

**POSTMASTER**  
 If undeliverable For Any Reason,  
 notify sender, stating reason, on  
 Form 3547, postage for which is  
 guaranteed.  
 State Conservation Commission  
 914 Grand Avenue  
 Des Moines 8, Iowa

# IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

Volume 6 JUNE 15, 1947 Number 6

## WAKE UP, AMERICA!

### DUCK SCORECARD REPORT

By Albert M. Day

**H**OW many ducks did the waterfowlers bring to bag last fall? How many cripples did they lose? How did the shooting compare with that of other years? What are some of the principal gripes and comments of the boys who hunkered down in wet, cold blinds waiting for the quackers to whistle by within range?

Thanks to the scorecards carried through courtesy of the "Iowa Conservationist" and other outdoor publications; thanks to personal interviews by game agents in the field and to hunters who reported directly to state conservation departments, we now have a fairly clear picture of what happened during the 45-day open season last fall. Reports from 44,000 duck hunters obtained through these various sources helped us work out the following breakdown:

Region	Stamps Sold	Ducks and Geese Bagged
Atlantic Flyway	14%	9%
Mississippi Flyway	42%	37%
Central Flyway	25%	29%
Pacific Flyway	19%	25%

While the Mississippi and Central Flyways had by far the greatest hunting pressure and killed the largest number of waterfowl, hunting success per gun was generally best on the Pacific Coast and became progressively poorer all the way across the United

(Continued on page 144)



Our philosophy is weak in that we insist that hunting and fishing is an inalienable right and not a luxury. It is a luxury and we will lose it unless there is clearer thinking all along the line. Jim Sherman Photo.

### PUPILS SHOW CONSERVATION KNOWLEDGE THROUGH SCHOOLS' ESSAY CONTEST

**H**ERE are excerpts from the first, second, and third-place essays in the rural school soil and wildlife conservation contest held by the Marshall County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League and the county soil conservation commission, together with the topic which was assigned the 16 participating pupils.

The topic, not assigned until the pupils sat down at the junior high school to write, was:

"Because I live in a part of Iowa that has soil capable of producing abundant crops, it is my responsibility as a good citizen to preserve and build up that soil. By using the best soil and game bird conservation practices on my farm, and by encouraging

others to do likewise, I shall be fulfilling an obligation to those who live by the land, both in this and future generations."

By Mary Garner  
 (First)  
 (Linn township No. 1)

The soil is a nation's most valuable natural heritage. It provides the life-giving elements from which man derives his sustenance. The population of a nation depends upon its soil. If the soil is poor the land will be a land of hunger. If the soil is good the people of the nation will prosper.

Luckily the United States has the most unduplicated soils and the most genial climate in the world. Our nation is prosperous.

(Continued on page 139)

By Ernest Swift

Reprinted from "Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin"

**T**HERE is an old saying that "Honesty is what a man makes of it." Thus its application can be profound or shallow, understanding or vindictive.

Much present-day conservation thinking is analogous to this adage. With all the apparent public urge for the conservation of natural resources, just what part is profound, fundamental, and sincere; what part is shallow and selfish?

Many people, newly indoctrinated in the rudiments of some one phase of conservation, convince themselves that they are masters of all the word implies. Impressed by their own expertness, they take on a holy but positive air. The subject, however, is one which the student should approach with great humility. Even yet, our knowledge is so small and the problem with all its intricate balances so large, that no one man can entirely envision it.

Like honesty, the term conservation does not mean the same to all people. Nearly every human being has a different interpretation. To many people it has no deeper significance than hunting and fishing.

Our present day opportunities to hunt and fish hinge on two factors. Foremost is proper use of land and water so that fish and game can continue to survive and increase as natural products of their environment. Secondly, but fully as important, is that our basic economy be kept to a standard which provides a sufficient earning power for the people to give them a surplus to spend on recreation, over and beyond the actual necessities of housing, food, fuel, and clothing. However, just

(Continued on page 140)

## Iowa Conservationist

Published Monthly by

THE IOWA STATE CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION

914 Grand Avenue—Des Moines, Iowa

ROBERT D. BLUE, Governor of Iowa  
G. L. ZIEMER, Director  
(No Rights Reserved)

### MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

F. W. MATTES, Chairman.....Odebolt  
MRS. ADDISON PARKER.....Des Moines  
E. B. GAUNITZ.....Lansing  
R. E. STEWART.....Ottumwa  
E. G. TROST.....Fort Dodge  
J. C. JENSON.....Council Bluffs  
F. J. POYNEER.....Cedar Rapids

JAMES R. HARLAN, Editor

ENID BROWN, Associate Editor

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE.....30,000

Subscription Rate.....40c per year

3 years for \$1.00

Subscriptions received at Conservation  
Commission, 10th and Mulberry, Des  
Moines, Iowa. Send coin, check or money  
order.

### LIVING FENCES NEEDED

Sometimes we get very pessimistic about this conservation business. But just when our pessimism reaches a new high, or is it a low, something comes along to buck us up a bit.

For example, over in Illinois, farmers in many counties are turning back the clock and re-planting living fence rows, and under the provisions of the Pittman-Robertson act, are joining with the Illinois conservation department in creating small wildlife refuges and cover patches.

