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IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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POLLUTION A MEASURE OF CIVILIZATION

CARE AND FEEDING OF FISHERMEN

By Vic Skiff
 Reprinted from *New York State Conservationist*

FOR WOMEN ONLY
 It's easy to marry a fisherman—they're all suckers—but getting along with him afterwards is something else again. Nevertheless, it can be done.

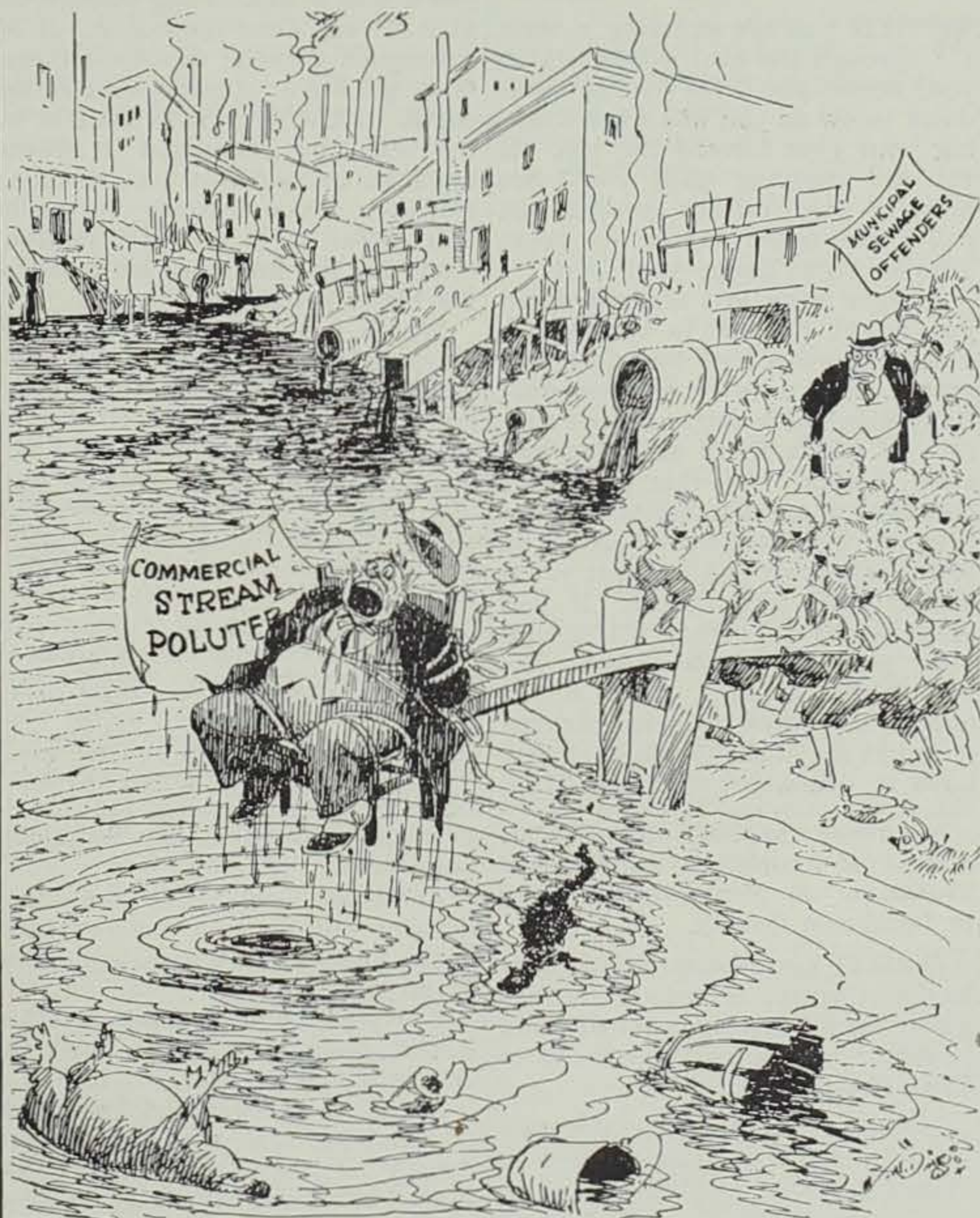
ABOUT a million wives, mothers, sisters, sweethearts and other assorted gals in our state have to put up with menfolks who are fishermen. Generally speaking, they're a patient, understanding and longsuffering crew. One of them, being a very smart gal, has aided and abetted us in this form of lunacy for twenty years.

Maybe not many women regularly read the *Conservationist*, and maybe we ought to stick to conservation—but with our glass chin stuck out a mile, we herewith walk right into the middle of a thousand domestic squabbles. After all, there's a big new crop of war brides, and a lot of them have discovered by now that among other things they married a fisherman. We now take them by the hand and disclose a few secrets on how to handle and at the same time cash in on this species.

A Lesser Evil



First and foremost, in order to preserve your sanity; to have some kind of defense against the sharp—
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Why Not Put Everything We Want to Get Rid Of In the River?

WHY ROUGH FISH REMOVAL?

By Tom Moen
 Fisheries Biologist

PROBABLY no other phase of fish management is subjected to more discussion than rough fish removal; and perhaps no other phase of fish management is subject to more misunderstanding. Yet misunderstanding often comes from an inadequate knowledge of

the reasons for the control of rough fish.

Rough fish removal as a management technique has been carried on in Iowa since 1909. The first commercial seine hauls were made in Lost Island Lake to remove carp that the sportsmen thought were becoming too numerous, and since that beginning
 (Continued on page 156)

By Hon. Karl E. Mundt

Member of Congress from South Dakota. Mr. Mundt was one time National Vice President of the Izaak Walton League of America and in four different Congresses he has sponsored legislation to correct pollution. One of his measures once passed the House but was never approved in the Senate. He is currently the author of H. R. 123, commonly known as the Water Pollution Control Act and he believes there is a reasonably good chance that this legislation will be approved by the 80th Congress before it expires late in 1948.

NEXT to the weather, there has probably been more talk and less action on the subject of the pollution problem than on any other problem which has concerned both private citizens and public officials since the turn of the century.

Pollution has been discussed, debated, diagnosed, surveyed, studied, analyzed, condemned, investigated, and criticized but nothing—positively and completely nothing—has been done to provide effective Federal controls to reduce its menace or to eliminate its sources. The time has now come when Congress as well as our state and local authorities can ill afford to postpone any longer taking constructive and compulsory action to correct the evils of pollution.

