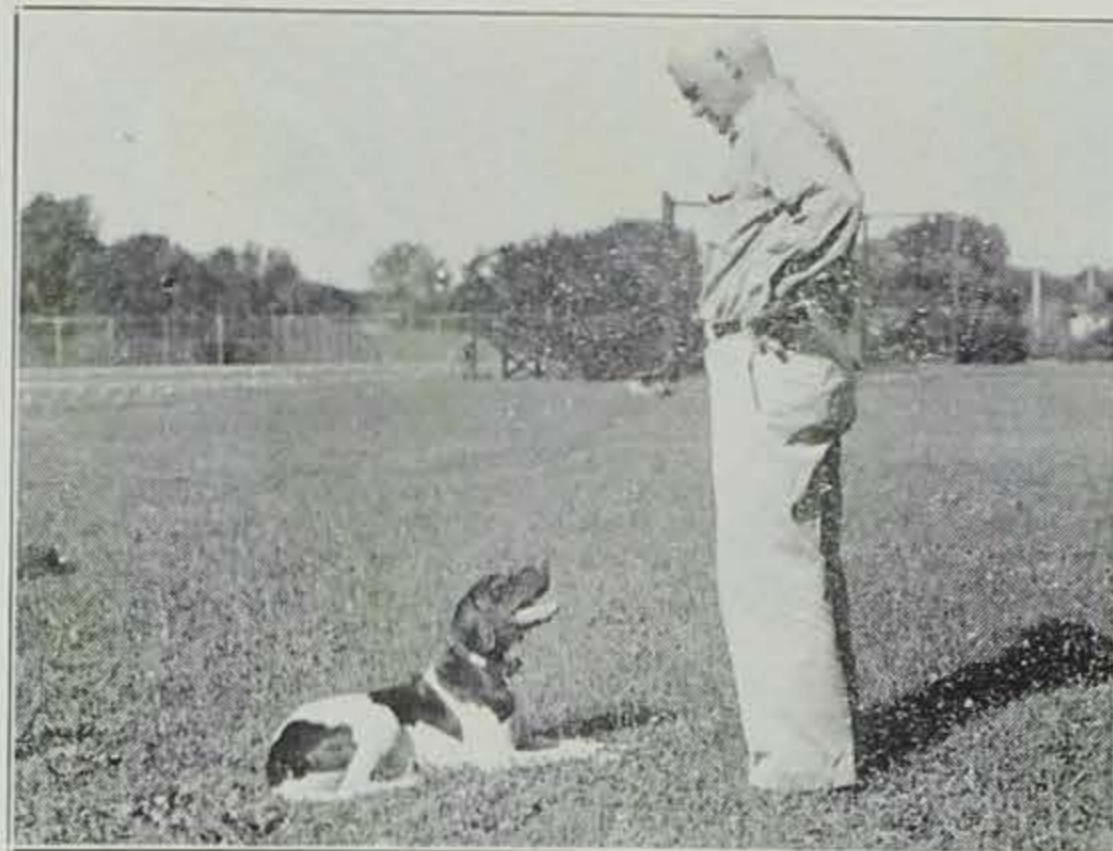
"I remember we went into Chicago early that season to play a team made up of wealthy Chicagoans—the Thistles. Our opponents had all the finest equipment and were really gentlemen, but during the first half we took an awful riding from the bleachers. They wanted to know, 'What do you kids from the coal mine feed on—do you eat hay?' In the second 45-minute period, however, the 'kids' hadn't been beaten yet, and the crowd got on our side. We thumped the Thistles 3 to 0, but the riding we got from the crowd in the first half was the toughest I ever had."

Jock was also active in baseball and was a manager-player for the Jerome town team for 17 years. During most of the time he played a hot second base and was a good hitter, although hitting averages generally speaking were not kept. Their best season resulted in 29 wins out of 32 games. Jock also is a trapshooter of long experience, and even now makes the youngsters hump to best his 90 to 98 scores.

"My best shooting, long before I started to work for the game department, was when I went to Kansas City to shoot an 800-bird program. I had 193 the first round, 194 the second, and 196 the following two rounds, and I lost by one bird. This shoot, run by George Elliott, was called the 'Simon Pure'."

Jock's nationality shows through when he remembers, "The train fare was \$4.11 each way. My five-day bill for hotel and meals was \$9.93. I bought the missus and the kid each a gift for

## Bird Dogs and Jock Go Together



Bird dogs and Jock Graham strike fire when together. Even an unhandled pup performs for Jock on first acquaintance almost like a veteran.

a dollar, and when I got home, I had \$153.00 more than I took with me, so I guess my winnings that trip were \$171.15.

Jock has never broken 100 straight but has had 99 "more times than I can remember".

Although the little Scotsman's outdoor sports have included almost every kind invented, his first and greatest love is raising and training bird dogs. Bird dogs seem to sense this fact, and even an unhandled pup performs for Jock on first acquaintance almost like a trained seal.

