

# IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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## There Will Be Boating 'Spite of Rationing

By VERNE H. PETERSEN,  
State Boat Inspector

With the approach of the boating season, I believe that the Office of Price Administration's gas rationing plan for motor boats should be again brought to the attention of the public, because of the interest in boating and fishing by so many Iowans.

The keynote of the entire plan for providing gasoline for motor boats is struck in the opening paragraph of a bulletin issued by the OPA.

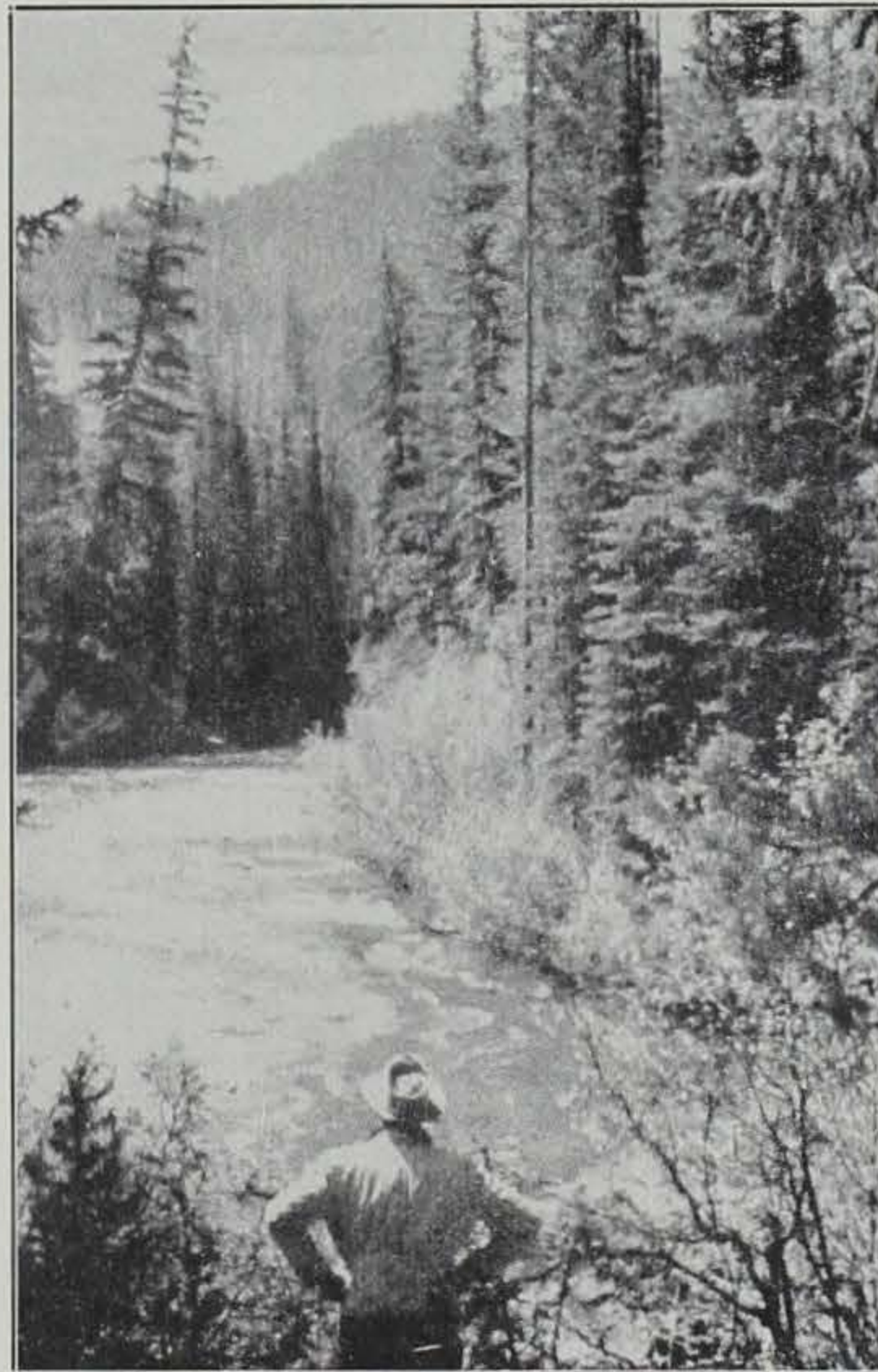
"The Office of Price Administration realizes the enormous value of private boats in coastal defense. Since we have 44,000 miles of coast line, and hardly enough boats in the entire country to provide adequate coastal patrol, it is essential that all boats be placed in commission ready for legitimate operation in any service that may be required in the war effort."

In rationing gasoline for motor boats, the situation was comparable to that of rationing gas for cars. A comparatively small portion of the nation's 30 million cars could have been given unlimited amounts of gasoline, but this would have meant that the rest of the cars would have had to be put on jacks for the duration. The same is true of boats.

To obtain gas for his motor boat the owner may go to his local war price and rationing board and apply for a "non-highway" ration of gasoline for operating his craft. This application is made on Form OPA R-537. If he is to operate wholly or in part for a non-occupational purpose (sight-seeing, fishing, guiding pleasure parties, or conducting fishing parties other than to pro-

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## Take A Good Look, Son



\* \* \* \* \*

When you don Uncle Sam's khaki tomorrow, when you take the oath to protect and defend your country, this is the country we want you to remember. This is America, the America you love, the America you'll be fighting for.

And this is the land to which you'll return. We're going to try to keep it just as you like it. We have a job to do as well as you. Your old dad is too well along in years to make good fighting stuff, but he did his best in another war,

and he well remembers the thrill of coming back. . . . .

We promise to save and conserve these wild and rugged places for you, these spots where the water is clear, the air clean, the trees green. We'll guard against heedless waste and destruction because, next to winning the war, we know that conservation of these great natural resources is most important. After all, that's what made America what it is, and that, Son, is what you'll be fighting for. — South Bend Bait Company.

## Outdoor Cooking Holds Thrill For Many Sportsmen

By GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON,  
Department of Zoology and Entomology,  
Iowa State College

We may find many and varied recipes for preparing numerous kinds of fish and game in cook-books on outdoor cooking. The authors do not expect us to cook all of our catch outdoors, but they know we probably may begin the preparation of game for the table in the field. Hence the various writers give their opinions on bleeding or not bleeding, on when and how to dress game, the why and wherefore of hanging or ripening, and many other points on which they and we have our own opinions.

Just as fishing and hunting methods are personal, so cooking game is an individual art in which many of us are frank to admit that we excel. Yet we like to hear of others' methods almost as well as we like to tell of our own favorite procedures.

Several recent outdoor cooking books have taken up some hours of our leisure time this winter. Because we enjoyed them, we wish to recommend them to you for evening reading when the stomach is full and you can continue the eating pleasure only by reading about food.

The Browns (Cora, Rose, and Bob) tell of camping out before the open fireplace in their dining room as they close "Outdoor Cooking", 506 pages, Copyright 1940, Greystone Press, New York. Leafing through the book, we see it is a culinary encyclopedia on everything tame and wild from A to Z (Ants to Zebras), and of all lands. The authors are old-timers in the cookbook field, having written 15 books on food; and judging from the travel comments throughout this book, they have

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# Iowa Conservationist

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## Outdoor Cooking

(Continued from Page 17)

cooked hundreds of foods under every imaginable condition in all parts of the world.

Here are some of the Browns' recipes for 'possum: "Cut out kernels under front legs and in the small of the back; wash the 'possum with cold water, dry it, salt and pepper it, stuff it and sew it up. Here are some good southern ideas of stuffings: (1) Corn-bread crumbs, minced onion, celery, sage and raw eggs to hold all together; (2) Chinquapins, chestnuts, or ground nuts, apple sauce and bread crumbs; (3) Boiled rice, minced bacon, and chopped onion. Surround him with peeled sweet potatoes, and roast him in front of the fire or in the oven. The chief purpose of the potatoes is to sop up all the 'possum fat possible. In camp, the 'possum pan is tilted into a pile of hot embers facing a reflector fire, that is, a fire built against a rock or bank or against a couple of backlogs. Allow plenty of time, and do frequent basting with fat that collects in pan.