Water pollution is virtually the last important uncontrolled, unregulated, and unchecked pagan practice continuing in the United States. We have provided Federal protection for our forests; we have Federal protection against the waste and misuse of our soil resources; we have Federal protection for our game, fish and migratory waterfowl; we have Federal protection against the misuse of the water flowing down our navigable waters although we do conspicuously nothing to protect this water against the poisonous streams of pollution emptying into them; we have Federal protection against crime, fraud, epidemics and
 (Continued on page 155)

Iowa Conservationist

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MAY COMMISSION ACTION

A MEETING of the State Conservation Commission was held at the Commission offices, 914 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, May 19-21.

Members present were E. B. Gaunitz, F. W. Mattes, Mrs. Addison Parker, F. J. Poyneer, and E. G. Trost.

The Commission:

Rejected condemnation jury's award of \$2,450.00 for 2.6 acres at Barringer Slough outlet and along Lost Island Lake.

Approved and accepted condemnation jury's award of \$5,600.00 for the 63-acre tract in Sunken Grove, Pocahontas County, with Pittman-Robertson participation funds.

Abolished the position of Special Law Enforcement Officer as of July 1, 1947.

Approved the budgets for the Lands and Waters, Fish and Game, and Administration Divisions as revised.

Accepted resignations as follow: John C. Bartlett, effective May 1; Frances Snyder, effective April 26; Donna Wilson, effective May 22; Maxine Marshall, effective May 31.

Authorized purchase of a second hand Chris-Craft utility boat for patrol service at Spirit Lake.

Granted a construction permit to the Grain Processing Corporation of Muscatine for a structure in the Mississippi River.

Approved the application of the Redeemer Lutheran Church of Ventura to improve beach on Clear Lake.

Denied application of the Municipal Utilities of McGregor to construct a power line across Point Ann.

Denied application of Okoboji Lakes Commercial Club to construct a bath house on the State Pier at Lake Okoboji.



Urnula craterium. Allen Green photo.

WATCH YOUR STEP

By Allen Green

WHEN you are enjoying a walk through the cool woods, watch your step—you'll see just as much down below as you will when keeping your eyes toward the top. If you are studying birds you'll see most of them off the ground, but you'll see many things of great interest right under your feet.

If your eyes are focused down you might happen to run across a small growth that looks, at first glance, like a fairy caldron partially filled with water on the surface of which there are dead and alive insects. But this could not possibly be a fairy kettle because it is not of metal and is flexible. If you reach down and touch it you'll find it feels like rubber. If you press in the sides they will spring back just like a rubber ball. No, the fairies couldn't have a fire under this black caldron because it would not stand the heat. You'll have to commune with MOTHER

NATURE if you would learn more about this very odd growth.

If you are observing you may see one of these in a lifetime, then you'll find it interesting enough to give it very close inspection. It is a fungous growth; doubtless there is an old log or stump beneath the earth. URNULA CRATERIUM is the scientific name and it grows much on the order of a mushroom. However, if you ever spy one you'll still swear it is a fairy caldron ready for the fire to be built under the black kettle.

Watch your step and you'll see many things that nature has provided those who keep their eyes down as well as up.

Major: "But, Rastus, why do you call mosquitoes 'arithmetic bugs'?"
Rastus: "Cause dey add to my misery; subtract from my pleasure; divide my attention; and multiply like the dickens."

All animals must have water, but some of them never actually take a drink. Instead they obtain the necessary moisture from their food, which may be plants or insects. Among this group are several species of desert antelope, jack rabbits, desert sparrows, cactus wrens, and gila monster.

Approved application of Earl Miguel of Arnolds to construct a boathouse on Minnewashta Lake in Dickinson County.

Granted permission to the Mahaska County Board of Supervisors for an easement across state property at the east entrance to Lake Keomah.

Accepted Arthur F. Marten's offer to sell a 100-acre tract in Clay County.

Accepted and exercised the Buel option on 13.2561 acres in the Sunken Grove tract in Pocahontas County.

Rejected the Arnold option on a 15-acre tract on Silver Lake in Dickinson County.

Accepted and exercised the Heneman and Kint option on a 12-acre tract in the Trumbull Lake area in Clay County.

Accepted and exercised the Hanson option on 15 acres of land in the Trumbull Lake area.

Rejected the Hanson option on

12 acres of land in the Trumbull Lake area.

Accepted and exercised the Schafer option on a 3-acre tract in the Lake Odessa area in Louisa County.

Accepted and exercised the Bretz option on a 3-acre tract in the Lake Odessa area.

Accepted a quit claim deed transferring the site of Galland School in Lee County from the State Historical Society to the Conservation Commission.

Authorized a charge of \$5.00 per reservation be made for the use of the dining hall of the group camp at Dolliver Memorial State Park.

Authorized attendance of Professor G. B. McDonald, State Forester, at the annual meeting of the Association of State Foresters to be held in California June 16-19, subject to Executive Council approval.

Accepted deed to the 9½-acre tract in Howard County furnishing access to Turkey River.

Adjourned.

Wardens Tales

Shop Talk From the Field

CONSERVATION OFFICER EARL SCHERF of Buchanan and Delaware counties writes:

"The other day, while working at the lake in Backbone State Park, I came upon a man fishing with two poles and two lines tied to the bushes. I sort of stood around and talked with him until I found out that all four lines belonged to him. I then asked him if they were all his and he said they were. I asked him for his license and he said he wouldn't think of going fishing without one and handed it to me. When I looked it over I noticed that his age was 86. I then explained the law to him about using only two lines and so on. He thanked me very kindly and then gave me a philosophy I hadn't ever given much thought before and I just thought I would pass it on.

"His story was about like this—I never fished until six years ago. Then I got started and it is a kind of a disease such as T.B. or cancer. It just gets you once you start. Now for me, I go every day. I drive my own car from Strawberry Point here to the lake. Some days I catch a few; some days none at all. But it is the one you are going to catch that keeps you coming."

"After this the old fellow stopped talking for a little while and then added this which capped it all. He said, 'So you're a sort of a game warden, the fellow that looks for licenses and so on. Well, I'm mighty glad to see you and talk to you and since you're here I want to ask you one question. You know, when I went to buy my license this year they asked me fifty cents more for it. First, I wasn't going to pay it. It was just gosh darned inflation. Then I said to myself, 'I'll be darned if it isn't worth fifty cents more for an old fellow like me to sit in the sun another year, even if it is inflation,' and so here I am.'"