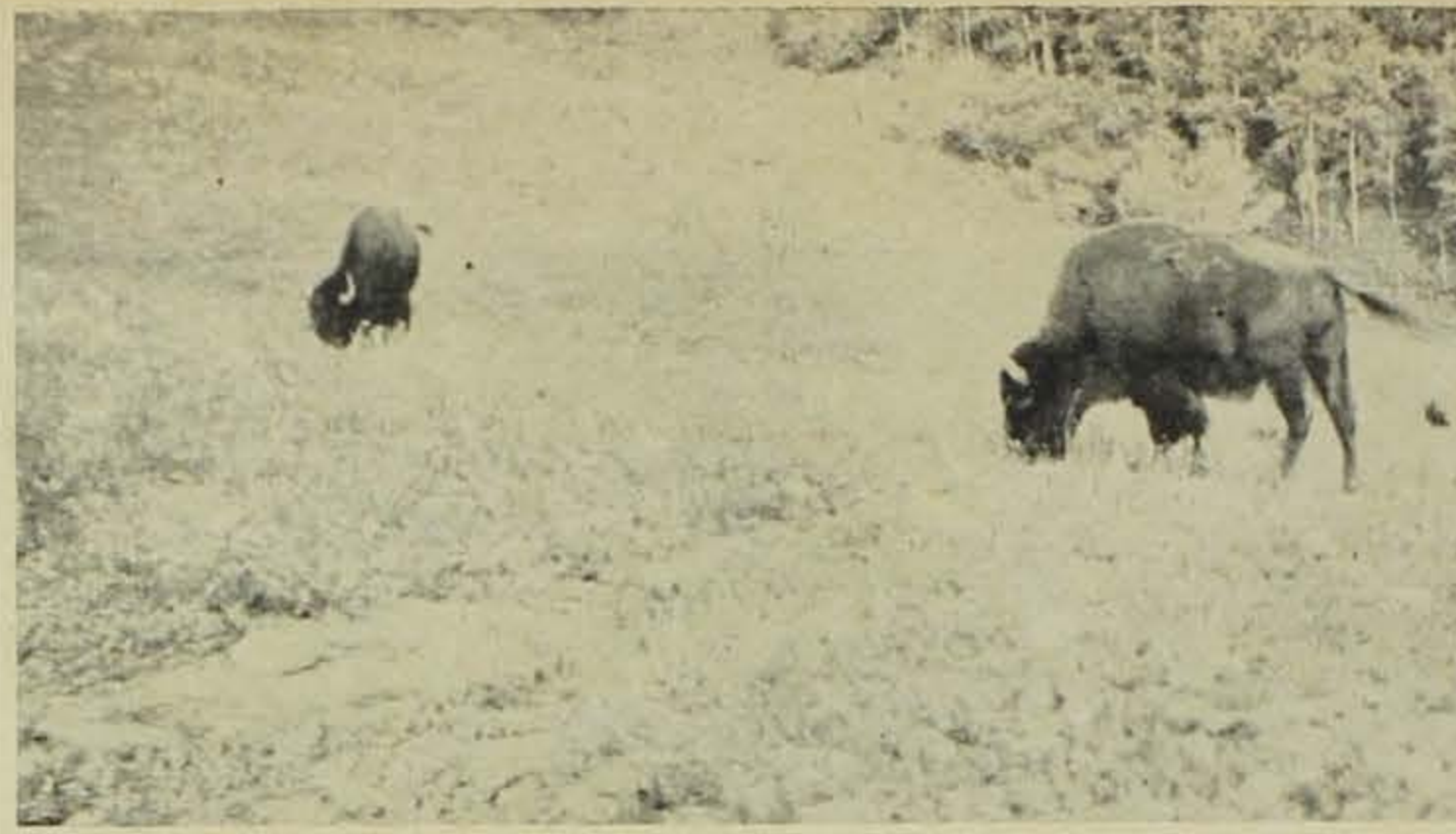
After years of observing tractors and bulldozers ripping out the miles of osage orange hedge rows, which made excellent fences, it is refreshing to learn that the pendulum is beginning to swing the other way.

It does not follow that the osage orange will be restored, although we think there will be nothing quite like it, for other types of shrubs and plants have been developed which make desirable living fences providing a haven for game and song birds. But a living fence does more than that. It retards water runoff, preserving moisture for adjacent crop lands, it prevents erosion, which no barbed wire fence could ever do, it acts as a snow fence in the winter time, and it beautifies the landscape.

Wise soil use and wildlife conservation go hand in hand. Wise soil use benefits wildlife as nothing else can do, for the very principles which underlie the proper use of our productive soil are the ones which are basic in the preservation of our wildlife.

We have never yet seen a bobwhite quail build a nest on a barbed wire fence, but that cover patch over in the corner of the farm may shelter a whole covey of them.

—Davenport Democrat



The buffalo was the noblest of all the wild animals that inhabited this continent when America was discovered. He was a gentleman among beasts.

## LACEYISMS

Excerpts From Speeches of  
Major John F. Lacey  
Iowa Member of Congress  
1889-1907

**I**F there had been only the sentimental and poetic side of the question it would still have been worthy of our earnest consideration. But in forestry there is beauty and utility combined.

We are threatened with the probable extinction of many varieties of birds and beasts. A birdless world would be a dreary place to live in and a birdless air would be unfit to breathe.

The buffalo was the noblest of all the wild animals that inhabited this continent when America was discovered.

The ages in which this wonderful creature was evolved into his peculiar form and size are inconceivable in duration. How admirably he was adapted to life upon the western plains. When he had fed he traveled with his fellows in long lines, single file, to the favorite watering place. The herd did not spread abroad and trample down and destroy the grass in such journey, but in long and narrow trails the journey was made, and when the drinking place was reached and thirst was sated the buffalo never defiled the pool in which he drank.

He was a gentleman among beasts, just as the game hog is a beast among gentlemen.

The journalists of the country have intelligently and earnestly taken up the subject of game and bird preservation and an enlightened public sentiment on this question will make the enforcement of the law comparatively easy.

The forest is the representative of motherhood. It fertilizes the earth upon which it feeds. It never lives for itself alone. It pays usury to nature. It bears the fruit of the past and the seed of the future.

A vigorous and healthy forest is the height of nature's adornment.

Utility goes hand in hand with sentiment in bird preservation and the American farmers with almost one accord have enlisted in the cause of bird protection and the result is already becoming manifest in the great increase of feathered life.

And the farmers have their reward, not only in the beauty of the feathered life which is becoming more numerous, but in the protection to all vegetable life from the ravages of insect pests.

Americans have been the spend-thrifts of the centuries. It is high time to call a halt and save something of our national resources for those who are to come after us.

In America the subject has claimed consideration, but our people have been too busy in the struggle for wealth for the individual to give adequate attention to the preservation of our natural resources. Our coal, gas, oil, forests, fishes, birds, and game have been wasted and destroyed with a recklessness utterly unworthy of so intelligent and progressive a people. It is high time to call a halt. With a favorable and enlightened public sentiment nothing can fail. Without it nothing can succeed.

Crickets work best as trout bait when they are used during the period of dusk late in the day.

A good mosquito repellant can be made from one ounce of citronella mixed with one ounce of spirits of camphor and half an ounce of oil of cedar. Apply to the neck, face and hands every few hours, and the pests will not loiter around.

It takes a lot of fish to make a mature walleyed pike. It is estimated that the food necessary to bring a walleye to its third year is between 1,800 and 3,000 minnows and other food fishes.

## Wardens Tales

Shop Talk From the Field

**C**ONSERVATION Officer Garfield Harker, in charge of Jones and Jackson counties, contributes this series of yarns to "Wardens' Tales".

"While Ed Podlak and his wife were fishing for catfish in the Maquoketa River near Maquoketa, Mrs. Podlak had a strike and felt a vicious surge on her line. After a brief struggle the 'fish' surfaced. It turned out to be a full-grown beaver. After several minutes of struggle and worry on the part of both Podlaks, the beaver crawled ashore into a willow thicket; the line snagged and the hook tore loose. Although the Podlaks were fishing with blood, their favorite bait, the beaver was merely snagged in its foot.

"One of my good catfishermen, Lelan Welch, was bragging on a nice string of cat he had caught, among which was a six-pounder. Welch described in detail the terrific fight the fish put up and declared that when he finally did land him after the prolonged struggle, that both he and the catfish were covered with sweat. Welch being a fisherman, I wondered about the catfish sweat, but I did see the catfish.