"If you can't manage this te-

# Ummm--Can't You Smell 'em Frying?



The authors of various outdoor cooking books do not expect us to cook all of our catch outdoors. Therefore, they describe outdoor cooking indoors as well as in the open.

dious process, boil 'possum until done and boil the potatoes. Take both from water, arrange in pan, and brown before fire or in oven, basting with fat skimmed from water in which 'possum boiled. Make gravy out of pot liquid to eat with both meat and potatoes."

"So cook, eat and be merry, for tomorrow you will be hungry again." This is the last sentence in "Camp Catering" by Louise and Joel H. Hildebrand, 87 pages, Copyright 1938, Stephen Daye Press, Brattleboro, Vermont, or "How to rustle grub for hikers, campers, mountaineers, packers, canoers, hunters and fishermen" is the alternative title.

Part I, "The Light Pack Versus The Heavy Appetite", by father Joel, gives a practical list of the needs of a traveler in the field, particularly for a canoe trip.

"Cooking Versus The Heavy Appetite" and "Suggestions for Hunters and Fishermen" were prepared by daughter Louise, with suggestions and advice supplied by numerous outdoor men experts. We are grateful for her terse suggestions about roasting, broiling, frying, boiling, and stewing, for after all, it is a man's job to bring in the game, prepare it, and cook it for the good woman.

As a sample, here are three of the recipes for cooking rabbit:

"1. Quarter the beast. Strip with strings of bacon sewed through pieces of meat. Roll in flour and brown in butter. Then add milk very slowly, just enough to keep it from sticking, and cook until tender, covered all the time. Make gravy in the pan by adding flour. Flavor with onion juice if desired (get onion juice by grating fine or gouging out an onion with a spoon).

"2. Cut rabbit in six pieces and soak in salt water for several hours. Dry and roll in flour or egg and cracker crumbs. Fry in butter in a good hot pan till golden, then add a little water and steam till they are tender. Add a little more water if it evaporates too soon.

"3. Boil large chunks of potato and carrot and any other vegetables you have. Cook some bacon slightly in a Dutch oven, remove it and brown the rabbit in bacon grease, then place the partly cooked bacon on top of the rabbit, put lid on and cook till rabbit is tender with coals on the oven lid as well as around the oven. Remove the rabbit and bacon and make a thin gravy in the oven. Then put all the meat and vegetables in the gravy until warm and serve. This is a good way to serve a whole meal in one."

In "Come and Get It: The Complete Outdoor Chef", 189 pages, Copyright 1942, A. S. Barnes and Company, New York, George W. Martin puts a trowel in your hand and has you build a fireplace while the family looks on. Many styles of fireplaces and outdoor cooking stoves and ovens are pictured and described, together with the benefits of the author's own experience in operating the devices. Here are his remarks on crows:

"Among the birds not included in the common game varieties crows deserve recognition as excellent food, besides serving as targets for hunters to limber up their shooting arms during off-season. Actually, crows should not be indiscriminately killed, as they do far more good than harm unless they congregate in such

large numbers so as to menace crops. Under such circumstances they are systematically exterminated by hunts which often end in crow banquets. The increasing popularity of crows for food is attested by dressed birds having been sold for 19 cents each in Oklahoma markets, and in Denver, Colorado, they have commanded a slightly higher price under the supposedly more attractive name 'rook'.

"Crow meat is dark and tastes something half-way between duck and chicken. The slight gamey taste disappears almost entirely when fricaseed or par-boiled. As with chicken, young crows are good broiled, while others should be cooked in a pot for longer periods."

'Possum treated in an unusual way came to our attention in "The Best Men Are Cooks" by Frank Shay, 281 pages, Copyright 1941, Coward McCann Inc., New York.

"Have a kettle of boiling water big enough for you to immerse the whole 'possum, but remove it from the fire so that it is not actively boiling. Grab the animal (dead) by the tail and lower head-down into the water for a minute. Then with a dull knife scrape off the hair without injuring or breaking the skin. Make a clean incision from throat to tail, and remove entrails and brain, saving the liver, and cut off the feet at the first joint. If you're not in a great hurry, hang him outdoors in the freezing air for a couple of days; if time is important, let him soak in salted water overnight; then wash him in warm water, and he is ready for stuffing.

"Make a stuffing by browning a chopped onion in a little butter and adding the chopped cooked liver, one cup of bread crumbs, one tablespoon chopped parsley, one teaspoon Worcestershire sauce, one chopped hardboiled egg, one pod red pepper, chopped, salt to taste, and enough water to moisten. Stuff the 'possum with the mixture, sew opening or join with skewers.

"Place in a roasting pan with a couple of tablespoons of water and roast in a moderate oven (350° F) until meat is a rich brown and tender, basting with the 'possum's own fat. Skim the grease from the gravy and serve in a sauceboat. Serve with baked yams or baked sweet potatoes."

The four books cited read more like travel books and thrillers in cooking than we men expect in cook books. In addition to recipes for game we commonly eat in Iowa, these books have recipes for coots, crows, opossums, woodchucks, and other game that ordinarily we pay little attention to in this state. We must be missing something. Perhaps we would like these unusual kinds of game and continue to utilize them once we started.



## Your Pup Can Join the WAGS, Help Win the War

Under the proud banner of the United States of America, and with a background of tropical jungle, a large group of armed men stood at rigid attention facing a smaller group of officers. A sharp salute by the commanding officer, and a newly decorated soldier returned to the short line receiving citations.

"Robey Dick."

Into that tropical spotlight stepped briskly a clean-shaven corporal. Closely at his side a well-groomed shepherd dog followed. Both came to attention before the lieutenant-colonel, over whose grim face came a suggestion of softness.

"Robey Dick, under the authority of the United States Army I take pleasure in conferring upon you the Distinguished Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility. On the night of January 17, 1943, you did, under fire, with total disregard for personal safety, carry out your assignment with conspicuous gallantry."

Back in the kennels west of the barracks, Robey, now a decorated veteran, faced a battery of admiring, questioning WAGS who were soon to have their first taste of action.

"I don't feel like a hero, but if Uncle Sam says I am, so I must be; and judging from the amount of gold braid down there this afternoon, the fracas must have been pretty important.

"The whole thing started about two weeks ago when one of our infantry scouting units located a strong concentration of Japs across a jungle stream. Our units filtered to within striking distance. Our service of supply brought in ammunitions and camouflaged them in the heavy jungle.

"The night before the big fight my corporal and I were on guard at the munitions dump. The sounds from the sticky night were not like those at home, but I could tell that Corporal Jiggs was mentally 5,000 miles away.

"You dogs will soon learn that the Japs work by stealth and are most murderous at night.

"I'll admit I was thinking a little along the same lines as Corporal Jiggs; however, a faint scraping in the darkness raised the hackles on my back. Jiggs noticed my low growl of warning, and in a few moments even he could hear movements out front.

"The rest happened quickly. An unanswered challenge, a couple of blasts of the tommy gun, and things were pretty well over. Somehow I found myself pinning

## Man's Best Friend Has War Job

Dogs for Defense, Inc., has been organized to select and supply dogs for the armed forces.

The number of WAGS, dogs for war purposes, is expected to reach 125,000. Iowa's quota is 20 dogs per month.



down a disarmed, badly frightened Oriental.

"The rest of the guard came around, and at Jiggs' command I released my prisoner, as I had been taught during training.

"It developed our little yellow friends had discovered the depot and had decided on a preview. We spoiled their plans and used the fireworks to take the concentration point across the river next day."