"I have handled pointers and setters for a long time. I have had good dogs of both breeds, but I believe my favorite dogs are the setters. I like the Llewellyn best. Setters aren't as hard to handle as pointer dogs. They're not as hard-headed. They remember next year what you teach this year. Pointers are inclined to forget and are more bull-headed. Setters have one drawback, however, and that is cockleburs. The long-haired dogs have considerable trouble with this."

With a bird dog and quail, Jock is happy. He doesn't need a gun, and although a crack wingshot, more often than not does not carry a gun when in the field. With the quail census just over, Jock claims to be the best quail counter among the conservation officers, and many times has surprised doubting Thomases by going into strange quail territory, looking it over, saying, "There are three coveys on this farm", and proving it by taking a dog out and finding the three coveys. He says, "If there are three covey ranges and it has been a normal quail year, there will be three families of quail in those three covey areas."

"There are lots of quail in Iowa this year, maybe as many as in 1939, the best year we've had for a long, long time. If you have a good dog, you can enjoy the finest hunting sport in the world, quail hunting, almost in your own back yard."

Typically, Jock says, "Save. Save your tires and gasoline—Hunt near home."

## Black Walnut Highest Priced of Native Timber

By HAROLD B. BJORNSON

Asst. State Forester

To many Iowans the word "walnut" brings to mind nutting parties, walnut-stained hands, the pungent odor of mashed tissue, or the delicious taste of walnut-flavored foods.

Walnut trees are more important than this, more valuable than the beauty they add to the landscape or the shade they provide in the summertime.

Black walnut wood now brings the highest price of any of our native lumber. Even in peacetime it is not wasted, but every scrap is manufactured into some valuable commodity. War always increases the value of walnut, large quantities being used at home and abroad for gun stocks. Black walnut was in great demand during the Civil War for gun stocks. During the World War fabulous prices were paid for almost any grade of walnut, much of which went into airplane propellers. The present war has again tremendously increased the use of walnut, and as a conse-

quence large numbers of the trees are being harvested.

Do you know that Iowa is one of the leading walnut producing states in this country? Do you know that in 1941 Iowa's walnut harvest totaled 3,253,000 board feet? Do you know that this is enough lumber to make a board walk three feet wide and one inch thick from Iowa's north to her south border? Do you know that demand is continuously increasing the cut of Iowa walnut?

It is essential that Iowans become aware of these facts and see that the annual replacement is at least as great as the annual removal.

One of the most valuable conservation projects that could be undertaken by landowners, sportsmen's organizations, Boy Scouts, 4-H groups, and others would be to plant large numbers of these valuable trees.

Fall is Mother Nature's time of year for walnut planting. The nuts become ripe and drop to the ground, where if by chance they fall into a good seed bed and remain unmolested by squirrels and other forms of wildlife, they lay over winter and germinate the following spring.

Man can do much to eliminate the "by chance" and to aid nature in this planting program. He can scatter the nuts far and wide, place them in good locations, and by correct planting methods assure a much larger percentage of survival.

In fall planting several simple, easy things should be kept in mind. Location is important. To become valuable the trees must be placed where they will be undisturbed for a relatively long period of time. Proper soils must also be selected. Good, deep agricultural soils derived from limestone, which have an abundance of moisture and are well-drained, are particularly suited for the rapid development of black walnut. Hillsides with limestone out-croppings are often good locations for walnut trees. In fact, much of Iowa is suitable for wal-

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Walnut is the most valuable of our native lumber. This monstrous log, cut near Oakville, paid large cash dividends to the owner of the land on which it grew.



## Walnut Trees

(Continued from Page Four)

nut trees.

Soils to be avoided are those which are very dry, sandy, thin, or poorly drained.

Keeping in mind the soil requirements, there are many places on Iowa farms where the black walnut can be planted profitably—in so-called waste places about the farm, soils which are good but poorly adapted to field crops because of being rough or hilly, large fence corners, fence rows, along stream banks, ravines, and as replacements in standing timber. Often inferior species of trees come in and occupy the very locations which would support the valuable black walnut.

The planting of walnut in the spots suggested, often at the expense of little labor, will be a big step toward securing useful and money-making trees on land which is now idle. In addition, it would provide nuts, which are marketable and are beneficial to wildlife.

The black walnut requires an abundance of light. Therefore it should not be under-planted in thick timber. It can, however, be planted in large openings in the timber.

When collecting nuts to plant, one should gather a good quality of nuts that come from well-formed, disease-free trees. This selection is essential if the planting is to be made from the standpoint of future total use of the trees and not from an ornamental, lumber, or nut-producing standpoint alone.

It is important that the nuts are not allowed to dry out before planting. It is wise to plant them as soon as they fall from the trees. It is not necessary even to remove the pulpy hull when planting.

If the soil is loose, walnuts may be planted by merely pushing them into the ground with the heel. By this method large numbers may be planted with little effort in a short while.