"I stopped at a clear pool of water under an overhanging rock along Pleasant Creek. There were a number of trout in the pool and I tossed a couple of salmon eggs in. The trout took them immediately. I got my fly rod, put on a size 16 hook and a 3 pound leader and caught one the first thing. Next time I cast, a couple of fish swam around the bait and passed it up. Then I tossed in a handful of salmon eggs that almost covered the hook. The fish took all the loose eggs but completely ignored those on the hook. Who says Iowa trout aren't smart?

"An unusual casualty of the storm that took so many pheasants in February was a fox squirrel, according to a farmer (name on request) in Jackson County. He tells, 'My small dog chased a squirrel up a tree in the front yard during one of the coldest days. The dog, in the shelter of the porch, watched the squirrel for so long that the exposed animal froze to death and toppled from the tree.' This man swears that this is a true story, believe it or not."

Without eyes and living underground, the earthworm senses the fall of night and wriggles to the surface of the earth.

Ducks use their webbed feet not only as a plane does its landing gear when coming down, but also as rudders for flight maneuvering.



True conservation must begin with school children in the lower primary grades. Here a lifelong interest in wildlife is easily planted in receptive minds and this interest inevitably leads to a broad understanding of conservation in later life. Jim Sherman Photo.

**Pupils . . .**

(Continued from page 137)

her people are happy and healthy, and she lends a helping hand to less fortunate countries.

It is true that everything changes to a certain degree when put to use, but the rate of topsoil erosion is dangerously rising . . . If it is not checked soon its damage will be outstanding. The remedy lies in education . . .

**By Alice Hoffman**

(Second)

(Marietta township No. 2)

Finally the farmers began to experiment to see what they could do to stop this monster. (Erosion)

They found that if they plowed up and down the hill rains washed the soil terribly. But if they plowed around the hill it cut down the speed of water considerably.

Also they found that land needs a rest after a few years. So they began the first rotating of crops.

When man keeps working his farm year after year and keeps taking the minerals out of the soil, and does not put them back, he is wearing out his land. Animals grown on that land do not have enough of the right food elements. Also when we eat the food the soil produces we are liable to have poor teeth, bad eyes and weak bones.

**By Hazel Van Law**

(Third)

(Timber Creek township No. 1)

The soil is what I depend on for my health, wealth and very existence. So I am very interested in its welfare. I want to help all I can in preserving it.

On my farm I can practice terrace farming. I can do strip cropping. Strip cropping is where you plant a cover crop and then corn. In that way when the water runs through the row crop to the cover crop, it makes the water walk, not run. Cover crops are grass, oats and legumes . . .

Also I can do contour farming. That is farming on the level across the slope. Crop rotation is another project I can use on my farm . . . If one crop is left on one field all the time it will sap out all the fertility, but if a legume crop is planted it will renew the soil, and provide shelter and nesting for our game birds.

—Marshalltown Times-Republican



The friendly old covered bridges will join the passenger pigeon and dodo unless public interest demands their preservation. This bridge is in Madison County near Winterset.

**SAVE THE COVERED BRIDGES**

IT was a year or two ago that Don Berry, Indianola newspaper publisher, wrote an article on the covered bridges in Warren and Marion counties and advocated their preservation. The story was later reprinted in the Chronicle.

It is interesting, then, to Marion county folks who approved Mr. Berry's suggestion that the bridges be preserved, to know that a Covered Bridge History Society was organized recently in Muncie, Indiana, with the purpose of enlisting for membership "any person or group of persons interested in the preservation, history, construction, photographing or etching of wooden covered bridges".

The secretary of the C. B. H. Society is Major George Aten of Muncie who first conceived the idea of saving the bridges and founded the society. Hereafter whenever a covered bridge is to be razed or dismantled the society plans to try to save the bridge, in its location if possible, and to make it a museum piece if it must go because of traffic hazards.

Marion County has several covered bridges. Two of them span creeks on little used roads just a little south of the Pella-Knoxville road. They are picturesque in their setting on narrow, hilly, winding dirt roads and since they are wide enough and sturdy enough for the light traffic they should stay there and be carefully preserved against the weather and overloading. Many motorists drive these wooded roads for the pleasure of driving over and under the old bridges.

Could be these bridges will have to go some day. If so, a friend suggests the bridges should be moved, either by dismantling or all in one piece, to another scenic spot in the county or to a state park where, set up over a creek,

folks could continue to enjoy them. How appropriately they would fit, for instance, over the streams in the Ledges State Park. It would be fun now and many times as much fun fifty years hence, to drive a spanking team hitched to a "surrey with the fringe on top" through a friendly old covered bridge. Don't you think?

—Pella Chronicle

**A LIVE CONSERVATION CLUB**

There was a significance far surpassing the size of the crowd at the fish fry held here last Monday evening.

Beyond the fact that it was one of the best attended events held here in years, with the exception of the Centennial celebration, it reflected several factors that made it especially healthy and for the community good.

In the first place it was county and community wide and cars from many miles away were present. In the second place the entire event was carried out by a very small group, notwithstanding the fact that over 1,500 people were served. This is a credit to the organizational ability of these people. It was a neighborly gesture enabling Oelwein to become better acquainted with surrounding communities.

Last but not least the fish fry represented an active sportsmanship, respect for the law and preservation of our wild game. A great event in the name of an organization that stands for that kind of a program is a stimulating thing to see carried off so well.

The cooperation of the conservation club members, the hundreds that attended and certainly the business people who made several hundred prizes possible is a real credit to the community and a record of another job well done through unity and cooperation.

—Oelwein Register



Present day adults as well as juveniles have a great interest and curiosity about the creatures of the field and streams; but the fact that their welfare depends upon wise use of soil and water is not generally understood. M. E. Stempel Photo.

In North America the population of breeding birds is reckoned to be about 40 or 50 for each human resident. Concentration is associated with a supply of water. Thus swamps, sloughs, shallow lakes, dams and dugouts are resources of much consequence.

The average man's arm is 28 inches.

The average girl's waist is 28 inches.

Isn't it wonderful how Mother Nature thinks of everything?

Poison ivy berries are a favorite winter food of some birds. Animals are generally immune to poison ivy. Some species eat it freely.

Although some mammals do not enjoy the operation, all are capable of swimming.

# Wake Up . . .

(Continued from page 137)

because hunting and fishing, an integral part of a conservation plan, is classified as recreation, does not mean that conservation is only recreation, any more than all forms of recreation are part of conservation.

## Thought Needed

Recreation as it is recognized today in our general scheme of living, such as travel, hunting, fishing, canoe trips, summer resorts, winter resorts, sports and so on is made possible by that surplus of income. Our philosophy is weak in that we insist that hunting and fishing is an inalienable right and not a luxury. It is a luxury and we will lose it unless there is clearer thinking all along the line. Opportunities to hunt and fish are no longer an incident to pioneer life. Hunting and fishing has become a safety valve to a highly industrialized and civilized mode of existence. A man out of a job and looking for work does not indulge in extended hunting and fishing trips. Man eats first and plays afterwards.