Turning to a sad-eyed bloodhound whose local Dogs for Defense board had classed him 4-F, but who had gotten into the thick of things as foreign correspondent for the Canine Press, Robey said, "I have a half brother back in Elkader, Iowa, who would be a natural out here. Put a piece in your rag and tell him how to get in."

Robey is right. In Elkader, Storm Lake, Vinton, in almost every section of Iowa, there are dogs who would be extremely valuable to the armed forces and who, if given the chance, could actively participate in this most important of all wars.

In World War I Germany was the foremost user of "war dogs". Prior to the present conflict, many generals' staffs acknowledged their value. Recently the United States Army, through Major-General Edmund B. Gregory, Quartermaster General of the United States, has asked dog owners and breeders for 125,000 WAGS, dogs for war purposes.

To supply these dogs, Dogs for

Defense, Inc. has been organized to select and supply dogs suitable for military training. The regional director for D. F. D. for Iowa is J. H. Schuffman, Davenport, Iowa; the regional inspector is R. W. Snyder. These men serve without pay.

The principal use of dogs supplied is for guard duty. They are immensely valuable to help prevent sabotage, guard munition dumps, storehouses, airfields, etc., and wherever finished dogs are at work the request comes for more. In fact, where they are in use one dog relieves as many as six men, and often, as in the case of our imaginary Robey, they detect movement, sound, or smell too faint for human senses.

In Inspector Snyder's words, "Dogs needed for this work must be of aggressive nature, 20 or more inches at the shoulder, either sex, between the ages of one and five years, neither storm nor gun shy, such breeds as Shepherds (police dogs), Doberman Pinschers, Airedale, Kerry Blue Terriers, Chesapeake and Labrador Retrievers, Boxers, Great Danes, Collies and Schnauzers, or any cross of two of the above respective breeds.

"Newfoundlands, St. Bernards, Malmutes, Siberian Huskies, Mastiffs and crosses are used for pack and sled dogs, laying telephone, rescue and message work.

"Not usable are timid, small breeds, hunting dogs, and mongrels.

## Mattes Appointment To Commission By Governor Popular

Governor B. B. Hickenlooper rang the bell when he named Frank Mattes of Odebolt to represent northwest Iowa on the State Conservation Commission. Mattes represents the Democratic party on the Commission, but Republicans will not hold that against him for he is admirably equipped for the job.

All that northwest Iowa wishes from the Conservation Commission is that we get our fair share of attention. Storm Lake, in the midst of an important dredging restoration project, will wish this program continued. Other localities in this section of the state will similarly expect the Commission to see them through on important conservation activities.

Storm Lakers have known Mattes many years. They know he is a square shooter. So they unhesitatingly approve his appointment and commend the governor on his choice.

Mrs. Addison Parker, of Des Moines, has been reappointed to this Commission by the governor. Mrs. Parker is well known throughout this section. Her reappointment is likewise highly pleasing to conservation lovers.—Storm Lake Pilot Tribune.

In New York two ponds were fenced with muskrat proof fencing. In both ponds there was a serious loss of animals because of fighting, even though what appeared to be severe wounds healed rapidly. Death seemed to occur most frequently near the fence, as during the daily checks most dead individuals were found near this barrier. It was not possible at any time to maintain the same number of living adult muskrats per acre under fence as were maintained per acre on unfenced marsh.

"All dogs are donated outright, but if possible they will be returned to the owner after the war. Any dog not meeting requirements will be returned to the owner without cost if the owner so desires."

Dogs accepted for the armed services are reshipped from concentration points to the various training centers. There they are well-fed and housed and given the training that is proving so valuable to the armed services. Any reader having a dog or dogs that he believes would be valuable, and that he would like to present to the government, should contact J. H. Schuffman, Regional Director, Dogs for Defense, Route 1, Kimberly Road, Davenport, Iowa.





Almost 500 years before Columbus discovered the West Indies, riches of the American forest were being harvested by white men.

It happened because Red Erik Thorwaldson had neighbor trouble in Iceland; because Bjarne Herjulsun got lost; and because daring Viking traders knew good timber when they saw it.

Proud Viking freemen were fierce to defend their rights, their property and their honor, and none was fiercer in that defense than Thorwald's son, Erik, called "The Red."

For one such defense, judged to be too spirited, the Iceland court sentenced Erik to three years of exile. That was in 982. Erik was probably 27 years old. His son, Lief, who was to earn in America the name, "The Lucky," was also exiled.

Erik was not dismayed by his exile. He had heard of a voyager who had been blown off his course and glimpsed an unknown island farther west. Erik took his family and retainers and sailed off to find it, and did. When the years of his exile were over, he returned to Iceland, seeking colonists for the island he had discovered.

He called the new land Greenland. Viljalmer Stefansson says choice of that name made Red Erik the first American real estate promoter. He picked the name to make it sound attractive to the Icelanders.

For Iceland's great lack was trees. Wood for furniture, for buildings, and especially timber for boats had to be imported.

Red Erik's colonists followed him to Greenland in 986. Among

them was the family of Bjarne Herjulsun, an adventurous trader who, having come home from the sea to spend the winter with his parents, found them gone. From neighbors Bjarne learned of Greenland and set out to follow his people. He must find a land he had never seen, somewhere in an uncharted ocean. Sailing by sea-sense and the stars, Bjarne's journey is one of the most venturesome sea stories of history. He was the first white man of record to have seen America's forested shores.

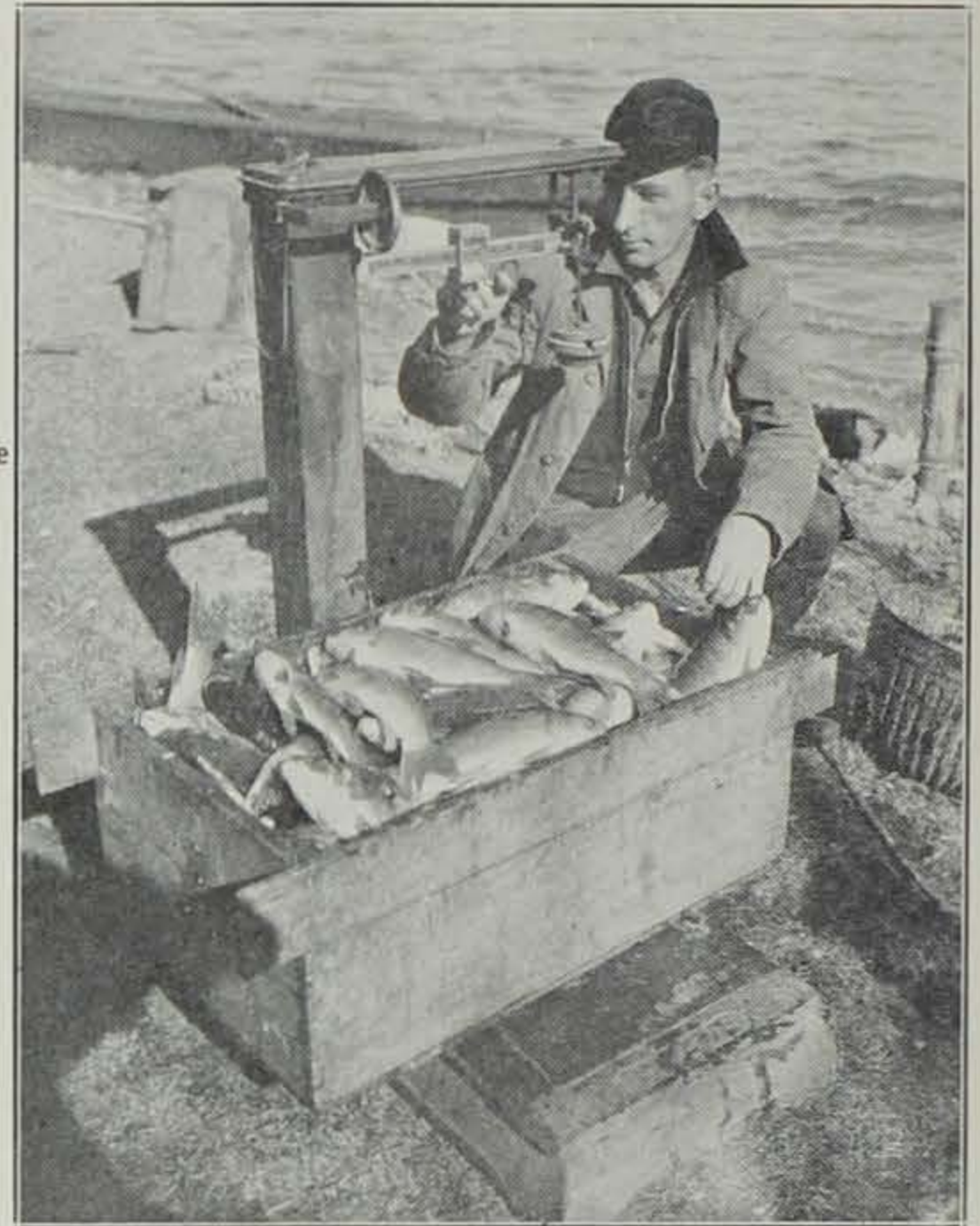
Nine days of storm drove his little wood ship far south and west. At last he saw a land "not mountainous, well-wooded, with small knolls upon it." He did not stop, because this was clearly not Greenland; he turned northeast, and two days later saw "a flat country covered with timber," which may have been Cape Sable, the southernmost point of Nova Scotia, or somewhere beyond. Next he saw an island. It was probably Newfoundland. He sailed around it, again not stopping; and his next landfall was Greenland. Not only that—he arrived precisely at his father's farm.