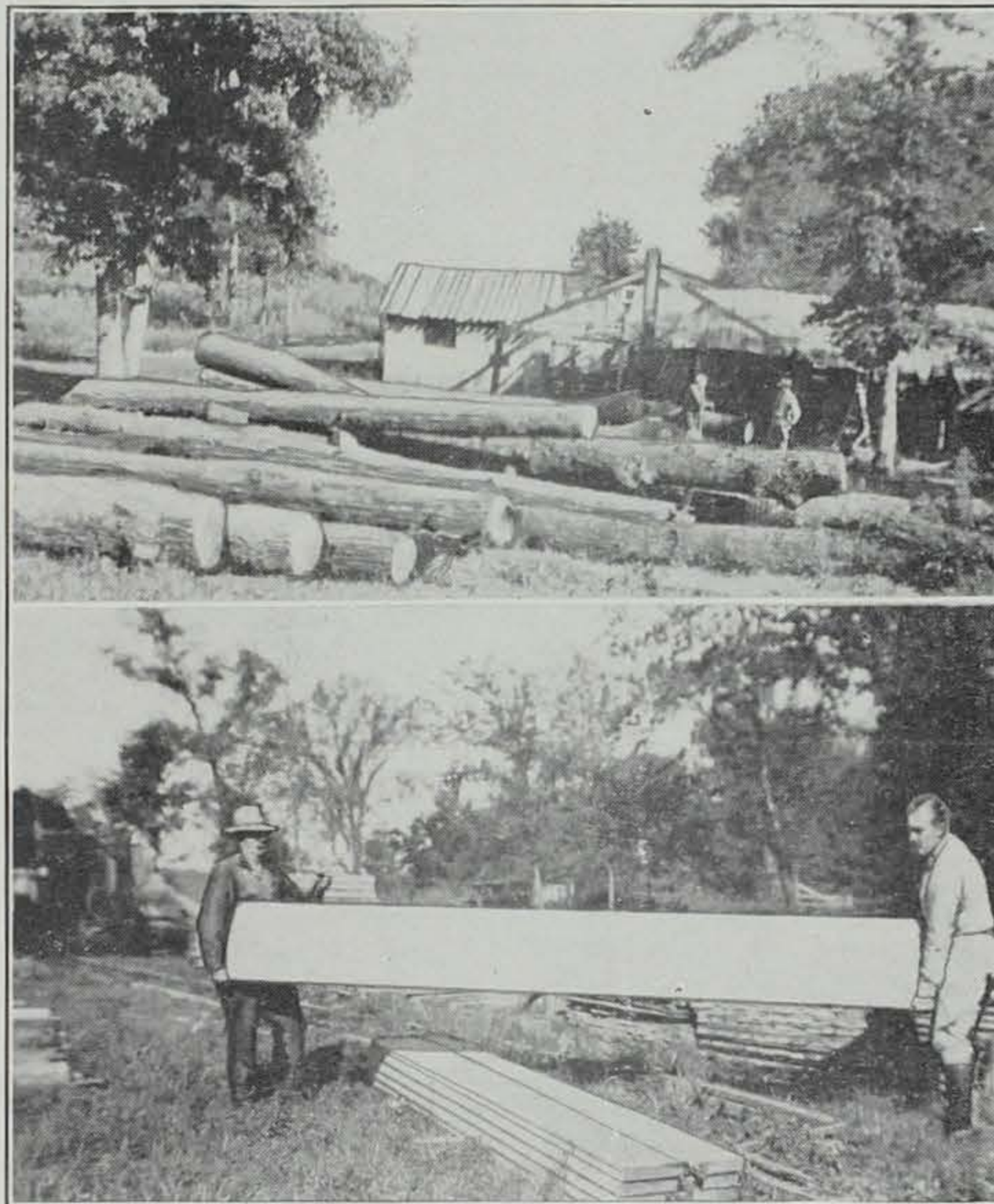
In a more formal planting two nuts may be dropped three or four inches apart in a hole in prepared soil. The nut is then covered with about two inches of fresh soil — not sod — which is pressed firmly with the foot. If convenient, mulch with leaves or straw. If both nuts produce trees the following summer, one must be removed.

Perhaps a better method of planting is to clean off and thoroughly prepare the soil in seed spots approximately two feet square and, after planting, mulch.

The spacing of the planting is very important. If the nuts are planted along fence rows, they can be planted every 20 feet, with the thought in mind that every other tree will be removed when crowding commences.

In regular plantings the nuts

## Iowa A Heavy Walnut Producer



In 1941 Iowa produced enough walnut lumber to make a board walk three feet wide and one inch thick from her north to her south border.

should usually be planted about 40 feet apart and the intervening spaces filled with slower growing trees which must be removed later to make more room for the walnut trees.

The black walnut is a relatively fast grower during the early part of its life, after which it slows down somewhat. The usual rate of growth is about one inch in diameter every two and a half years up to 30 years of age. From 30 to 50 years it has a growth rate of one inch in three years. From 50 to 70 years the growth rate is one inch in four or five years. The height growth is comparable, two feet a year for the first 20 years and then slower, down to one inch per year after 35 years until maturity is reached.