A conservation program, either state or national, must be a deeply rooted religion in the hearts of the rank and file of all people if it is

to sustain itself through the years, but, on the other hand, it must be recognized that conservation is a business and a profession. To understand conservation, to appreciate the natural balances of nature, its complexities, its broad ramifications and complications, one has to work at it hard and long.

Because of the nation's lavish use or exploitation of natural resources, many aspects of conservation have today become a job for specialists, a fact ridiculed and scoffed at by some of the very people responsible for bringing it about. A sound conservation program must be based on certain fundamentals which only scientists and specialists can determine. It is then up to management in conservation to apply that knowledge.

Today forestry practices in management and silviculture are based on years of research. The tree nursery program is based on information on soils, fertilizers, plant diseases, and insect pests obtained through experts employed by universities, state and federal agencies. Today soil types are tested for the purpose of determining what species of trees will grow best and thrive in a particular kind of soil. Much research has been accomplished and much

still is to be done in combating pine blister rust, spruce bud worms, sawflies, weevils, spittle bugs, oak blight and many others. In fact, today many regions have greater forest damage from insects than from forest fires.

## Search for Facts

In the management of fish and game, conservation administrators have been forced, some willingly, others unwillingly, to seek aid and advice from specialists in the field of research for certain basic and factual information on which to base their programs. To belittle qualified research in the field of conservation will only lead to delay and more dissipation of resources.

In his day, Pasteur was a crackpot in eyes of the so-called learned of the medical profession, until he finally proved his point. Dozens of men have lived shabby lives of ridicule along the slow and tortuous road of science and research. All truth-finding has been a matter of evolution and reluctant acceptance by humanity. In the matter of conservation research, the surface has only been scratched, but it is gradually assuming the dignity to which it is entitled.

The knowledge gained so far in forestry is far ahead of research in fish and game. The foresters have had less free advice to contend with, and as a result, have forged ahead faster. There would be little success, however, unless these specialized functions are dove-tailed under proper administration to promote a sound, progressive, overall conservation program. Facts are the tools of administration. And it should again be stated forcibly that conservation is a business to be worked at and understood the same as any other business.

Although sentiment was one of the founding factors of all conservation in the United States and should be recognized and cherished, the time is long past when pious platitudes and emotionalism must give way to hard-headed, realistic and sincere thinking, and plain hard work. The day has arrived when all people must reach and think beyond the limits of their community, their county, and their state. Localized interests will not save our resources. Everyone's imagination must be stretched and exercised to meet the present situation.

## History Might Repeat

Because of this tendency for limited thinking, our stewardship has been notably poor, the available facilities and funds to work with extremely limited, and the public so utterly indifferent to many of the basic problems, and at times so hysterical about those things of lesser importance, that one sometimes wonders if the public is going to be educated in sufficient time to save our natural resources.