And from that time on, he told the Greenland Vikings of the forests he had seen.

In the year 1000 Red Erik's son, Lief, now 20 and a seasoned voyager, bought Bjarne's boat and listened carefully to his directions. Sailing from Greenland he found the land "not mountainous, well-wooded, with small knolls upon it," according to Bjarne's description. It is not certain what part of North American mainland that place was. It may have been Cape Cod. Lief landed his party, chopped down trees, built log houses, explored. He discovered that in the kindly summer climate of these well-wooded shores the forest sheltered a secondary crop—grapevines loaded with fruit. So Cape Cod (if that it was) became the Viking's "Vinland the Good", and the cargo

## Carp Yields Heavy Iowa Crop

Four and one-half million pounds of Iowa rough fish are marketed annually.



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that Lief took home included dried grapes and wine.

But "Vinland" was, like "Greenland," a realtor's name. What Lief had come for, and did not forget to take back, was timber.

The next year Lief's brother, Thorwald, borrowed his ship and the use of the houses Lief had built, and took his own party to Vinland. Thorwald was killed in a brush with the Indians—"Skrelings," the Vikings called them—but his crew stayed on and harvested what they had come for.

They took back to Greenland from an American forest a cargo of logs.

Thereafter the history of Vinland is not happy in the Iceland sagas. But in the year 1110, or thereabouts, the Viking merchant trader, Thorfin Karlsefin, visited Greenland, and hearing the stories of the Vinland forests, decided to carry on. He did not reach Lief's Vinland; he found great forests in "a place of strong tides" farther north, which Viljalmer Stefansson thinks may have been Labrador. Thorfin stayed there harvesting timber for three years; and there ends that part of the American forests told in the Iceland sagas.

But this much is incontrovertibly true. Thorfin Karlsefin called the "place of strong tides," where he founded his colony, "Markland", that is, "Forestland."

He was a merchant. His colony was a lumber camp.

In 1347, nearly 350 years after Lief the Lucky brought the first cargo of American forest products to Greenland, a saga tells of a Greenland ship which had come from Markland and was wrecked in Iceland that year.

## "C" Stands For Carp

We were five ancient Americans—an artist, a musician, two architects and a journalist—who had never eaten a carp. A benevolent bureaucracy had announced the need of a carp pond on every farm, perhaps in every vacant city lot, and so we decided to prepare for the emergency. The feast of St. Polycarp was selected as an appropriate day for the experiment, and the artist, hardy and adventurous, was appointed to go out among the fishmongers

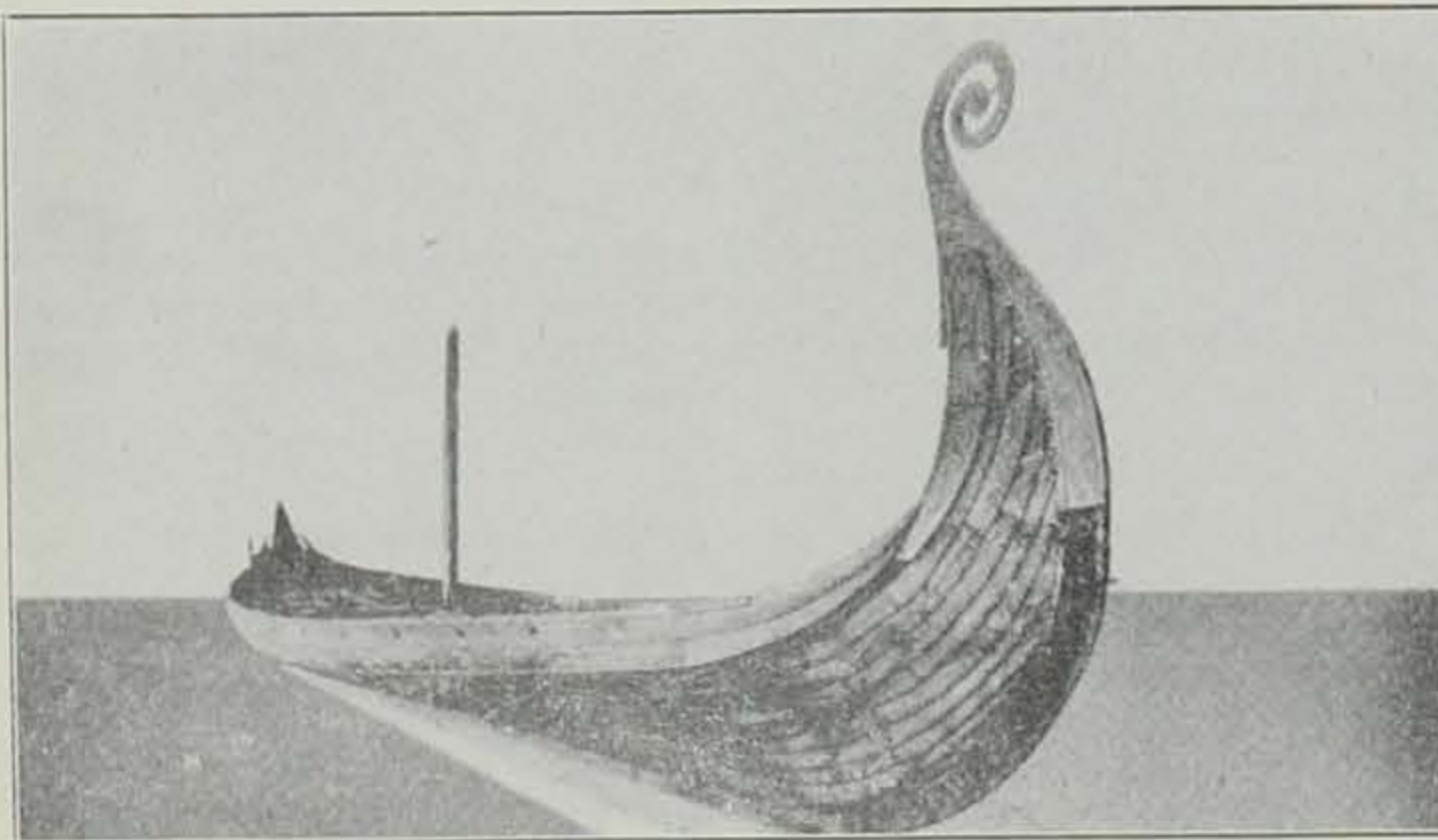
(Continued to Page 21, Column 1)

This is just a news note, a mere paragraph in the saga, like the shipping news that appears in the newspapers of any modern port. The writer was not excited about it, as were the recorders of the discoveries and colonization of Vinland and Markland.