In general, it takes about 40 years to grow merchantable walnut lumber. During the greater portion of that time the trees are producing nuts that can yield an economic return to the owner. The price ranges from a dollar to two dollars per bushel, depending upon the size and cracking quality of the nuts, the size of the crop, and local market conditions.

Many years ago in a small volume entitled "How to Get Rich", planting walnut plantations was mentioned as one method to this end. Those who followed the advice given may not have become

## Marshall County

(Continued from Page One)

where environment was suitable or where suitable environment was provided. They are protected against hunting during the first year so that they will have an opportunity to reproduce at least once in the wild before being subjected to an open hunting season. Since the first open pheasant season in this county three years ago, we have enjoyed fine pheasant hunting.

In connection with the pheasant rearing and distribution program, an outstanding feeding project has been carried on. Four hundred pounds of hegari seed put up in small packages is mailed each year to key farmers throughout the county. Enclosed are printed instructions for planting along the ends of corn rows or in small patches near game coverts. This heavy-headed cane is left standing to provide winter food for wildlife and is no doubt partly responsible for the success of our pheasant program.

Another project directed toward increased production of upland game is the wildlife packet program. Included in the wildlife packet plantings are 200 na-

rich but have profited richly. "Go and do thou likewise."

tive Iowa trees and shrubs selected to provide wildlife food and cover. Thousands of trees and plants have been purchased by the club and distributed to farmers who plant them in unproductive or waste areas. In the past several years farmers and 4-H boys and girls, in cooperation with the county agent, have planted thousands of trees. One landowner alone has planted over 14,000 on two farms.

The club has built raccoon pens at the Iowa Soldiers' Home, and one of the residents takes care of the animals. These pens are well-constructed, clean, and presentable. They are open to the public at all times, and often youngsters come to feed the animals. Large, dark, female raccoon were purchased from game breeders and crossed with native wild raccoon. Ninety-five animals have been raised and released in suitable environment in Marshall County.

A recent chicken-stealing complaint revealed a mother 'coon stealing poultry to feed her young in a nearby den. Club members, in company with the conservation officer, captured the mother raccoon and the young and removed them to the club's raccoon pens, the mother to be kept in captivity and the young to be released to the wild. This is an example of wise conservation — much wiser than to have shot the mother 'coon with the old 12-gauge and to have left the young to starve in the nest. Some 30 'coon complaint cases have been solved in a similar manner.

Beaver and other fur-bearing animals are also receiving attention in the form of restocking and environment improvement.

The "old swimming hole" has been loaned to the club by the city of Marshalltown and has been turned into a small-mouth black bass rearing pond. Of 5,000 fingerling bass provided by the Conservation Commission this year, some 3,800 up to six inches long were raised in the pond and released in the Iowa River at several points. This season, under supervision of the local conservation officer, 119,000 game fish that were land-locked in overflow water were rescued by the club, with the cooperation of Boy Scouts and young fishermen of the county, and released in suitable waters. During the past five years, several million fish have been rescued.

Old-time fishermen are especially appreciative of the fish rescue work and stocking program and insist that river fishing is better than at any time during the past 15 years.

Stream pollution has been greatly checked by the construction of a \$500,000 sewage disposal plant. However, constant vigil is kept by club members to prevent

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## Marshall County

(Continued from Page Five)

pollution from minor sources, such as oil dumpings, packing plants, rendering works, and waste from other commercial sources. City, state, and county officials have aided greatly in the enforcement of the public health and pollution laws.

Free lessons in bait and fly-casting are given by club members. More than 30 per cent of the fishing enthusiasts in Marshalltown are women, and it is not uncommon to see a woman or a youngster handling a bait or flyrod in a truly expert manner.

The club goes directly to the youngsters with an educational program in the endeavor to lay the foundations for learning true conservation. Conservation motion pictures are shown in the entire Marshall County school system. Instructions on safe and proper use of firearms are also given.

A conservation booth is installed each year at the Boy Scout Merit Badge show, manned by Boy Scouts and assisted by the conservation officer. Practical demonstrations are given on the proper way to plant trees, use of light fishing tackle, firearms safety, bird house building, and many other subjects.

One of the projects of the club that has gained wide publicity has been the construction of a sanitary and humane dog pound. Cooperation in the Marshall County Church Day program and with the Red Cross have been extra-curricular phases of the club's activity. Contributions to "Ducks Unlimited", the Jack Miner Refuge, and many other worthy causes are part of our program.

Without the earnest cooperation of many individuals and organizations working toward the same goal, these various projects could



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## Dickinson County Solves Trap Stealing Problem With Brands

During the trapping season of 1939-40 the loss of steel traps by theft in Dickinson County reached such a peak that the trappers decided that they must do something to protect themselves. As many as 143 licensed traps were stolen from a single trapper in a single night. These 143 traps, which cost 30 cents each plus a 15-cent license tag for each one, totaled up to a loss of \$46.35 to the trapper. Trapping, although a sport and a relaxation, is to a large degree a money-making proposition, but even with furs at good prices, the trappers could not stand such heavy trap loss.