Garfield Harker, conservation officer in charge of Jackson and Jones counties, tells this story about a pheasant-eating turtle:

"A man here in Maquoketa, Glen Bailey, was fishing in an old rock quarry on his farm northwest of Maquoketa and caught about a ten-pound snapping turtle. He took it to the locker plant to have it cleaned and inside they found part of the remains of a full grown hen pheasant and the feet and legs of another bird that I couldn't identify. I didn't examine them too closely, but it might have been a young pheasant.

"I know that turtles eat young ducks, but this is the first time I have heard of them eating pheasants."

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Honorable Karl E. Mundt. Chase Statler photo.

Pollution . . .

(Continued from page 153)

many other vices and evils which push out beyond the borders of a single state including such necessary and practical items as protection against the Japanese corn borer and the hoof and mouth disease. However, up to this very minute we have done nothing effective on a Federal scale to protect the people of America against the destructive and dangerous results of water pollution.

As a consequence, many of our public waters have become unfit for either fish, animal, or human life. They have virtually degenerated into slow-flowing cesspools bearing mute testimony to the callous disregard which our civilization has paid to the safeguarding of its public waters despite the fact that water is the most basic of all our natural resources. As Ding Darling's cartoon in this paper so vividly points out, many of our once noble rivers have become obnoxious open sewers.

Selfish industries, careless individuals, and indifferent towns and cities continue to dump sewage and industrial wastes into the drinking water of people living down the stream with reckless abandon and with complete contempt for either proper hygiene, civilized human behavior, or a decent consideration for the rights of others. Voluntary steps to correct pollution have failed dismally for more than a century; state laws and regulations alone have demonstrated that they cannot do the job; the time has come when we must have Federal legislation establishing minimum standards of water cleanliness in all the public waters of America. Either that or "America the Beautiful" will become a mere phrase in an historical reference book instead of a living reality for each and all to admire and enjoy.

The two main sources of water pollution in the United States are (1) Municipal—sewage and public wastes dumped into streams, lakes, and rivers without being put

through a modern and effective treatment plant, and (2) Industrial—toxins and injurious fluids and solids of various types discharged into the public waters without adequate treatment to reduce their poisonous effects. Modern science has developed successful and effective treatment plants and processes to correct both major types of pollution. Only the easy habit of industries and communities to follow the lines of least resistance plus the greedy desire of some to save money and hold down expenditures even though it means ruining forever some of the most attractive and useful public waters in the world causes the pollution problem to continue and to grow.

An aroused public opinion against the pernicious practice of pollution could eradicate that menace to the health and happiness of America in less than a decade. It is gratifying that I can testify to the fact that during the past decade there has developed an enlightened public opinion against pollution which bids fair to demand the proper legislative correctives in the very early future. Each citizen of America can help hurry the day when such legislation is enacted by writing to his Senators, to his Congressmen, and to his Governor demanding that action be taken now before it is too late to save the priceless heritage of pure public waters for America.

Since in most cases the pollution problem involves inter-state streams which frequently carry the pollutions and poisons of one state down to the river pools from which the people of another state derive their drinking water and their recreation, it is obvious that state legislation alone can never correct the pollution problem. Our most offensive and persistent water polluters know this quite well so when legislative proposals are before Congress on the subject of pollution they are quick to testify in pious tones that they are in favor of anti-pollution legislation only—note the sly exception!—"only it should be handled by the

states themselves and the Federal Government should be given no authority to compel the control of pollution."

On the surface that sounds very good but because of the peculiar interstate nature of pollution, in reality "State control of pollution" means no effective control of pollution at all. It is about as senseless to try to clean up the interstate waters of America by state regulations as it would be to try to protect our migratory ducks and geese by suggesting that each state pass its own laws on hunting seasons and bag limits.

When you write your public officials (and if you really want to help in this crusade to clean up the waters of America you will write them vigorously and often), it is important that you insist that the three minimum essentials of an effective program of pollution control be made a basic part of any corrective legislation which is passed; (1) Federal standards of cleanliness must be established so that industries and communities of enlightened states which control pollution will not be penalized by having to compete with states which disregard the public interest by permitting raw pollutions to be dumped into streams without benefit of corrective treatment (2) Any law which is passed must outlaw at once the establishment of new sources of pollution so that the problem can no longer grow greater while we are trying to correct the evils of a menace already grown hazardously large (3) An effective pollution control law must have "enough teeth" in it so that the Federal Government can compel reluctant or recalcitrant offenders to correct their abuses wherever feasible so that the public interest can be protected against persistent offenses by private polluters. When Congress has once passed a pollution control act containing these three basic features we shall be well on the road to correcting the pollution evils which now plague and poison our American waters.



Let each individual write his own caption to this illustration

WARDEN TALES . . .

(Continued from page 154)

Conservation Officer Ward Garrett in charge of Pottawattamie County writes:

"Last week while the water was up and everything was flooded, I discovered a hoop net in a small chute where a considerable number of fish were going through. I made myself comfortable and waited for the owner to appear. After waiting till 11:00 p. m., or about four hours, a certain character came up on me where I was watching the net. I questioned him about the ownership and he said it surely wasn't his. I asked him about his being down there in the middle of the night, and he said, 'I'm looking for some tin cans to water my ducks in.' His whole place was under two feet of water at the time."

FISHIN' THAT IS FISHIN'

Working his way upstream without any luck, a fisherman came across an old Negro stretched on the bank in such a position that he could keep an eye on three cane poles.

"Been fishing around here long, uncle?" he asked.

The Negro gave the question due thought and finally nodded. "Ah guess I'se been fishin' heah always."

"I am a newcomer myself and"—he looked at his own expensive rod and reel in disgust—"I could use some good advice."

"De bes' way is to git yo'self sum cane poles, like I'se got. Don' git dem too long or dey hang up in de limbs oberhaid w'en you jerk."

"Cane poles about as long as yours, eh? And your lines?"

"Dey is jus' ole cotton lines. Git white ones an' let de mud color dem like de water. Dey's got to be strong, or dey bust w'en de hook grab a root an' you try to pull."

"Strong cotton lines, eh? What size hooks?"

"Ah uster use de big size, but de big size is bad. Git de little size hooks, so dey don' tangle up in de underbrush."

"Little hooks, eh? And sinkers?"

"About six tenpenny nails on ev'ry line. De current pretty swif' and de line got to go to de bottom—dat's de best."