In other words, as Stefansson and other important scholars see it, three-cornered voyages from Greenland to Markland in America to Iceland were " commonplace" as late as the year 1347.

The Greenland ships went to America for lumber, carried it to Iceland, where it was traded for European goods destined for Greenland, and then repeated the trip to the American forestlands as an ordinary voyage of trade. It took a shipwreck to put one notice of such a journey in the Iceland news nearly 150 years before America was discovered to the rest of the world by Columbus.—American Forest Products Industries, Inc.

## Did This Boat Reach Cape Cod?



This old ship in a Norwegian museum is the type in which the Vikings discovered "Markland"



## Tell A Pal At The Front About Your Hunt

You hunters can do a lot to keep up the spirits of a friend in the services if you will just make the effort. Tell him about the game crop, and that lucky day on the marsh or in the cornfield. A note from the old deer-hunting gang in camp will go a long way toward keeping a pal at the front happy. Go heavy on the humorous episodes. He's not forgotten you; don't forget him!—Sportsmen's Service Bureau.

## "C" for Carp

(Continued from Page 20)

and buy two choice specimens.

He brought back to the club a brace of four-pounders and turned them over to the steward. "How did they look?" we asked, and he shook his head dubiously: "Like prehistoric weed-eaters on ice. They cost 65 cents." An outsider who had overheard jeered: "I hope the party brings its doctor."

The steward prepared himself for the test by reading the works of Andre Simon, international president of the Wine and Food society, and also a carp recipe from Izaak Walton's "Compleat Angler." Then he let his imagination soar and threw his soul into his work. That is the only way to prepare carp.

When the dish was set before us, the heretic who had advised medical attendance came to inspect it, and his eyes gleamed like a glutton's carbuncles. That brace of carp, garnished with the art of a Japanese flower arranger, looked fit for a baron's table. . . Then we fell to with signs of surprised satisfaction, and presently clamored for more.

The fish had been soaked in white wine for some hours, then given a stuffing of bread crumbs, cracker crumbs and chopped celery, then baked. The sauce that went with the portions was based on white wine, with flavoring of mace, rosemary and chives. Aside from the need to beware of bones, with which the carp is plentifully endowed, the dish was beyond reproach.

So we have decided that if Marie Antoinette had said, "Let them eat carp," there would have been no French revolution.—"A Line O' Type Or Two," Chicago Tribune.

Muskrat houses are used as nesting sites by black terns, Forster's terns, Canada geese, and several species of ducks in California. The nests are constantly in danger of being buried by new material that muskrats add to the tops of their houses.



This department, "Conservation Columnists", is to give each month a little sketch of one of the columnists who write outdoor columns regularly for newspapers. These writers are widely known for what they write, and we know that you will enjoy these briefs of what and who they are.

By THEO. G. LORENZEN  
Davenport Democrat

This being attempt number one at my autobiography, any errors of omission or commission must be laid at the door of one Jim Harlan, proprietor of this monthly journal and the fellow who coaxed me into doing this literary monstrosity.

A little over 46 years ago I came into being in the city of Davenport, Iowa. That makes me a native Iowan, of which fact I have always been right proud and have never apologized, even when trying to teach easterners the correct way to pronounce "Iowa".

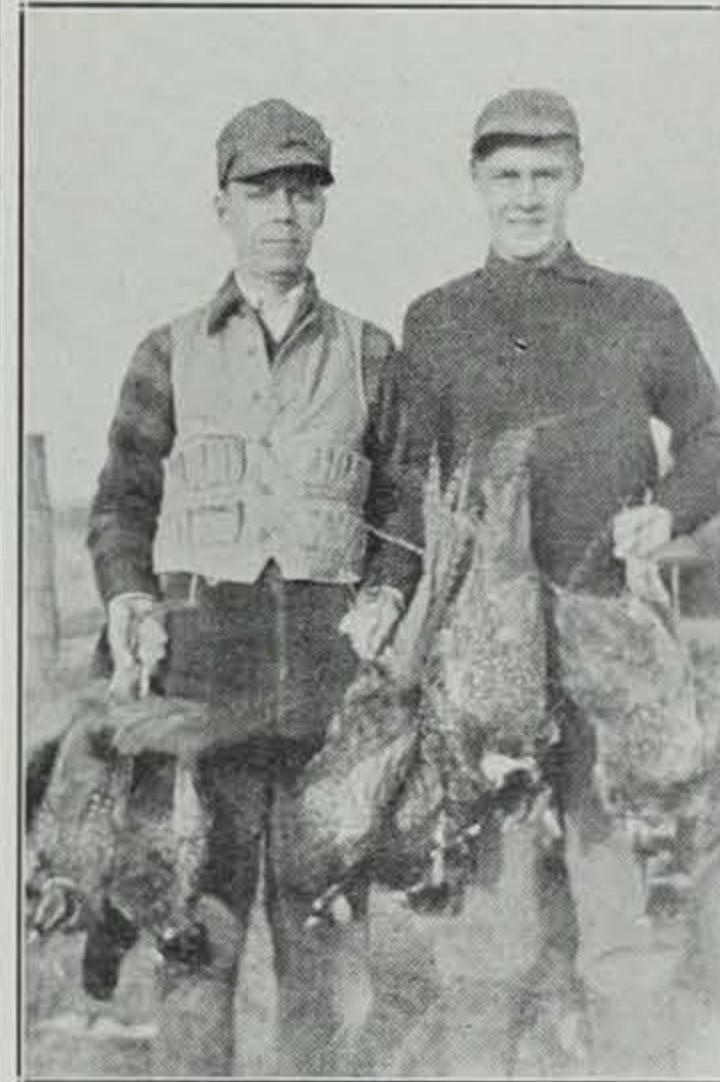
My hunting and fishing proclivities go back to my paternal grandfather as to hunting, and to my maternal grandfather as to fishing. My old dad, long since gone from time into eternity, didn't know a fish pole from a stack of wheat cakes, and to him a gun was a museum piece.

I acquired my first shooting iron when I was just about knee-high to a good grasshopper. When the first fish pole came into my hands escapes my memory, but I can truthfully state here and now that I have been at one or another or both pastimes for just about a nice round 40 years.

My first gun was probably the type possessed by almost every boy at some time or another, the old reliable .22 rifle. I came by this weapon in rather unorthodox fashion. A small trap line in a farmer's cornfield produced pocket gophers, upon which the county paid a bounty of ten cents per gopher. A side deal with the farmer brought another five cents per gopher, making a total of 15 cents per each gopher caught. Twenty gophers equalled three dollars, which paid for one rifle.

Since this early firearm acquisition I have owned and shot a good many weapons, but none are of more fond memory than that first rifle, earned by trapping pocket gophers.

Fishing was easy in the days of my youth. A creek about a



Theo. (The Nomad) Lorenzen, outdoor columnist for the Davenport Democrat, and his son, Theo. Jr., at the close of a successful pheasant hunt.

mile north of our home produced all the fish one small boy could tote home. There were bullheads, sunfish, carp, catfish, suckers, redhorse, bluegills, and other species in this creek, and a good big can of worms, a willow pole, a length of fishing line lifted from Grandpa's tackle box, a few hooks, and it gave fish.

Since these early experiences, Father Time has made many marks upon the calendar, and I have fished in streams and lakes over a good part of the upper Mississippi watershed; but the most vivid recollections are of the days when I could sit on the banks of the old creek and just fish.

With this sort of background, it was inevitable that I should get into conservation work. For the past 20 years I have been what might be termed an "ardent conservationist". Since 1936 I have been writing my views on the subject through the medium of a column called "The Campfire", published each Sunday morning in the Davenport Democrat.