In "trap shanty" talks in the latter part of the trapping season, it was decided to call a trappers' meeting to see if a cooperative organization could be formed.

Invitation to attend an organization meeting were mailed to every licensed trapper in the county. The Dickinson County Trappers' Association was organized, with its motto "To increase the pleasure and profit of trapping in Dickinson County." Of some 300 licensed trappers, considerably more than half paid the dollar membership the first year and became members.

It was decided at the first meeting that every member's traps should be marked with a distinctive, unforgeable brand so that if a trap were stolen, it would be risky for the thief to use and would have no resale value.

The method decided upon for trap marking was for the organization to buy a set of steel alphabet dies with which each trapper could stamp his initials on the

pan of the trap. The organization designed and had made a copyrighted master die. This master die remained in the possession of the secretary-treasurer at all times. After the traps were stamped with the owner's initials, the master die stamp was also impressed on the pan of the trap, and the member's resulting brand was entered into the organization's record book.

Prior to the opening of the following season, notarized lists of the trap brands of the organization's members were filed in the county attorney's office, in the sheriff's office, and with the local conservation officer. In addition, each member of the organization was given a list of the brands.

The results of the experiment were outstanding. When the plan was put into effect during the season of '40-'41, only three cases of trap stealing occurred in the thousands of traps set by the association's members. The greatest number of traps taken in a single instance was 14. These were discovered, identified by the brands on them, the trap thief prosecuted, and the traps returned to their owner.

Ownership of traps may be changed by over-stamping the master die and removing the brand from the organization's books. Quite a number of last year's members have joined the armed service and cancelled their brands and sold their traps to other trappers.

Another interesting program of the Trappers' Association is an annual fur sale, to which members bring their fur to a central sales point on a set date, and fur buyers are invited to come to view the pelts. Each member's furs are kept separately. He may sell his

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## WARDENS' TALES

SHOP TALK  
FROM THE FIELD

Ecil Benson wonders if an amateur fisherman he observed on the artificial lake at Keosauqua Park wants to catch bluegills in bunches like bananas. The fisherman was using a large floating plug with three gang hooks. He carefully baited each hook with fish worms. As he cast the baited plug, he got a back-lash, and the worms flew from the hooks in every direction. Untangling the back-lash, retrieving the plug, and rebaiting it, the fisherman tried again with the same result. After the third attempt he gave up in disgust.

—WT—

"On a tip that someone was running trot lines in a restricted area, I was called out of bed about midnight. On the street I picked up a citizen who had often asked to go out with me. After locating the violators and watching them fish for some time, I decided to cross the river and make the arrest. My helper, Joe, was instructed to stay put and to come only if help were needed.

"In about an hour's time I made the arrest. No help was needed, but to show the violators that a break or resistance was useless, I called to Joe. There was no answer. The second, third, and fourth call brought no results. It was necessary for me to take my prisoners back across the river to where I had left Joe. He had followed the orders to stay put and was exactly where I left him, sound asleep."—Conservation Officer Leaverton.

—WT—

Three officers, after watching some illegal fish spearing one night, were carefully closing in on the spearers. A farmer living close by and near whose barn the officers had parked their car, seeing the strange car, came running out into his yard in his nightshirt yelling, "What do you fellows want?"