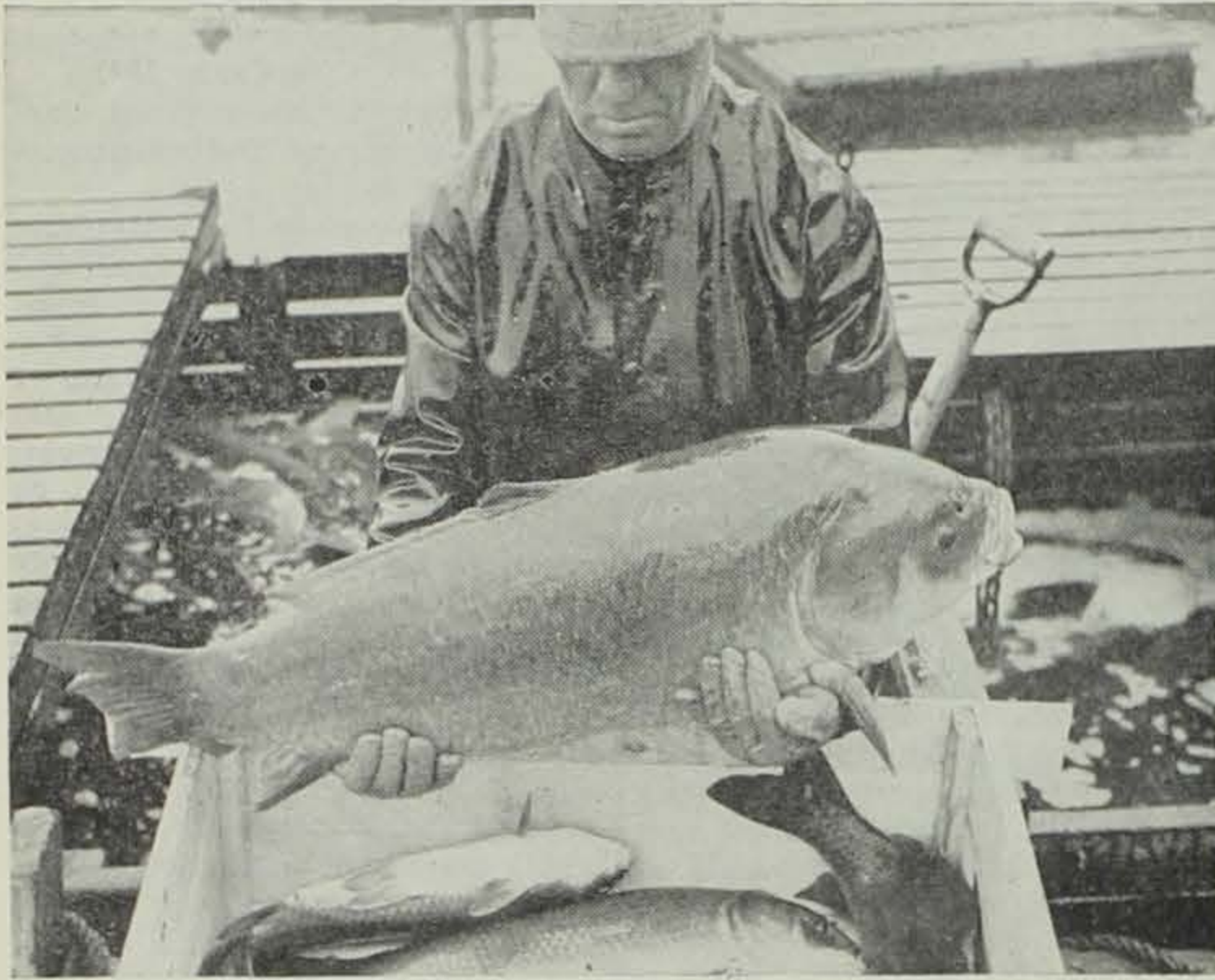
"And bait?"

"It ain't reportant. Evah since Ah kin remember dey's been a dye works 'bout fo' mile up f'om heah dat kill out all de fish."

CLEAR TITLE

We till a corner of this earth today
And call it ours, because we do
not see
That it belongs to those who led
the way—
And to the men and women yet
to be!

—Jack Canuck



A body of water can produce only so many pounds of fish. The food necessary to produce this 45-pound buffalo might well have gone into the stomachs of game fish instead. Jim Sherman photo.

Why . . .

(Continued from page 153)

of carp removal some sort of yearly program has been in progress.

The Conservation Commission has an extensive carp removal program for Lost Island this year which is a continuation of a program to create better fishing in this lake. Over two hundred thousand pounds of carp have been removed from Lost Island during the 1946 and 1947 seasons by using a large fish trap at the outlet of the lake where the carp attempt to migrate into Barringers' Slough.

In Iowa each succeeding year yields more and more evidence to support the fact that rough fish removal is one of the most important, if not the most important single item in the management of Iowa waters.

Before going too far with this discussion we should clarify the terms "rough fish" and "game fish." Often the term "coarse fish" is used as synonymous with "rough fish." The antonym of "coarse fish" is "fine fish" or more often called game fish. Game fish are the species that fishermen deem most desirable, both as food and for sport fishing. Such fish as the large-mouthed bass, walleyed pike, northern pike, crappie and bluegill come under this category. Coarse fish or rough fish are those that are relatively undesirable as food and for sport fishing; such list includes carp, buffalo fish, gar, dogfish, and in some areas sheepshead and quillback are so classed.

Where to draw the line as to whether a certain species is a rough fish or game fish provides a subject for discussion and debate. Pages could be written regarding the consumption of rough fish as food by the people of this country and especially the people of the old countries. Many fishermen extoll the virtues of sheepshead and carp as game fighters on hook and line.

Nevertheless, the average fisherman would rather have game fish in the lakes and streams he fishes.

Many sportsmen believe that the lack of favor as food fish and poor sporting qualities are reasons enough for demanding the removal of fish that are classed as rough or coarse. There are other reasons that are more important in the eyes of the individuals directly charged with the management of fish. These are items that are not so well understood by sportsmen and others interested in conservation.

It is a basic fact that a given acre of water will produce only so many pounds of fish. The number of pounds of fish that a body of water can produce is directly proportional to the amount of fish food that can be produced in this water. Fish production, therefore, is dependent upon fertility of the water. Thus when we consider this matter of pounds produced per acre there is very little difference between production of several species of animals on an acre of pasture and the production of several species of fish in an acre of water.

For example, the growth of cattle, horses and sheep in the pasture is dependent upon the growth of grass which in turn is dependent upon the moisture and fertility of the soil. Rough fish in an area consume food from the acre of water at the expense of the game fish in the same manner that the sheep, for instance, would consume the grass in the pasture at the expense of the cattle and horses. If you were trying to raise cattle and horses you wouldn't add more sheep. If the pasture was getting thin you would remove the sheep; and that is just the action that is needed in fish management—removal of the undesirable species, "the rough fish."