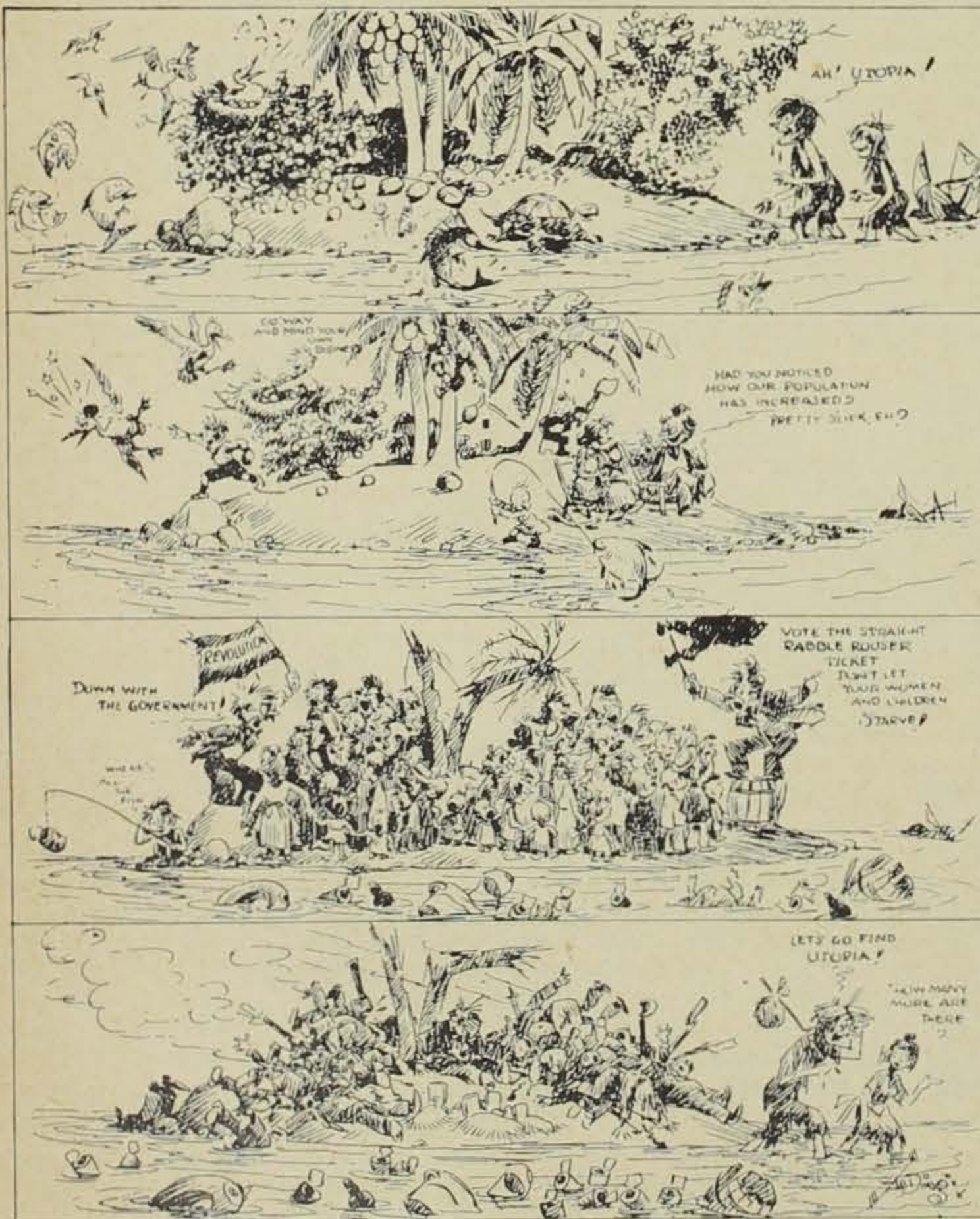
We have the faculty of forget-

ting that history repeats itself because the human race insists on repeating the same mistakes. We in the United States have the feather-brained idea that the ills which have beset parts of Europe, Asia and Africa from long before Christ and down through the ages cannot happen to us. That is the very philosophy which has destroyed many a nation, ancient and modern. The decline of many ancient civilizations can be directly attributed to the abuse of natural resources. Carthage was once the center of the richest wheat growing section of the world. The soils of Rome had been depleted and Carthage was the storehouse that furnished Rome and southern Europe with its bread. What was once the wealth of Rome in North Africa during the Empire is now a succession of miserable villages, of illiterate, poverty-stricken people in a land studded with the ruins of magnificent Roman cities of power and culture. The northern shores of the Mediterranean could no longer support their populations satisfactorily after the Romans had denuded the forests and today much of the shoreline of Yugoslavia is almost barren because of constant soil erosion. Canaan was no longer a land of milk and honey after the forests were destroyed and the subsequent irrigation systems failed. Northern Syria has a million acres of soil-denuded land and ruins of a hundred dead cities. Palestine can never be restored to the promised land of the Bible: "A good land, where fountains and depths spring out of the valleys, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, of olive oil and honey, a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack anything in it." Much of Palestine is a land where the soil has been washed away to bed rock, where terraces of ancient agriculture have been allowed to disintegrate and fall into disrepair.

Too few realize that when man pits himself against nature, when he upsets her balances, that in the course of two or three hundred years, in the passage of a few centuries, he has created something which may destroy him—his own civilization.

Let us examine the pattern which has been followed since the discovery of the North American continent and particularly since the establishment of our own United States. Men came to America for land. They undoubtedly left their native countries for political, economic or religious reasons, but land meant freedom. And immediately they attacked the land as if it were an inexhaustible mine. When the fertility of the soil was gone, the timber slashed, the wildlife dead, the minerals spent, they moved on. Everyone expected to get rich in

(Continued on page 141)



The Outline of History

We have the faculty of forgetting that history repeats itself because the human race insists on repeating the same mistakes.



The knowledge gained so far in forestry is far ahead of research in fish and game. The foresters have had less free advice to contend with and as a result have forged ahead faster.

## Wake Up . . .

(Continued from page 140)

this process; a few did. They capitalized on the savings Nature had put into the land over a period of millions of years; but so long as resources seemed inexhaustible no one paid any attention to that. As the people exhausted the land and moved on, they always left behind them, stranded on some rocky hillside, a backwash of those who were less lucky or perhaps not so strong. This flight from defeat at the hands of Nature has become an American tradition.

### Fertility Declining

In the past 150 years, which in reality is a very short period in the life of a nation, soil erosion and destructive land practices have been eating into our fertile soils and destroying great areas of farm and grazing land. A land area of more than one and one-half times that of Wisconsin has already been destroyed for future agriculture. On an area of cultivated land nearly six times that

Soils experts contend that it would be difficult to permanently maintain a population of 100,000,000 in America while the population is now 140,000,000 and may in time reach 200,000,000.

Says Guy Irving Burch, Director, Population Reference Bureau, Washington, D. C.: "It certainly would be an uncomfortable position in which to find ourselves half a century or a century hence with 200,000,000 people in this country but with scarcely enough mineral resources and top soil to adequately support half this large number on a permanent basis."

of Wisconsin erosion is taking the soil faster than it can form; and on an area nineteen times as large as Wisconsin pasture and range lands have been ruined or seriously damaged by wind or water erosion or by both. This insidious menace is like a cancer destroying the life line of our national welfare, and it is here now. It is

eating up our rich farmlands as gullies, creeks and rivers fill with muddy water after each rain-storm. The soil of some parts of our land obscure the sun after every dust storm. Now is the time we must spring to action.

The question gradually takes form as to whether this country hasn't grown too rapidly or possibly expanded more than was necessary. Its period of youthful vigor has about reached an end; most of the soil of these United States is now old. Nearly every state now has land which was logged and neglected or farmed and worn out. Today, instead of redeeming our responsibilities of rehabilitating these lands, instead of making them fruitful and useful, we still cling to the idea of running away. It seems we will never face this issue until forced by lack of resources and lowering of living standards.

### Alaska Next

Today we are casting our eyes toward the sleeping wealth of Alaska. The term is "development", but secretly many wish boldly to exploit our last frontier. Alaska should not be tapped until we have rebuilt our wasted resources in the United States and have learned really to appreciate what we have.

Every serious-thinking American should reflect on the tremendous drain to our resources caused by the last war. It is without comparison and beyond comprehension. Most wars are fought to gain resources. Our participation was not one of conquest but in defense of an ideal. In defending that ideal we lavishly drew upon the resources which have made us strong. We poured out our natural wealth with prodigal disregard for the future.

The iron of the Mesabi range that once seemed inexhaustible is running low so far as high grade ore is concerned. Geologists insist that our oil reserve is within

twenty years of exhaustion. The virgin timber stands of the west coast took a beating and vast areas of second growth in the Great Lakes region which should have been left to mature further were slashed for paper making, crating and box wood.

It is true that experts quibble as to just how long certain of our raw materials may last, but it is an irrefutable fact that inorganic resources once taken from the ground can never be replenished and that if we use our renewable resources faster than we can grow them, we will ultimately take a licking. The fact that we are now talking of processing low grade ore and that in many states trees big enough to saw out a two-by-four are being cut is evidence that the bottom of the barrel will be in sight if we don't watch out. Too many people are laboring under the illusion that we came out of this war vastly wealthy. As a matter of fact, we are much poorer. Paper money in itself is not a resource; it cannot be eaten, worn, or used as building material.

### Game First Interest

Until very recently our entire approach to conservation has been wrong. In reality, the disappearance and scarcity of game first brought to the attention of the people the need for conservation, so that the subject was attacked primarily from its social aspects rather than in the light of an economic necessity. In Wisconsin we had seventy years of game and fish laws before it was generally realized that conservation of necessity must become an integral part of our economy. The pine had to disappear, the young growth be ruined by constant fire, and millions of acres go tax delinquent before this was admitted. No amount of warning did any good—people lived in a fool's paradise until circumstances forced them into a reconstruction job; and that takes a long time, sound thinking and a lot of hard work. When you think of what happened to many of our resources in Wisconsin, you must realize that the farmer, the laborer, the man on the street, the everyday citizen who hopes to make this state his ancestral home, has far more at stake than the man who goes out a few days of the year to hunt and fish.

Today, however, Wisconsin is still a proud and prosperous state. Our prosperity has the guarantee of great diversification. Wisconsin people do not depend entirely on farming or on manufacturing or lumbering or wood-working or paper-making or the recreational industry. They depend on all of them and many more. This gives versatility to the state's economy; it gives a greater assurance to a general overall prosperity; it insures a fairer distribution of wealth. Much of this success is

due to the fact that Wisconsin was blessed with a vast store of natural resources. However, it must be borne in mind that Wisconsin industries draw heavily on the resources of other states. Prosperous, yes, but not self-sufficient . . . .