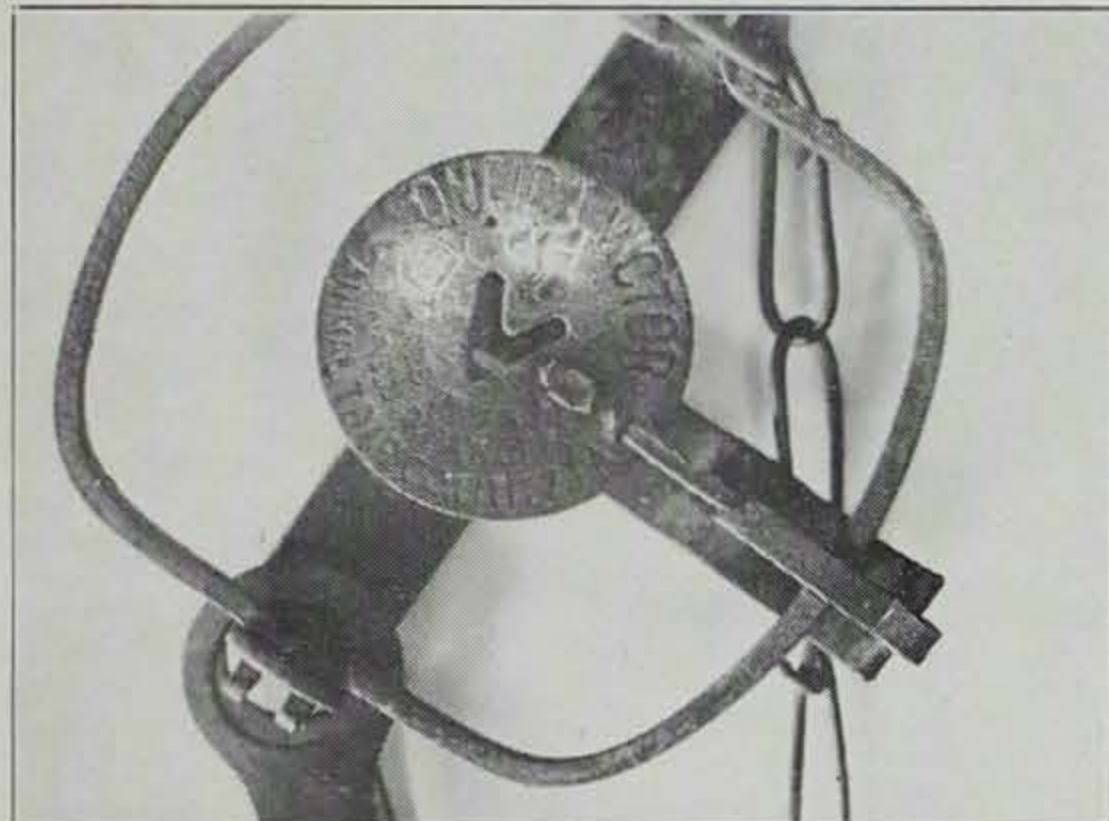
Sensing something wrong, the fishermen-spearers yelled, "Jiggers, the game warden!"—scattered through the timber, and were lost in the fog.

—WT—

On the second day of an open pheasant season, a hunter with a sack of birds was checked. He claimed that there were six in the sack and that three of the birds had been killed the day before. To investigate fully, the examining officer dumped the pheasants out of the sack onto the road. Three of the birds promptly got up and ran away.



## Trap Brands Stop Thieves



Marking traps with unforgeable brands decreased trap thefts in Dickinson County from several hundred each season to less than 25.

## Solves Trap Stealing

(Continued from Page Six)

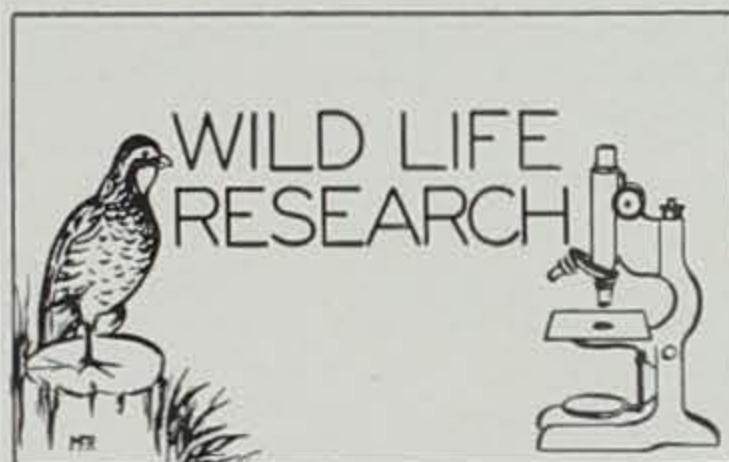
pelts at the sale or ship them to a buyer not in attendance. The 1941 fur sale, in spite of a bad storm the day the sale was held, was a success from the standpoint of the buyer and seller alike.

Prior to the open season, several association meetings are held to discuss fur regulations, trapping ethics, market conditions, and all other phases of trap line lore that are of particular interest to trappers. At these meetings trappers have a chance to become acquainted with one another, and a truly cooperative spirit has become possible.

Guest speaker at one meeting was Dr. Paul L. Errington, the outstanding muskrat research worker in the United States. The round table discussion proved of great value to the trappers, and since that meeting members of the organization have contributed liberally in ideas and specimens to the muskrat research program.

The trappers of Dickinson County are on the right track. They are interested in protecting their annual fur harvest. They have learned the scientific background of fur management problems. They have returned to the trap lines in their vicinity the ethics, honesty, and cooperation so necessary "to increase the pleasure and profit of trapping in Dickinson County".

"Since the state owns the game in its wild state in its sovereign capacity, it follows that an individual cannot obtain an absolute property right in such game except upon such conditions, restrictions, and limitations as may be permitted by the state. The individual may acquire an absolute property right in game only as a matter of privilege—not as a matter of right. The legislatures may impose such conditions as they deem necessary and expedient, so long as they do not contravene any principle of the Constitution."—Wild Game—Its Legal Status.



### Ecology and Management of the Bob-white. Project No. 494, Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. (1) Population data.

By GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON  
Project Leader

A 7713-acre bob-white research area was established along Steele Creek, Woodland township, Decatur County, October, 1935. Since that time each spring and autumn bob-white population estimates have been made on the area by graduate research assistants aided by the farmers. The estimates are shown in the following table.