Fisheries workers have various ways and means of determining

the amount of food, the fertility, and the number of fish present in a body of water; but quite often a detailed investigation is not necessary to determine that a body of water has too many rough fish. Such bodies of water usually have a typical history of a steady decline in fishing success as the water becomes more turbid and vegetation disappears. This fact is particularly true in ponds and lakes.

Other reasons that rough fish get the upper hand and bring about these unbalanced conditions is their high reproductive and rapid growth rate. A 25-pound female carp was taken from East Okoboji Lake last spring that contained over six pounds of eggs. This six pounds of eggs represented slightly more than 1,700,000 eggs. It is easy to see that no species of female game fish could compete with such egg production. So when this high reproductive rate is considered with the fact that comparatively few rough fish are taken on hook and line and that in one season most rough fish grow too large to be suitable food for game fish, we can see that the rough fish are able to outnumber the more desirable species. As a matter of fact, rough fish, carp especially, are apparently able to maintain populations in spite of seining, trapping and other efforts to eliminate them.

If we consider the list of rough fish as carp, quillback, buffalo fish, sheepshead, gar and dogfish, all of us would list carp as public enemy number one of the fish world.

A high population of carp not only adversely affects game fish but also aquatic game animals such as the ducks and muskrats. By the destruction of the aquatic vegetation that provides both food and shelter for many species of aquatic animals carp may ruin a lake for the hunter and trapper. We also know that vegetation provides food and shelter for fish. Therefore, the destruction of vege-

tation by carp is an even more important reason for their control than just the fact that they are of inferior food value and of relatively poor sporting qualities.

Carp do not destroy vegetation by actually eating the plants. Although carp are primarily bottom feeders, stomach analysis show that under normal conditions the food of carp consists almost entirely of bottom organisms such as the midge larvae that live in the mud. In their constant search for these organisms they stir up the silt and mud, causing the water to become increasingly roily. As the carp increase in abundance the water becomes so turbid that sunlight cannot reach the bottom. Vegetation, whether on land or in the water, needs light in order to grow. If the light cannot penetrate the muddy water no vegetation will grow.

Another point to consider is the fact that many species of game fish depend upon sight in selection of their food. Muddy water makes their food much harder to obtain and is often the reason few fish are caught. They just can't see the bait.

Except for carp, the other species on the rough fish list are condemned primarily on the basis of their food habits, in addition to the factors of ill favor as food and poor sporting qualities. Species such as the dogfish, gar and sheepshead are very carnivorous. Their diet includes many young fish of nearly all species, including the young of the desirable game fish. Thus they not only consume the food of the game fish but the game fish themselves.

The food habits of buffalo fish indicate that these fish are not so obviously competitive with game fish as the carp we have already discussed. Under normal conditions, however, the food of buffalo fish is the same as that necessary for the growth of the young fish

(Continued on page 157)



Rough fish, because of their high reproductive and rapid growth rate, often take over a lake. Periodic freeze-outs reveal the tremendous numbers that sometimes occur in even our best fishing waters.

LACEYISMS

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

IN a few old churchyards on the eastern shore of Maryland may be seen the remains of the splendid forest that once covered that region. The sight of these specimens makes us regret that larger areas of the ancient forest had not remained untouched.

When an ancient citizen found a great treasure he reported it to his ruler, who told him to keep it and use it. "It is too great a sum to use," replied the finder. "Abuse it then," replied his master.

This is the method which our people have applied in the past. The coal has been preserved in spite of man by the vast strata of protecting earth and stone, but we may even now begin to compute the time when the anthracite will take its place in the museums along with the bones of the mastodon and the eggs of the great auk and dodo.

The creatures of the water and the air have both suffered from the devastating hand of man. In the preservation of our birds the women of America were slow to act but they are now doing a great part. We have a wireless telegraph, a crownless queen, a thornless cactus, a seedless orange, and a coreless apple. Let us now have a birdless hat.

When our people were cutting one another's throats during the war of 1861 to 1865, game in the South became abundant, for men had ceased to hunt anything but human kind, but when peace came the war against the creatures of the field and forest was again renewed and waged with unremitting zeal.

I plead guilty to having, in my youth, taken part in the brutal pastime known as the "side hunt," where two parties start out in the remorseless competition of destroying as much animal life as possible; a rabbit counting so many points, a prairie chicken so many, a bluejay, blackbird, crow, and other birds all being scheduled at a given number of points. A hunt like this at the evening round-up shows a sickening aggregation of unnecessary unsportsmanlike slaughter. The sportsman who would enforce the laws must obey them himself and set a proper example to the rising generation.

I heard the other day of a dealer in bogus butter, who, having been sentenced to fine and imprisonment for his offense, remarked, on retiring from the court room, that he would not have minded his punishment so much, but he disliked to be fined for selling bogus butter by a judge who wore dyed whiskers.

PITY THE POOR FISH

WORD has been received from the State Conservation Commission that the bullhead, one of the most popular of all Iowa fishes, is to undergo an examination by scientists. Information gleaned from this examination is to be used to improve bullhead fishing in Iowa.

Time has come, alas, when even the lowly bullhead can no longer escape the scrutinous eye of knowledge-craving man. Up to this time he has battled his adversary, trying to keep off a baited hook and out of a greased frying pan. Now, to add to his woes, he will also have to avoid the tanks, test-tubes, and microscopes of the laboratory.

It wasn't so long ago when a boy's favorite way of spending a hot summer afternoon was lying under the shade of a big tree with his cane pole held securely by a couple of large rocks. If a fish nibbled at his worms and safety pin hook while he was dozing it was all right. One fish gained or lost didn't move the world to furious activity. Some about town who are now men easily recall the days when the best part of fishing wasn't a scientific ingathering of waterlife, but rather was a friendly bout with the bullheads, carp and suckers. The sides were more evenly matched. The boys on the bank knew little about the private lives of the fish in the stream and the fish in the stream rarely trespassed into the realm of the boy on the bank. Somehow, with the sides even, there was a sportsmanship hard to beat.

All that is to be changed now. The scientists are out to learn how the bullhead eats and why, where he spends his days and nights, and

the peculiarities he uses in raising his young. They will even attempt to determine his age by examining his backbone. The thought on this is apparently that old fish are like people and with the infirmities of age coming on there is less chance of them darting away from their human opponents. The fisherman will then be able to choose whether he wants to have a quiet afternoon bringing in decrepit grandfather bullheads or have a livelier session with the frisky young upstarts.

With the mighty forces of an atomic world marshalled to probe into the privacy of the bullhead there is little that he can do to maintain his personal dignity. However, there is one avenue of escape for this poor fish. He might live up to his name and outwit his scientific pursuers by being a bit too bullheaded to cooperate.