In this same span of years some "serving" has been done. At various times I have served as president, vice-president, director, and trustee of one of Iowa's largest sportsmen's groups, the Scott County Sportsmen's Association. The association has made me its legislative chairman, and on many occasions I have been delegated to Des Moines and Ames to fight the battles of sound conservation.

I have some very definite convictions on the subject of conservation. First, if we Americans hadn't been so damn wasteful, we wouldn't be in the mess we're in. Of course, you can't hold that ag'in the present generation. After all, they didn't loot the streams, fields, and forests. So it is up to us who are here now to fight for the things we have come to cherish, so that those who pass along the road tomorrow may also fish and hunt.

It is my firm belief that politics and conservation do not mix. This makes me a proponent of the Missouri system, and I take my hat off to those lads in Missouri. They fought and obtained a constitutional amendment establishing a conservation commission free from political meddling, and it is now functioning wisely and well. A system which permits of biennial tinkering on the part of legislative bodies is no system at all.

I believe that it is the duty of the state to acquire within its borders title to sufficient land bordering on fishable waters so that no citizen will be shut off from the use of those waters. Iowa has hundreds of miles of streams, some offering splendid fishing, which Iowa citizens are not permitted to use. This is a bad situation and is worthy of correction in the future.

One of the great jobs facing the nation is conservation of soil. This is a task to be undertaken by the state and national governments working in closer harmony than any famous barber shop quartet. Our very existence depends upon soil conservation. Of course, sound soil conservation practice also helps fish and game. The problem cannot be solved by states alone. The federal government must come into the picture to make soil conservation effective. There will never be clean waters until we stop the practice of allowing our valuable top soil to go down to the sea with every freshet and storm.

In a democracy, title to fish and game must be in the state. This makes the hunting problem a tough one. We own the game but can't shoot it because it's on land owned by another fellow who says, "Get the — out of here." That brings up the subject of farmer-sportsman relations and the further subject of public shooting grounds. Public shooting grounds are swell, but I doubt very much that this state, or any state, will ever be able to provide enough public acres to satisfy the demand. How to get the farmer and the sportsman to see eye to eye is the toughest part of the shooting problem, but I believe it can be done. We must treat the farmer fairly and courteously. We must tell him our problems and share his.

Migratory waterfowl are the

(Continued to Page 22, Column 1)





By CHARLES F. MARTIN,

Superintendent, Jackson County Schools

The heart of Jackson County's program is the one-room rural school; the area it serves, a group of average farm pupils and, most important of all, energetic, capable rural teachers in sympathy with and ready to utilize for educational and cultural purposes the resources of the great out-of-doors.

In the fall of the year before weather conditions get bad, and after the teacher has stimulated pupil interest in the program, pupils and teacher take a Friday afternoon off and make a survey of the topography and natural cover of the area adjacent to the school. This survey or excursion is also taken with a view to check the presence of wildlife, principally quail and pheasant, and locate a desirable site on which to construct a shelter and feeding station. This station is used during the winter months to protect and feed wild game birds, song-

## The Nomad

(Continued from Page 21)

problem of the federal government, and the states should keep hands off. Except for aid in the nature of refuges and marshes for breeding areas, states should not attempt to fix waterfowl seasons, or regulate waterfowl. They should, however, recommend the season which, in their opinion, is best fitted to their particular area.

When it comes to conservation practice, I reserve the right to criticize those who would, for selfish reasons, tear down all the good that has been created during the past two decades. I omit no one from this category, whether it be F. D. R. in the White House or a humble game warden in the most remote territory, or any in between.

In conclusion, I believe that fish and game are presently safe. **The war effort may see some attempts made to take down the barriers which have kept the wolves from the flock. These attempts we must resist. When the boys come home from all the far-flung battle fronts, we must be able to say to them that we stay-at-homes permitted no looting of their heritage.** In the meantime, let's keep up the fight for more fish and more game, more freedom, and a better America.

And oh yes, my friends, and I hope I have a lot of them, call me "Ted". What my enemies call me doesn't matter. Just so long as I can fish and hunt.

## Jackson County Schools Feed Wildlife



Reports to the Jackson County Superintendent by the rural schools include such items as number of shelters and songbird feeders maintained by the school and community, amount of feed provided and its source, and numbers and kinds of wildlife fed in each district through this program.

birds and animals.

If the teacher needs more assistance than is provided in the rather generous reference library on this subject in the school, the conservation officer, the county superintendent, or a committee of the Izaak Walton League go out to the school and help with locating the site and constructing the shelter. With the teacher's "Bulletin" each month devoting some space to the project, schools manage pretty well on their own resources. Occasionally, because of the lack of natural cover, a school does not construct a shelter.

In addition to the shelter and feeding station generally maintained at some distance from the school site, each school maintains a songbird feeder. When the program was initiated a few years ago, the Izaak Walton League, in co-operation with the NYA, gave each rural school a songbird feeder. As a rule, these feeders have been kept in repair by the school, and are still in use.

Records are kept each year and reports made to the county superintendent. These reports include such items as number of shelters and songbird feeders maintained by the school and community, amount of feed provided and its source, also numbers and kinds of wildlife fed in each district through this program.

The entire student body of a school shares the responsibility of maintenance of the songbird feeder; but in the case of the feeding station located some distance from the school house, committees of older pupils are appointed to make regular visits to the station at least once a week. Sometimes this is done in going to or from school.

These committees carry the responsibility of servicing the station—replenishing food supply removing snow, noting the presence of wildlife or evidence that it uses the feeder, checking for the presence of predators, and making occasional repairs to the shelter.

Reports from the committee are made to the rest of the school generally orally during the opening exercises, at the citizenship or conservation club meetings, or in English or science classes. In the last case the reports may be written. A summary of the committee's observations on each servicing visit is made a part of the school annual conservation record, which is used in making the annual report to the county superintendent.

As soon as weather conditions make artificial feeding necessary, the Maquoketa Valley chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America opens accounts with the several feed mills in the county for the convenience of any rural teachers who find that the feed furnished by patrons of the school is not adequate to meet the needs of the wildlife feeding program. The major portion of feed provided for this program comes from the farmers of the district. Besides furnishing feed for the school, many farmers maintain their own feeders for game birds and songbirds and are furnishing plenty of feed for them.

This farm interest in the conservation of wildlife is, in most instances, an extension of the school's program and is one of the best examples of school and community co-operation in solving a common problem. This program of conservation has prob-

ably resulted in more community interest in the school than any other single project. It has brought the school and community very close together, and both have profited a great deal because of this closer association.

The community has received effective help in working out a solution to one of its important problems—a problem of economic, educational and cultural significance. This is particularly true from an economic standpoint when the project is extended, as it was during the past three years, to include the planting of trees and vegetation for cover for wildlife. Or one could say "planting vegetation to prevent soil erosion." It amounts to one and the same thing. Patrons feel that such a school is more practical and stand ready to co-operate in more of its activities.

The school, in utilizing community resources, has tapped a source of material that has no satisfactory substitute. The ingenious teacher will transfer the pupil interest in this project to the recitation and classroom. Many practical applications of English, science, agriculture, arithmetic, geography, art, etc., will be found in this project.

The child works with a project that involves a real problem; and in working with the problem the child is dealing with life-like situations involving ideas and materials that are not imaginary. And all the while he is experiencing growth in some of the basic essentials of civic and community life—co-operation, service, respect for nature, and love of the out-of-doors.

### FOR FISH AND BIRDS

For fish and birds I make this plea,  
May they be here long after me;  
May those who follow hear the call  
Of old Bobwhite in spring and fall;  
And may they share the joy that's mine  
When there's a trout upon the line.  
I found the world a wondrous place,  
A cold wind blowing in my face  
Has brought the wild ducks in  
From sea;  
God grant the day shall never be  
When youth upon November's shore  
Shall see the mallards come no more!  
Too barren was the earth for words  
If gone were all the fish and birds.  
Fancy an age that see no more  
The mallards winging in to shore;  
Fancy a youth with all its dreams  
That finds no fish within the streams.  
Our world with life is wondrous fair;  
God grant we do not strip it bare!