Year	Spring Number	Autumn Number
1935	----	395
1936	177	736
1937	90	501
1938	471	1234
1939	1254	2316
1940	389	1549
1941	673	1690
1942	780	----

Iowa's most severe winter in 117 years, 1935-36, greatly reduced the bob-whites despite quite favorable food and cover conditions for the low number. The summer drought, 1936, together with hosts of chinch bugs and grasshoppers, seriously injured food and cover conditions for the winter 1936-37 during which the fields were covered with ice for about six weeks. The 90 surviving bob-whites were fed and sheltered chiefly in farm yards and buildings.

With favorable summer conditions, 1937, a 456 percent increase in birds was attained. Following two open winters and two favorable summers, with planned suitable food and cover provided by the farmers in accord with good

Iowa Conservationist  
State Conservation Commission  
10th & Mulberry  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Dear Sir:

I have enjoyed the honor and privilege of being one of your readers, and as a member of the Sac and Fox tribe of Indians of Iowa I would appreciate very much to have the copies of the "Conservationist" continued. I have been in the U. S. Indian Service for 10 years, and I and my wife have been transferred to Bethel, Alaska, to work in the U. S. Indian Service among the Eskimos. My wife is also an Indian, and she will work in an Indian hospital.

I would be glad to contribute some articles about the far north for our Iowa readers if it is practicable from time to time provided the censors approve of the articles, which of course would cover wildlife and game management.

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Clarence Jefferson.

"Notable among the prosecutions for the 30-day period were the arrests of six women. With the ever increasing number of women anglers and hunters, wildlife protection officers are finding it ever more necessary to take the members of the fairer sex into court when they violate hunting and fishing laws, and not dismiss them simply because they are women."—Oklahoma Game and Fish Department.

An animal is any living organism other than plant life. As generally used the word includes birds, animals, fishes, etc.

land management a peak population of 2316 bob-whites was reached in 1939. The winter, 1939-40, with heavy snowfall and with the coldest January since 1912, saw a great loss of birds which was lessened because more farmers provided well for the bob-whites than in 1935.

A few farmers permitted hunting bob-whites in 1936. The county was closed to bob-white hunting by law in 1937 and 1938. Most farmers gave permission to take bob-whites in the open seasons of 1939, 1940, and 1941 in each of which the population was reduced by an estimated take and crippling loss of 400-500 birds.

Since 1937 nearly three-fourths of the area is normally in hay and wooded pasture, about one-sixth in corn and sorghum, and the remainder chiefly in oats. Many of the numerous gullies are healed with shrubs and trees which provide good winter cover. With continued good land management and special attention to care of the seedstock in severe winters by the 30-40 land operators, in normal years a breeding population 400-800 bob-whites may be expected to increase 200-300 percent by autumn to provide a shootable surplus of 500-1000 birds on the 7713-acre area.

Because a low seedstock of 90 bob-whites in two favorable seasons had increased to 1334, shooting might have been permitted in 1938 had the county not been closed by law.

## Enough Shotgun Shells For '42 But No More

Not a single shotgun shell has been manufactured since May 1. This includes all types of shotgun shells in all gauges. The total facilities of the ammunition makers are now devoted to war work.

Ammunition factories carry no reserve stocks of shells. As fast as shells are produced, they are shipped out to jobbers all over the nation. This means that present stocks of shotgun shells must be in one of two hands, the jobbers, or the local retailer. Many of the smaller jobbers are already completely sold out of ammunition, retailers having taken their stocks months ago. The large jobbers have a few shells on hand.

Retail outlets today possess most of the shotgun shells. There is an ample supply for the hunters for 1942, and enough trap and skeet loads to carry on this sport for a number of months. But, as the war goes on, and no production exists, we will gradually approach the exhaustion of stocks in the hands of the nation's retailers. When this time comes, trap and skeet shooting stops, and when shells loaded for hunting are gone, then hunting stops.

The shell situation is analogous to the rubber tire situation. There must be conservation of shotgun shells. Hunters must exercise extreme care in the use of the present stock of shells. No indiscriminate banging at birds well out of range, no shooting at tin cans thrown in the air, and no use of shells for anything except actual hunting.—The Nomad, Davenport Democrat.

The long, glistening, protective hair of wild animals is called guard hair, and on some kinds of fur is plucked or pulled out before the skin is used commercially.

The cottontail rabbit native to Iowa is the Mearns cottontail. The scientific name is *Sylvilagus floridanus mearnsii*.





By F. H. DAVIS

Specialist 2nd Class, U. S. Coast Guard.  
(Formerly U. S. Game Mgt. Agent)



"FLICK"

After six weeks in the U. S. Coast Guard, I have learned to say nothing. I'll see you again in these columns after we have thoroughly whipped the Axis powers.

## Good Pheasant Hunting Predicted For Iowa in '42

With the greatest population of ring-necks in the history of the state, Iowa hunters are looking forward to their best hunting season.