—Ames Milepost

BOYS NEED TO BE TAUGHT THAT RIFLES ARE NOT TOYS

The vandalism to the telephone cable last week, when someone shot into it with a 22-caliber rifle was being discussed.

"The boys who did it should be caught, and given a good 'tanning,'" one fellow said.

"Their parents are the ones who need the 'tanning,'" replied the other.

We agree with the latter. Parents who give rifles to their boys, or allow them to have the weapons, without teaching them how they should and should not be used, are more responsible for such vandalism than the boys themselves.

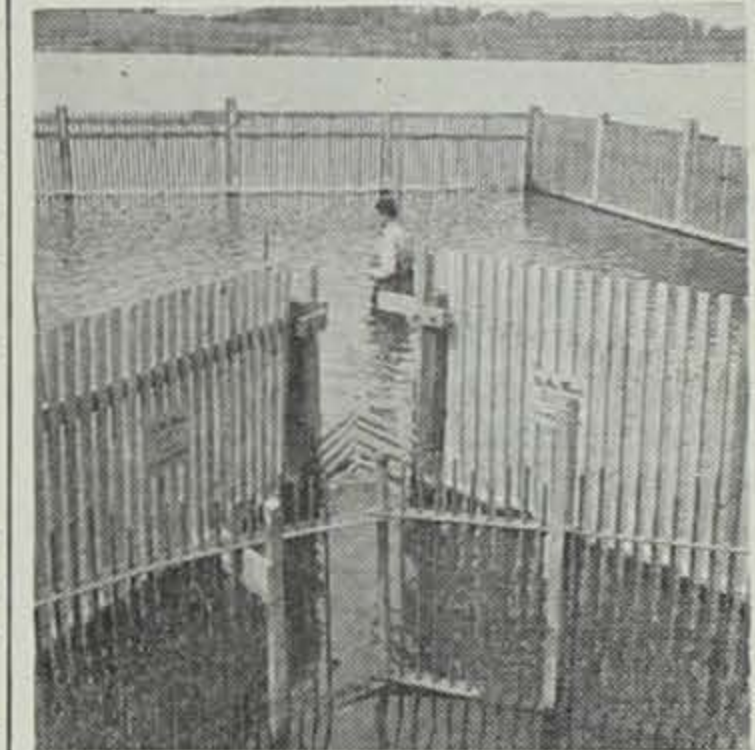
All too often, a boy will be given a rifle like it is a toy, without being instructed that it is NOT a toy.

So long as so many parents do this way, it would be a good project for some organization, like the

Nashua Fish and Game Club, to hold a training course to teach boys the proper use of firearms.

We read recently where this was done, along with studies of fishing, how to protect game birds during closed seasons, how to recognize poison ivy, and other valuable outdoor training. The summer training school, sponsored by an organization of this kind, attracted a large number of boys, and undoubtedly did a lot of good in helping teach the boys that firearms are weapons, NOT toys.

—Nashua Reporter



Large fish traps are constructed in the entrance to bays and adjoining nursery lakes. Rough fish are removed from the trap, the game fish passed on into the spawning areas. Jim Sherman photo.

Why . . .

(Continued from page 156)

of all species, especially game fish. Food of the quillback is more apt to be quite varied due to its river habitat where food of any one kind is present for relatively short periods. In general the feeding habits of quillback, or carp sucker, are similar to that of carp and suckers. This is evident from the fact that buffalo fish and quillback are very rarely taken on hook and line.

One more reason for condemning rough fish is what might be called the "space factor." We know very little about the space needed for a population of several species of fish but it is quite certain that the space competition between game fish and rough fish has a considerable effect on just how many fish a body of water will carry. In other words, the less rough fish that are present, regardless of food or other factors, the better the chance of having more game fish in a given volume of water. This is not to be confused with pounds per acre, as "space factor" deals primarily with numbers.

There are plenty of good reasons for removal of rough fish. Some reasons are better than others; and when all factors are added together, the rough fish are certainly on the black list. It is plain that we cannot have successful game fish management without a continuous war on the rough fish. If elimination of carp were possible that would be fine, but because total elimination is impossible, carp control must be applied continuously.



The boy on the bank knew little about the private lives of the fish in the stream, and the fish in the stream rarely trespassed into the realm of the boy on the bank. Science on the march may change this simple, harmonious relationship. Jim Sherman photo.

Care . . .

(Continued from page 153)

tongued wives of those who pose as model lawn-cutters, gardeners and the like; and to rationalize the whole thing, we suggest the development of a superior and philosophical attitude towards fishing. As a basis for it, we suggest that fishing be regarded as a lesser evil. Everybody knows that all men are bums at heart. Fortify yourself with the belief that you're married to a nice kind of a bum who spends so much time and money fishing that fast women, gambling, gin-mills and other major evils get little attention from him. And ask your family doctor if fishing—with sunshine, fresh air, exercise, and relaxation—won't make your man live longer and be more effective in his day's work.

Come to think of it, fishing isn't even a lesser evil—it's a blessing in disguise—but don't let him think so. Keep him thinking it's something he's just getting away with because for trading purposes, as we shall point out, it has few equals.

Avoid Pre-Nuptial Pledges

Don't try to settle the fishing issue before taking him to the altar. It's just one of those things you have to work out as you go along. If you're one of those women who can't let her husband out of her sight, pass up your fisherman in favor of a bee-keeper or a tulip grower. Or just pass him up.

"All's fair in love" to be sure, and many a well intentioned gal who never donned a pair of rubber boots or baited a hook has insisted during courtship that she wants nothing more from life than to be able to follow her man through the brush, the rain, etc., in quest of trout, bass and the Great Outdoors. That's good sales talk, and harmless enough, if you don't insist on doing so. Husbands and wives who are real fishing pals are swell—practically out of this world—but very rare. If your husband has a hundred good men friends, there'll be only one or two he likes to fish with, and your chances of making the grade are even less.

This doesn't mean you can't



share vacations. You can go hundreds of places where you both can do all sorts of summer resorting—and he can get in his fishing to boot.

Fishermen Aren't Stratified

Fishing cuts across all social and economic strata. It's sort of a common denominator. Be prepared for all kinds of odd characters your "Joe" may fish with. If you happened to catch yourself a blue-blood—and a ragamuffin shows up and wants to know if Joe will go fishin' Saturday—treat him like somebody out of the social register. If you don't, you'll make a real social error in the fisherman's book. Conversely, if you caught yourself a swell young truck driver and the president of the bank calls up looking for him early in April, don't jump to the conclusion that your account is overdrawn.