—Edgar A. Guest.



## Gas Rationing

(Continued from Page 17)

cure fish for sale or processing), he will be given a maximum of gasoline as determined by the following formula:

If the craft is an inboard motor boat, the manufacturer's rated horsepower of the engine or engines is multiplied by two, which will give the number of gallons of gasoline to which the boat owner is entitled, but in no event will he be given more than 125 gallons. For the owner of an outboard motor, the rated horsepower is multiplied by two and a half, with 20 gallons being the maximum allowed.

The board will issue a book of coupons for a three-month period for such non-occupational purposes containing enough coupons for the gallons allotted.

Where a motor boat is to be used solely for occupational (commercial) purposes, the board will issue enough gasoline to take care of its needs.

Special rations will be issued to permit operation of a motor boat in certain cases such as medical cases or for the procurement of food, etc.

Boat owners must bend their habits to conform to the new order of things. It is not necessary to be "continually on the go" to enjoy your boat. For fishermen particularly it is not necessary to be on the move, and better luck may be had more often than not by anchoring and waiting for the fish to come to the bait.

## Pittman-Robertson Funds Held For Game Land Purchase

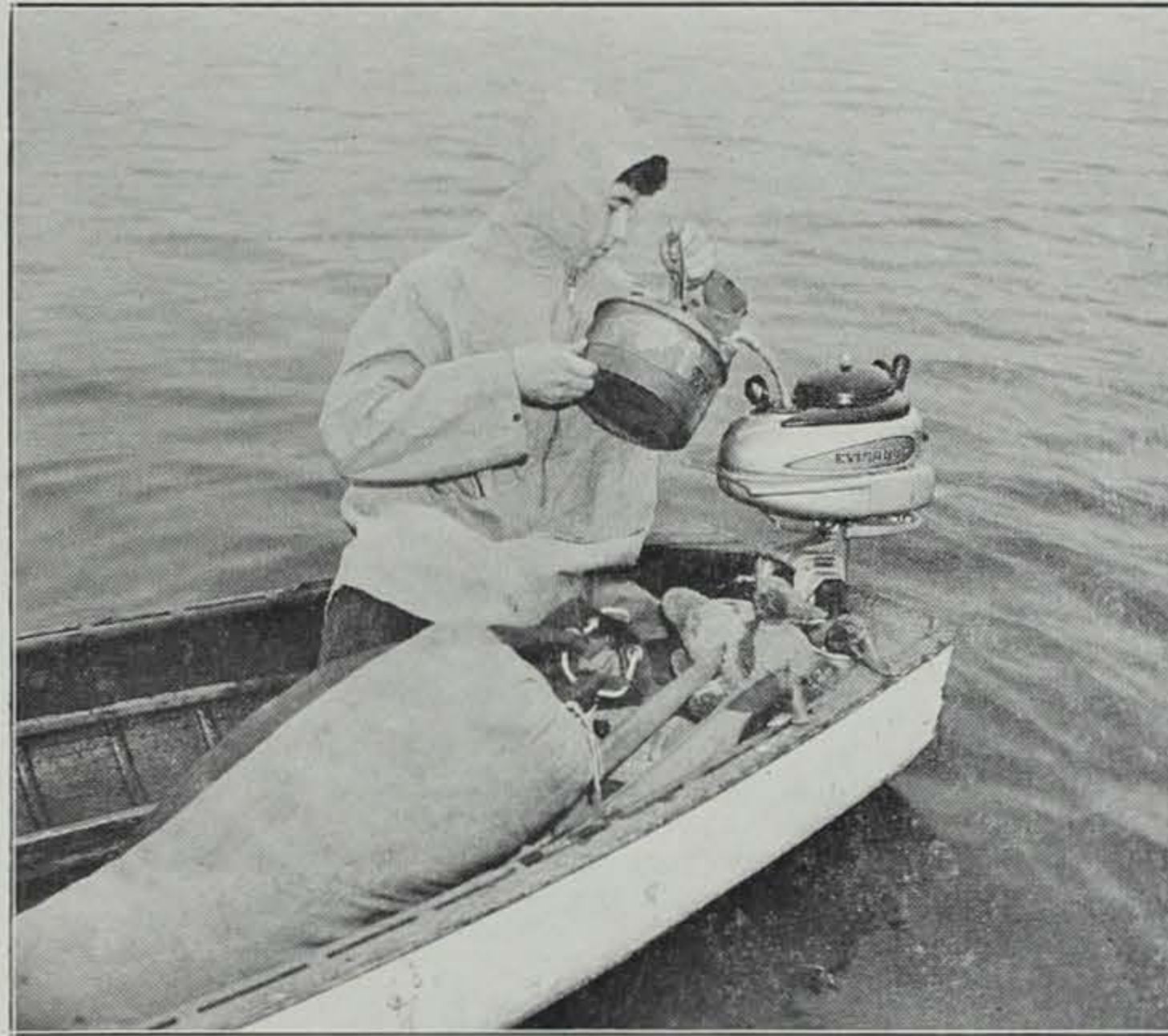
By M. D. LEWIS

Pittman-Robertson is the common term used to identify "an Act to provide that the United States shall aid the states in wildlife restoration projects and for other purposes", and most people know that Pittman - Robertson funds are made available to the federal government by a 10 percent tax on all sporting arms and ammunitions. Allotments from this fund are made to the states each year by Congress.

There is at the present time a rather large balance in this fund in the federal treasury, but with a marked reduction in returns already noticeable and a much greater reduction in revenue expected, it is wise to retain this balance to insure the continuance of this program in the future.

Funds received under this act cannot be used for purposes other than those stated in the act. Forty-six out of the 48 states are receiving Pittman-Robertson funds, the amount each receives depend-

## "Easy On That Gas, It's Rationed"



To obtain gas for his motor boat, the owner may go to his local war price and rationing board and apply for a "non-highway" ration of gasoline for operating his craft.

ing on its area and the number of hunting licenses sold. For any state to participate, certain cooperative state legislation must be passed, and Iowa, having complied with all requirements, has been receiving its share of the funds since 1938. Slowly but surely a program of game land acquisition and development has been in progress in Iowa since the beginning of Pittman-Robertson activities. It is the plan of the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the State Conservation Commission, to continue the land acquisition program; and although the federal allotments may be reduced during the emergency, there is good reason to believe that some funds will continue to be available for the purchase of new areas.

Acquisition of game land is not made until after careful study of the area by the Conservation Commission and the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service. Competent federal appraisers make a survey and appraisal of the area before the Commission proceeds with acquisition. The matter of location of these areas is very important, and naturally the best are considered for acquisition first. At the same time, it is the policy wherever possible to scatter these projects over the state, and it is and will continue to be the policy of the Commission to follow the recommendations of the 25 Year Conservation Plan for Iowa in the location of wildlife areas. The ultimate goal is to have at least one Pittman-Robertson project in each county, a goal when reached that should in a large measure solve many game problems in the state.

The acquirement of waste and marginal lands will continue as funds are available under this program. Many areas will come under state control and be ready for an intensive game land development program after the war.

Practically all development on state areas has ceased for the duration, but when again resumed

Name of Area	County	Acres	Cost
Goose Lake .....	Kossuth	39	\$ 988.45
Warren County .....	Warren	323	11,000.00
Mt. Ayr .....	Ringgold	769	17,376.75
Ventura Marsh .....	Cerro Gordo & Hancock	326	13,459.31
Klum Lake .....	Louisa	1,051	23,250.00
Barringer's Slough (balance of area) ..	Clay	510	24,511.80
Dunbar Slough .....	Greene	240	11,045.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>3,258</b>	<b>\$101,631.31</b>



Pittman-Robertson is the common term used to identify "an Act to provide that the United States shall aid the states in wildlife restoration projects."

is likely to be one of the major programs of the Commission. Plans are now being made for later development of these areas so that the highest game populations possible may be produced and maintained. This is common sense "game insurance".