In 1946 the estimated income from the tourist business in Wisconsin was a conservative 300 million dollars, about 11 million dollars less than the combined income of the paper-making business. Wisconsin farms produced a gross income of \$810,248,000 from the rich soils of the state. Some of Wisconsin's paper-making profits became tourist money in northern Wisconsin and other pleasure spots. Southern Wisconsin milk checks became vacation money, and so did the profits from Milwaukee foundries, Wisconsin cranberry marshes, Wisconsin fur farms, Iowa corn, Nevada copper, Oregon lumber, Mesabi ore, Texas oil, Pittsburg steel. This mounting opulence suits Mr. America right down to the ground. The system will work until there becomes a scarcity of Texas oil, Minnesota ore, and too many Iowa and Wisconsin farms have gone down the river because of erosion.

### Wildlife Strain

In the meantime, a bigger and better recreational business will be the order of the day. The American public is easily being convinced that certain luxuries are their divine right—such as paid vacations, forty hours a week and purchasing some 100 million dollars worth of hunting and fishing

(Continued on page 142)



Until very recently our entire approach to conservation has been wrong. The disappearance and scarcity of game first brought to the attention of the people the need for conservation, and the subject was attacked primarily from its social aspects rather than in the line of economic necessity.

## Wake Up . . .

(Continued from page 141)

equipment every year. With plenty of leisure, this same group of sportsmen and neophytes is placing a terrific burden on the wildlife resources of this continent. It is imperative that hunting or fishing be done for pleasure and health and not to smoke up the frying pan. At best, fish and game are liable to take a beating if the upgrade in hunters and fishermen continues. A good index of national hunting pressure is reflected in the increase of duck stamp sales. In 1934, stamp sales were 630,000; in 1946 they were about 1,700,000.

The resort and out-of-door recreational business, state and national, is big business and should be kept so, but it cannot be classified as basic to our economy along with such industries as farming, mining, and lumbering. Again it can be said, man eats first and plays afterward.

The question to be answered is, How can America eat, keep out of the weather, keep warm and also play? It can be done if everyone will realize what our real wealth consists of and where it comes from. All luxuries, as well as all material things which make it possible for humanity to exist, spring from the soil. City dwellers lose sight of the fact that their existence is tied to the fruits of the earth.

An abundance of natural resources is the difference between never-ending poverty and security and comfort. The American people have lived so long on the riches of this great continent with its wealth of soil, forests and minerals that they cannot realize a new existence may be just around the corner. Being prodigal has become everyone's right; but there will be no escaping destiny. An-

cient civilizations also felt themselves immune from the laws of Nature; that they could spend and waste the resources of the earth without paying their just debts to Nature. Nature gives nothing; it only lends. If the loan is not paid back, Nature will inexorably demand its pound of flesh. History may repeat itself, and will be no respecter of American ideology. The next war will deplete our resources on a scale not even contemplated in World War II. The war following may be fought with spears. Wake up, America!

**Source of Material**—The Foundations of Conservation Education, published by the National Wildlife Federation. Our Use of Land, Brisner & Shepard.

### BIG YEAR AHEAD

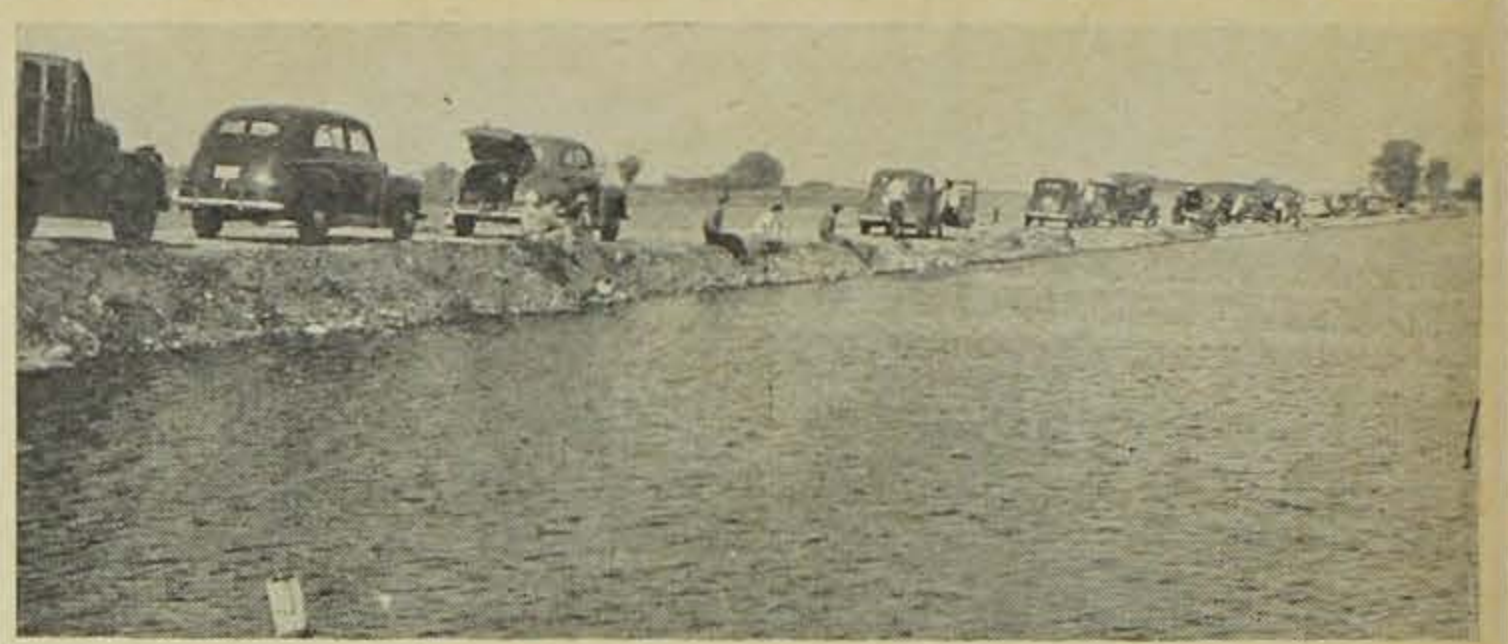
The Conservation Commission's 25-year plan, which has been more than half completed within the first 12 years, is showing results in the number of visitors to the state parks and artificial lakes.

Many Iowans who have been unable to vacation at any distance from home have enjoyed the parks and lakes in the last few years and apparently they have liked the recreation spots which the home state offers.

At any rate the Commission reports that it is preparing for one of the biggest park seasons in its history and much of this is being done on the basis of advance bookings for cabins.

During the war period when people were unable to travel because of gasoline rationing, the cabins were filled up long before the season opened. This year, when people who have the transportation and the means can go anywhere they wish, it appears a good many will stick with Iowa.