Expenses

AND I PICKED IT OUT ALL BY MYSELF!



From time to time the family budget will be strained by the cost of a new fly rod, a pair of waders or sundry gadgets to which all fishermen are addicted. The clever wife takes care of these matters along with Christmas and birthdays. But—and here we issue a real warning—don't simply walk into a sporting goods store and buy any old piece of equipment in the belief that you are going to score heavily with your husband. No two fishermen subscribe to the same theories on rods, reels, lines and other equipment. However, it's easy enough to find out what he really wants and then to get him exactly that, refusing all substitutes that your dealer tells you will please him just as well.

Having done so, you'll be solid enough to bargain for that fur coat or the \$20 hat. Here's where the trading we spoke about comes in. Women are usually so far ahead of us in these matters that nothing more need be said.

Don't Monkey With Tackle

Many a real crisis has arisen on the night before a fishing expedition because the good wife has cleaned the house and gotten everything organized, with the result that nothing can be found. Find a corner in the house where he can keep his stuff inviolate—and

never make a raid on it for your brother, your uncle, or your husband's father-in-law. If equipment is to be lent let it be his responsibility.



Getting Ready

Preparations for a fishing trip are mighty and fearsome—until you learn to take them in stride. Leave the equipment up to him, but make sure he has his long underwear, his wool shirts, wool socks, etc. on deck and ready to go. Many fishing trips start at an ungodly hour in the morning. If you don't mind getting up, there is absolutely nothing which improves your bargaining position more than giving him a good hot breakfast. And a small hamper stocked with a thermos bottle full of hot tea or coffee, at least three sandwiches, a piece of pie or cake, and a couple of oranges will be a reminder, come noontime, that the little woman was right on the ball.

Remarks on His Catch (or Absence Thereof)



This is a delicate matter requiring the highest degree of diplomacy. Poor fishing luck will be evident as soon as he walks into the house, in which case it is sometimes best to be so completely occupied that no comment is required. If he had some luck—pour on the oil. This is easy in the case of big fish. In the case of small fish it is necessary to fall back on the premise that after all small fish are more toothsome and easier to prepare.

These are just a few of the main principles relative to the care and feeding of fishermen. They will sound extremely elementary to those who have had experience in this field, but in treating so vital and touchy a subject we thought it best to begin at the beginning. There is, however, no way of telling where this sort of thing will end up. We will watch our mail with a wary eye.

CONSERVATION PLAN WORKS

Recently we wrote of the need for a continuing study of the various functions and problems of state government. It is our view that there is a definite need for this if the state is to make its plans for progress on any kind of sound, long-range basis.

Now we would like to point to one state agency which has been working on an adopted plan for more than 12 years. This agency, of course, is the Iowa Conservation Commission.

In 1933 the legislature authorized the drawing up of a 25-year statewide plan for guidance of the Conservation Commission. Such a plan was carefully drawn. The planning committee was composed of men who knew their subject—conservation. The plan reached into each of the 99 counties. It told of the possibilities for a forest range here, an artificial lake there, and a state park somewhere else. It envisioned the day when there would be a state-owned lake within 25 miles of the home of every Iowan, when parks would be within an hour or so of every home by automobile.

This plan was submitted to the 1935 legislature and adopted. It went into effect that year.

Since then the Conservation Commission, which is a part-time commission of public-spirited men and women performing a service for their state, has gone quietly about its job. Today, 12 years later, more than 50 per cent of the plan has been carried out, including alterations in the original plan.

Because the plan has been carried to that extent, life already is more enjoyable for more Iowans than it ever has been before. Iowans who never were able, or couldn't afford, to take vacations at widely known lake resorts, are able today to fish, boat and swim in artificial lakes near their homes. Cabins that have been erected for rent to vacationists often are sold out before the summer opens.

And the plan, recognized by conservation authorities throughout the land as the best of its kind, is only a little better than half completed.

If planning of this kind will work one place, it will work another. But the success of this plan lies in the fact that by its very nature it provides for a continuing study of conservation and wildlife as they apply to Iowa.

The results speak for themselves. —Cedar Rapids Gazette



Predators have never exterminated any form of life. Predation in part is necessary for survival. It didn't take courage or ability to destroy this red-shouldered hawk. Dick Trump photo.

THIS YOU MUST KNOW TO UNDERSTAND

WHEN lamenting the destruction of the eggs of song birds, we seldom realize that generally another clutch is laid, and more than often successfully incubated. But what happens when the female of a pair meets an untimely death leaving a nest of eggs behind is something we know little about. We do know, however, that the loss of the male after nesting occurs does not deter the female from incubating her eggs and raising the resulting young. We know, too, that should the female be destroyed after her eggs are hatched, the male will quite often undertake the care and feeding of the young. But apart from sentiment, the losses incurred through predation among nesting birds of whatever kind is actually neither here nor there in the orderly scheme of things. Nature is invariably prodigious in what she brings into the feathered world; many must die in order that a few may live. If the population of any living thing remains relatively constant, which apart from cyclic depressions is always the rule, unless we interfere, her purpose has been accomplished and all is well. Predation has never exterminated any form of life; predation, in part, is necessary for survival.

—Outdoor Canada

WE'RE FOR THIS

Increases in salary have just been granted to members of the Iowa patrol and to the game wardens. We'll give the nod of approval in both instances.

One of the good deeds of the recent session of the Iowa legislature was to increase the number of highway patrolmen. These lads have more than proved their usefulness. They are a courteous lot of fellows, helpful and informative.

We wonder how we ever got along without them. They work hand-in-hand with our state police radio set-up for the general betterment.

Under the new wage scale, experienced patrolmen with good records will draw from \$190 to \$210 a month, compared with the old scale of \$175. The new patrol pay scale will affect about 180 patrolmen, including 40 recruits who are expected to be added as the result of the patrol school which opens this week.

About a dozen senior patrolmen who have had 10 years of service, and good performance records, will qualify for the \$210 monthly salary.

It is well that our game wardens should have more money, too—only we don't call them that any more up in this section. They bear the more dignified title of state conservation officers.

We in and around Storm Lake have an opportunity to watch these chaps at close range. They are doing a swell job. Game wardens used to put in their time snooping around looking for law violators. Nowadays, the plan is to widen the scope of activities to the end that much better results are being obtained in a friendly, yet more effective manner.

There are 51 of these fellows in Iowa. Each covers a large district. They are enthusiastic conservationists, work with the Izaak Walton League, and in every way deserve our support and appreciation.