If Pittman-Robertson projects, game areas, game refuges, public shooting grounds, state parks, and better lake and stream conditions make possible greater enjoyment of the return to sanity and peace for ourselves and our returned soldiers, the State Conservation Commission will enjoy the fulfillment of a public trust. When the war has been won and peace has again come, we know that Iowa will be a better place in which to live, work, and to enjoy all forms of outdoor recreation.

The following total acreage and costs have received the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State Conservation Commission. Other Pittman-Robertson projects are now in the process of completion and will be reported when final federal approval is received.

Other land acquisition projects not included in the Pittman-Robertson program have been completed in Iowa during 1942 in the Commission's land acquisition program.

The following land acquisitions have been made possible by Pittman-Robertson during the 1942 calendar year:





Project No. 496, Iowa Co-operative Wildlife Research Union, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa

By WARD E. STEVENS, Research Assistant, and GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON, Project Leader

Fall field studies were continued in the lake region of Clay and Palo Alto counties near Ruthven until December 10, 1942. Waterfowl migration and waterfowl utilization by hunters were the phases particularly investigated. Below are given the migration data for the waterfowl species in the Ruthven area (Table 1).

TABLE 1. WATERFOWL MIGRATION DATA, RUTHVEN AREA, FALL, 1942

Species	First Seen	Peak	Last Seen	Total Seen
Canada goose	Sept. 24	Oct. 8-15	Nov. 7	1,000
Snow goose	Oct. 20	Nov. 9-16	Nov. 23	800
Blue goose	Oct. 25	Nov. 8-15	Nov. 23	600
Mallard	SR*	Nov. 15-25	Dec. 10	145,000
Pintail	SR	Oct. 20-25	Nov. 20	5,000
Gadwall	Oct. 20	Oct. 20-25	Oct. 31	1,000
Shoveller	SR	Oct. 15-22	Nov. 24	1,700
Black duck	Oct. 7	Nov. 15-21	Dec. 3	400
Wood duck	SR	Oct. 8-15	Nov. 14	600
Blue-winged teal	SR	Sept. 15-25	Nov. 28	1,000
Green-winged teal	Oct. 12	Nov. 15-22	Dec. 8	2,000
Baldpate	Oct. 8	Oct. 20-25	Nov. 4	1,500
Redhead	SR	Oct. 21-27	Nov. 3	800
Canvas-back	Sept. 27	Nov. 2-9	Nov. 25	2,000
Lesser scaup	Oct. 8	Nov. 6-12	Nov. 24	25,000
Ring-necked duck	Oct. 8	Oct. 23-29	Nov. 10	200
American golden-eye	Nov. 20	Nov. 23	Nov. 23	50
Buffle-head	Nov. 4	Nov. 7-14	Nov. 24	300
American eider	Oct. 30		Oct. 30	10
Ruddy duck	SR	Nov. 1-10	Nov. 24	800
Coot	SR	Oct. 8-15	Nov. 23	17,000

\* SR—Summer Residents.

Fluctuations in the numbers of migratory waterfowl appeared to be closely correlated with periods of adverse weather. Greatest waterfowl concentrations and most accelerated waterfowl movements were noted after storms which swept across the region in late September, late October, and early and late November.

The 70-day duck season opened in Iowa on October 15 and extended until December 23. The total number of cars at the hunting areas was 656 and a sample of more than 100 cars showed 1.57 hunters to a car. On this basis it was estimated that at least 1,030 hunters visited the area in the season.

Most of the hunting was done on two parts of the area. The first was a large state-owned slough area below Lost Island Lake, known locally as the Outlet, and the second was a flyway between Round Lake, which is a wildlife refuge, and Trumbull

Lake. Of the estimated 1,030 hunters, 490 were at the Outlet, 420 at the Round-Trumbull Lake area and 120 at other places.

In questioning 175 successful hunters five types of hunting were designated: marsh hunting; hunting with the use of decoys; pass shooting; cornfield shooting; and jump-shooting and shore-walking (Table 2). The first two types were most common at the Outlet as given by 7 percent and 68 percent, respectively, of the total of hunters tabulated. Pass shooting, employed in the Round Lake vicinity, was used by 21 percent of those taking to the field.

The 175 successful hunters shot 606 ducks of which 105 were lost. Excluding losses a successful hunter averaged 2.86 birds a day. Since about 40 percent of the estimated 1,030 hunters were successful, probably a total of 412 gunners got 1,425 waterfowl of which 1,178 were picked up.

About 9 percent of the hunters used retrieving dogs.

Of the birds shot the mallard was the most abundant and made up 45.5 percent of the bag, the lesser scaup 19.4 percent, the gadwall 6.2 percent, and the shoveller and green-winged teal each 3.1 percent. The remaining 11.4 percent was composed of 11 different species, notably the baldpate, canvas-back and blue-winged teal. Four American eiders were taken at Trumbull Lake, one of which was examined closely by Stevens and Conservation Officer Severson.

Next to hunting and crippling losses, the important mortality encountered was caused by lead poisoning. After the storm of November 25 all of the slough areas froze and only Round Lake had open water in a small hole kept open by a spring at the middle of the lake. All of the healthy birds left at this time and thereafter only sick ones remained. The majority of the sick birds

## Hunters Have Heavy Take at Ruthven



In the Ruthven area 175 successful hunters questioned shot 606 ducks, of which 105 were lost.

were mallards, with some green-winged teal, two black ducks and several coots. In all, 140 ducks on Round Lake succumbed to lead poisoning or crippling. Post mortem examination of 36 birds revealed lead shot in the gizzards of most of them, accompanied by typical diagnostic symptoms of a lead-poisoned condition.

Twenty-six live ducks were picked up, confined and treated with magnesium sulphate solution in an effort to render the metallic lead in the gizzard insoluble. Most of the birds were too far gone to show any improvement and died shortly thereafter. Sick and crippled ducks were preyed upon by mink, weasels, and foxes; crows and gulls were seen eating the dead birds.

The Ruthven area in the hunting season, 1942, had fewer ducks and fewer hunters than in 1941, according to reports of local sportsmen and Conservation Officer Severson. Weather conditions were generally too open for

## Good Sport Ahead

It is interesting to note that revenue from hunting, fishing and trapping licenses increased to new highs in Iowa last year. Sportsmen seem fully agreed that the levy to protect and improve their hunting and fishing is being properly handled and is producing desirable results. Under the intelligent supervision now being exercised, there is reason to expect that both hunting and fishing will improve and be extended far into the future, instead of ending with exhaustion of game and fish which seemed likely not so many years ago. — Sioux City Tribune Journal.

effective waterfowl hunting. Water levels remained very good throughout the autumn and kept most of the pot-holes and small sloughs open and available to the birds. Round, Lost Island and Silver Lakes were the sites of large waterfowl concentrations.

TABLE 2. HUNTING SUCCESS BY TYPE OF HUNTING

Type of Hunting	Total Shot	Birds recovered		Birds Lost	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Marsh	38	22	60	16	42
Decoy	518	439	85	79	15
Pass	40	34	85	6	15
Cornfield	0	0	0	0	0
Jump-shooting	10	6	60	4	40
Totals	606	501		105	

Of the successful hunters 148 were classified with regard to experience in hunting (Table 3).

TABLE 3. HUNTING SUCCESS BY EXPERIENCE CLASS OF HUNTER.

Experience Class	Number	Percent of Hunters	Total Bag	Percent of Bag	Percent of Loss
Novice	13	9	18	4	9
Average	93	63	242	49	61
Veteran	42	28	233	47	30
Total	148		493		