—Elgin Echo



Nothing is more wholesome from the standpoint of recreation than that afforded by the facilities and atmosphere of a lake. Investments in wholesome living are good investments indeed. Jim Sherman Photo.

## Lake Conservation Program Important

**T**HE other day it was recorded that a substantial appropriation had been made by the state legislature for the establishment of a number of artificial lakes in southern Iowa. Major allocation will be for a lake development in Jasper County—or south central Iowa.

The five other lake or park spots included in this program are located in southern Iowa, one in Cass County and another in Decatur County.

The appropriation was substantial, running up towards two million dollars. Some may wonder why so much going on. For an answer one had but to drive out to our own McKinley Lake at the edge of Creston most any day of the summer, particularly over weekends, and he will find the answer. Nothing more wholesome from the standpoint of recreation than that afforded by the facilities and the atmosphere of a lake, bordered by shade trees, picnic spots, fishing sites and boating docks. Folks here are similar to folks all over Iowa or the middle-west. They like the outdoors and appreciate the benefits of our natural recreation spots. Investments in wholesome living are good investments indeed.

There is interest here to expand our lake opportunities and we believe the state is interested in cooperating along that line, probably in a location not far away. We think they should be encouraged in it.

The News Advertiser is firm in the belief that a program of lake development, which includes the cardinal principles of conservation especially as to water supplies is important business. Folks here have not made many demands in this connection. They should consider that as on "the next order of business list".

—Creston News Advertiser

### WE HAVE IT HERE AT HOME

Bedtime stories about animals, as learned by those born in interior Iowa, and animal lore picked up in later years, seem to carry the impression that wildlife at its best can be found only far distant—not in the immediate environs

of this "tall corn" territory. But the native-born fallacy is rectified as one grows older and reads, hears of or sees the vast wildlife empire which is Iowa.

Only this week we hear of four deer seen by many and observed at close range by a group of farmers north of town who followed them for miles; from week to week during the winter we hear the results of fox hunts; beavers are reported in increasing numbers along the nearby creeks; we have our homegrown fishermen and their tall tales; all within the borders of Iowa. A week ago Sunday while out for a short motor car tour of the country I came upon the carcass of a raccoon—a big, fat fellow—killed on the paved highway a mile east of the Red Star corner, by a speeding car. I pulled him off the road and told a local fur buyer who said the hide was not worth going after because of the off-prime season and the fact that the raccoon pelt at its best this year was worth less than two dollars.

The incident, and those previously referred to, led to a careful perusal of the latest report on fur-bearing animals handed me by the Iowa State Conservation Commission. Having brought a big surprise to me, I thought it might likewise surprise and interest most of my readers, so here is its summary:

The 1946-47 trapping season in Iowa was the third in the past four years during which Iowans trapped in excess of two million dollars worth of furs. That vast sum, aggregated by means of traps and guns, meant the lives of 630,748 fur-bearers, all taken within the 60-day open season by 18,000 licensed trappers and an approximately equal number who operated on their lands where no license is required.

Mink, for the second time, exceeded the total value of the muskrat which had heretofore been in number one position, in dollars and cents. Mink totaled \$1,095,601 for 60,397 pelts, an average of \$18.14, and there were 387,614 muskrats, average \$1.71, total \$662,819. There was a big drop in prices.

—Remsen Bell Enterprise

A baby bear at birth is smaller than a new-born porcupine.



With plenty of leisure the people are placing a terrific burden on the wildlife resources of America. It has become imperative that hunting and fishing be done for pleasure and health and not to smoke up the frying pan.



A tender mouth was as important in a good bird dog even 150 years ago. Jim Sherman Photo.

## HUNTING DOGS IN 1790

(Editor's Note: From a copy of a very rare "Cyclopedia and Encyclopaedia, Complete, Modern, and Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences", printed in London in 1790, this dissertation on Western European hunting dogs more than 150 years ago was taken. Phraseology, sentence structure, and spelling are carried exactly as written in the original. Explanations in parenthesis have been inserted by the editor to clarify the archaic or little-known English term directly preceding.)

**T**HE dog, in its wild state, lives comfortably in the woods, in many parts of the east: it does not attack a man, neither does it discover any of that familiarity which we find in the tame ones; and indeed many other animals may be made as tame as the dog, by the same kind of treatment, which has been tried on the other with success.

### A Systematical Arrangement Of British Dogs

- I. The most generous kind: 1. **Dogs of chace:** the terrier, harrier (Smaller than fox-hound, otherwise almost identical; used to hunt rabbits), blood-hound, gaze-hound (Hound that pursues by sight), grey-hound, leviner or lyemmer (Properly a leash-hound, so-called from the leam or lyme, wherewith they are led), tumbler (A dog like a small grey-hound, formerly used to catch rabbits).
2. **Fowlers:** Spaniel, setter, water-spaniel or finder. 3. **Lap-dogs:** Spaniel gentle or comforter.
- II. **Farm-dogs:** Shepherd's dog, mastiff or ban-dog.
- III. **Mongrels:** Wappe (House dog of mixed breeds), turnspit (Small dog with long legs used to turn spits), dancer (Dancing dog).

**Dogs, choosing of.** In order to

procure a dog and a bitch for good whelps, take care that the bitch come of a generous kind, be well proportioned, having large ribs and flanks, and likewise that the dog be of good breed, and young. Hounds for chace are to be chosen by their colours; the white with black ears and a black spot at the setting on of the tail, are the best to compose a kennel of, and of good scent. The black hound, or the black tanned, or the liver-coloured or white; the true talbots (A dog of extinct breed mostly white with pendulous ears and heavy jowls, supposed to be the breed from which the bloodhound descended) are the best for the stronger line; the grizzle (Grey), whether mixed or unmixed, so they be shag-haired, are the best verminers, and a couple of these are proper for a kennel. In short, take these marks of a good hound, that his head be of a middle proportion, rather long than round; his nostrils wide; the ears large; his back bowed; his fillet great; haunches large; thighs well trussed; ham strait; tail big near the reins, the rest being slender; the leg big; the sole of the foot dry, and in the form of that of a fox with large claws.

In training up a dog for sporting, the master of him cannot begin when he is too young, the principal thing to be taught being obedience, and that being best taught while the creature is young. As soon as he can lap, he should be taught to couch and lie close at command and not to dare to stir from that posture till he is ordered; he will soon be brought to this, by beating when he disobeys, and encouraging him when he does right. He should always be taught before the times of his eating; and never have his

food given him, but when he had done something to deserve it. This will teach him always to do well, for the sake of expected victuals. No person should ever interfere in the teaching; for two masters breed a confusion, and the creature will never learn well from them. The teacher must be careful always to use the same plain and distinct words in his lessons. The dog must also be taught to fetch and carry at command; he must be instructed to carry dead fowl, and even live ones, with so tender a mouth, as not to hurt them, till at length he brings the fowl his master shoots, without tearing them, or hurting a feather.