This heavy pheasant crop is largely due to wise land use practices by individual landholders, to the Iowa Cooperative Game Bird Program, to favorable weather conditions, and to groups and individuals who are interested in seeing a shootable surplus of upland game birds each year.

Paralleling the increase in upland game, farmer-sportsman relations have steadily improved. This is a fine trend to continue. It will continue only as long as the sportsmen themselves make it continue. Every hunter must remember that in the state of Iowa, 96 percent of the land is privately-owned, and that in the final analysis it is only the farmer who can guarantee a successful upland game season.

When a sportsman buys a dollar license, to what does it entitle him? It merely gives him a legal right to hunt in a lawful manner. It does not give him permission to hunt on privately-owned land. Permission to do that must be obtained from the landowner. Consequently, 96 percent of the time the non-landholding hunter must ask someone's permission to secure the right to hunt.

Farmers individually and collectively want to know and are entitled to know who is hunting on their land. They want to know that whoever hunts on the farm will be careful about shooting around livestock, that all gates will be closed, that their property will be protected against damage.

## Annual Blush Colors Iowa Trees



—Photo by Don Berry.

Oaks along Council Bluffs' Rainbow Drive, with the Missouri River in the distance.

## Fishing In Harness

By Sidney Mott

I love to take my wifey out  
To help me fish a stream for trout,  
For then, I know, oh, never fear,  
I'll have to pack a ton of gear.

Then, too, I'll have to bait her hook  
And help her to a comfy nook;  
If eggs the foolish fish pass by  
She'll have me change them for a fly.

If there is any brush about  
That's where she'll land the cussed trout  
Or hang it in some thorny tree  
And then, of course, it's up to me.

And when I think that things are right  
And gradually fade out of sight  
To some quiet likely pool below,  
Before I get a chance to throw—

I'll hear a wild and frantic scream  
And, dashing madly up the stream,  
I'll find friend wifey all afright  
Because a bee has hove in sight.

And when at length the day is done  
And she has ten and I have one,  
She's graciously a little sad  
Because my luck has been so bad.

They also want to know how much game is killed so that they will be able to curtail hunting while seed stock still remains. Make no mistake about it—the farmer is sincere in his desire to perpetuate game on his land. It is one of the many things that makes life on a farm so enjoyable.

If you are not acquainted in the territory in which you expect to hunt, be courteous and diplomatic when you seek that privilege. Make a friend of the landowner and conduct yourself, when you get that permission, as a sportsman and a gentleman. You will be asked to return next year, and you will have solved your own farmer-sportsman problem.

A sportsman is a hunter who pays a good deal more than the market price for fish and game.

## Conservation Must Strike Balance Between Sportsmen and Farmers

Conservation, as far as it pertains to wild game, seems to be a never-ending struggle to provide the sportsman with an abundance of hunting and yet keep the farmer's fields from being overrun and his crops wasted.

For years Iowa has been building up a pheasant population. Most of us have taken delight in the knowledge that the pheasant belt is being extended gradually farther south and nearly everybody at all familiar with a gun has turned hunter. And now the pheasant crop has multiplied so that farmers in a number of areas are asking for longer open sea-

sons so as to cut down both the pheasant population and the grain crop damage.

Deer in Iowa have been a curiosity for years, but a few days ago farm operators in the Boone area assembled to urge some action to bring them relief. They had no objection to the deer, considered them, in fact, a desirable novelty, if they just wouldn't trample too much of the small grain and husk out too much of the corn crop. The damage is getting beyond what one can reasonably be expected to endure.

After they had become nearly extinct, a lot of sentiment was developed for the beaver. Slowly conservation workers have been able to trap a few live animals and transport them to new areas, and now the beaver is on the way back. Some were placed in the Amana timber a few years ago. Surplus animals from colonies started in some other sections about the same time are being trapped for further distribution.

It looks to us like this battle to maintain a balance would go on forever. Perhaps never again will desirable game birds or animals be allowed to approach extinction so closely and, also, probably never again will hunting be permitted to become so nearly extinct.—Blairstown Press.

## Grandpa Hicks Had His Own Code of Ethics

Grandpa Hicks lived in a palmetto log shack at the edge of Cross Creek. He existed by the illegal trapping of fish in Orange Lake, and by renting other men's rowboats, without permission, to fishermen from Jacksonville. If a customer's outboard motor lacked gas, he shuffled mysteriously to the other side of the bridge across the creek, where lay beached other boats and motors, and returned with fuel. If catfish were scarce on his own lines, he ran the other fellow's.

Man's law is one thing, God's another.

One Sunday morning we asked Grandpa to go fishing with us. He knew where the fish were biting, and we had had no luck for weeks. He spat.

"I don't fish on Sundays," he said haughtily. "I wasn't raised up that-a-way." — South Dakota Conservation Digest.

Watching these boys of the state seining crews is very interesting. How they can work all day in ice cold water with bare hands is hard to understand. The work they do is beneficial to the lakes and streams, besides making it possible for people to enjoy fresh fish at a very reasonable cost.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.