When he has been perfected in all his lessons, he must be taught his business of hunting; he is to be first taught with tame fowl, which his master is to assist him in taking, and reward and encourage him when he has done. After this, he is to be sent without assistance to take the fowl alone; and if he succeeds, he is to be encouraged and rewarded, and corrected if he fails. By this practice he will soon become master of his game; but great care is to be taken in teaching him, when he has caught it, to bring it back to the shore, without biting or hurting it.

The next thing to this, is the training him to the gun; to this purpose he must be taught to follow step by step behind his master, and under covert of his shadow, till he has shot, or when there is occasion to couch and lie close, never daring to stir till the gun has gone off, and then, upon the least notice or beckoning, to come and do what he is commanded.

Many of these dogs are so expert, that they will have their eye upon the game as soon as their master; and the moment the gun is gone off, they will, without bidding, go and fetch it; but this is being too forward; and if he is used afterwards with nets or fine twigs, he will do great mischief, by rushing on the birds as soon as they are taken, and tearing



Although names and breeds of many dogs have undergone considerable change in a century and a half, dog character has remained exactly as it was in England in 1790. These Chesapeake pups do not have to read modern advertising to know that 10:00, 2:00 and 4:00 is time to fresh up. Jim Sherman Photo.

## DEER AIRPLANE HAZARD

And who would have thought when we were kids, the time would ever come when deer would be so plentiful within two miles of Waverly that they would interfere with the landing of an airplane? Yet I am told that is what happened down at Jack Evans airport Saturday evening. As the story goes, Bob Ecker had taken Bob Bailey up for a ride. As it turned dusk Ecker felt he had better get his passenger and himself and plane back to solid earth. They swooped down over the field only to find three deer grazing in the runway. Not wanting to wreck their plane they swooped down close to the deer in an effort to scare them away, but those deer seemed to feel they had a perfect right to fill up on that nice juicy grass. As the story goes on their third effort the boys succeeded in making the landing as the deer trotted off to one side of the field and continued their feeding there. Don't know but they could get me into a plane if they would guarantee me the sight of three deer as I land.

—Waverly Independent

Under present housing shortages it's a good thing humans don't have the habits of squirrels. Missouri has discovered that each pair of squirrels needs three den trees. Before the young are born, the female evicts her mate. He will remain in the vicinity if he can find another apartment. After the young are weaned the old lady kicks them out and dad may return until the second litter is on its way. Then a hunting he must go again—for a house.

"What is wisdom but the ability to maintain life? If a sage who cannot swim and a fool who is a brother to a fish fall into the same pool, who then is the sage and who the fool?"—Ling Po.

the nets, or spoiling the twigs. Obedience is the best quality in this sort of dog; and it is better he should wait for command, than know his business without it.



In spite of a few good hunting spots last year, the average man in the blind trudged home on the last day of the season convinced that there was a sharp drop in the duck population. Although the Fish and Wildlife Service has not announced the season for 1947, duck hunters anticipate sharp curtailment in season length and bag limits. Jim Sherman Photo.

## Ducks . . .

(Continued from page 137)

States to the Atlantic. Scorecard reports said so in no uncertain terms. Here are a few random samples: "Worst in ten years." "Worst since duck depression." "Lousy." "It's time to get tough." So said many east coast gunners.

From the west came comments like this: "Duck shooting has been excellent." "Pacific Flyway is entirely separate from the others." "Great many ducks on all the duck clubs." "As many birds as last year, but season too early." "If other sections have few ducks why penalize the west coast?" "Vexing to go along with present limits." (This from a man who reported bagging 56 ducks and 16 geese.) Other westerners were not so lucky. "Gun clubs killing all the ducks," they wrote. "Clubs have all the best areas." "Local ducks only."

In spite of a few good spots, most of them west of the Mississippi, the average man in the blind trudged home on the last day of the season firmly convinced that another sharp drop in ducks and geese had taken place during the year. He said there were fewer ducks, more hunters. He was inclined to blame some of those other hunters for his bad luck. He said the marshes were lined with Johnny Highshots, Moon Shooters, Bar Walkers, Sky Busters; that some moron would be almost sure to cut loose if a duck came within a quarter of a mile. As a result,

he said that crippling losses were worst in history.

Seventy per cent of all the duck hunters who reported said they shot on places open to the public, twenty-five per cent gunned in privately owned areas, and five per cent patronized commercial clubs.

Most of them demanded more public shooting marshes, and practically all of them recommended the use of retrievers to cut down crippling losses. Some of the "scorecarders" wrote long, interesting letters. Judges, doctors, bankers, farmers, major league ball players, old timers. You could



The Mississippi and central flyways had by far the greatest duck hunting pressure in 1946. Hunting success per gun was generally best on the Pacific Coast. Jim Sherman Photo.



It flew away with its long legs trailing behind. Allen Green Photo.

## THE KING RAIL

By Allen Green

**D**ID you ever see a king rail on its nest? You may consider yourself very lucky if you have, for many noted ornithologists have stated that they have never seen a king rail alive. Several years ago we had a pair nest on the refuge about 20 feet from the edge of the lake.

We were walking through some high weeds when we suddenly saw a large bird fly from a mass of tall grass ahead of us. It was dark colored and rather awkward in flight. It fluttered and flew with its long legs trailing behind. This was the first time we had seen a king rail leave its nest in flight.

We walked to the spot where we thought we had flushed the bird and there in the cluster of high grass we spied the nest of dull-white, reddish brown spotted eggs. These were laid on a nest slightly raised off the ground, built of dry weeds and grasses.

We occasionally made observations so that we might see how a young king rail looked, and finally were rewarded when we spied two little, glossy, coal-black birds hatch out. Some predator had devoured the rest of the birds or eggs.

Very little is known of the king rail's habits, so if you should see one of these birds you can con-



Little, glossy, coal black birds hatched out. Allen Green Photo.

sider yourself very fortunate. And if you get a glimpse of the beautiful young, it will be a sight you'll never forget.



Nest of dull white, reddish-brown spotted eggs. Allen Green Photo.

tell they were discussing a subject very dear to them; that they were willing to abide by any and all reasonable restrictions — even closed season, if necessary — to preserve their favorite outdoor sport.

There were those who hurled brickbats. One man accused me of doing my duck hunting, if any, from a swivel chair. That I would say was a bit unfair because shot-gunning has been my best loved recreation ever since I could carry a shotgun.

Others invited me to go hunting with them; to join their clubs. An old timer from Kansas even offered me a membership in what must be

the most exclusive organization in the world — the Saline County Elephant Hunters Association. All I had to do to qualify was shoot an elephant in Kansas.

It was a real education to read the scorecards. They were frank, informative and helpful. We were disappointed that more hunters did not send theirs in, and hope that next year's returns will be much better.

Speaking for the Fish and Wildlife Service, I take this opportunity to thank each and every one who sent in a scorecard, and plan to incorporate as many as possible of their suggestions in our future waterfowl program.