—Storm Lake Pilot Tribune

It is not generally known that the "venom" of bees and wasps is not the same. The effect of a bee sting upon humans is definitely toxic, acting upon the heart and circulation, and although believed to be a cure for rheumatic disorders may cause the death of the person stung. A wasp sting, on the other hand, has no ill effect other than to cause local swelling and pain about the place of puncture. Wasp "venom" is formic acid, but what definitely constitutes the venom of the bee has yet to be discovered.

WHY DO PEOPLE GO FISHING?

WE have often wondered why people in Iowa go off on a long journey to some neighboring state, on a fishing trip, when those same people seldom if ever do any fishing at home. To travel five hundred miles to a given point in one day, fish for a couple of days or so, pack the catch with ice, bring them home to give away and show, has always been a puzzle to us, even if we indulge in that pastime or sport.

This past week we in company with another Reinbeck couple traveled to Leach Lake, Minnesota, a distance of 425 miles, caught some walleyed pike, returned Sunday, and have answered hundreds of questions, about the climate, the trip and the fishing since our return. Most folks seem interested in results. If fish are caught then the trip was a success.

We have not yet figured out why men go fishing.

It seems that all great men in America go fishing. Grover Cleveland loved to fish. Theodore Roosevelt fished and hunted. Herbert Hoover was a lover of fishing. President F. D. Roosevelt went on many fishing trips. Truman has taken to fishing since he became president.

It must be that the continual demands upon one's mind drives them to fishing. They want to get away from mankind, to get where Indians live, where wild beasts roam the forests, where snakes and poison bugs reside. They want to be alone, far away from business worries, if even for just a few days. They seek relaxation beyond the call of a telephone, their customers or patients.

There is no mistake about it, when you are on a fishing trip you have plenty of privacy, and that

privacy is respected by your fellow men, you may just relax, pray if you choose, not aloud of course, forget that a living must be made, just watch the water and bask in the sunshine. Your whole body and soul will be washed with the pure clean air, away from factory, traffic noises, the howling, growling public, those who complain about your way of doing business. Such a trip brings meekness, inspiration, reduces egotism, soothes your troubles, and also wickedness, and you may even catch a fish. But all in all, we still think that the preparation of a trip and the expectation of the fun ahead, is a large part of such a vacation. When we were a lad the fish always bit—but now the fish "strike."

—Reinbeck Courier

IOWA NEEDS MORE TREES

Looking at the entire state of Iowa one can't think of utilizing soil and water resources without waste unless a place is found for trees.

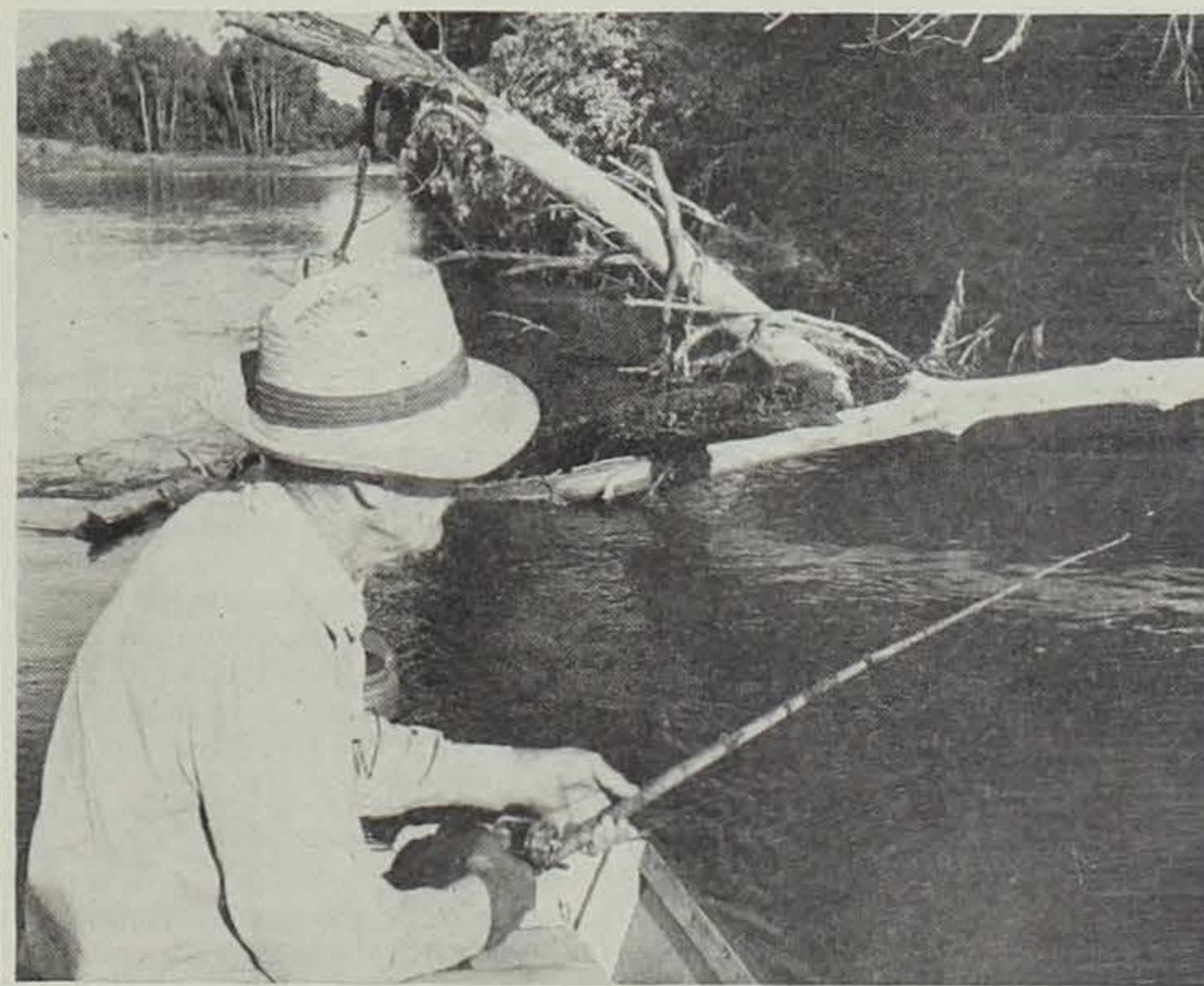
The state's early settlers found almost one-fifth of it covered with timber. Much of this has been cut, some to be used as forest products but much more to make way for cultivation of crops.

This heavy cropping has left thousands of acres of land so eroded, so unprofitable it now has little economic value. Yet trees will grow on much of this land.

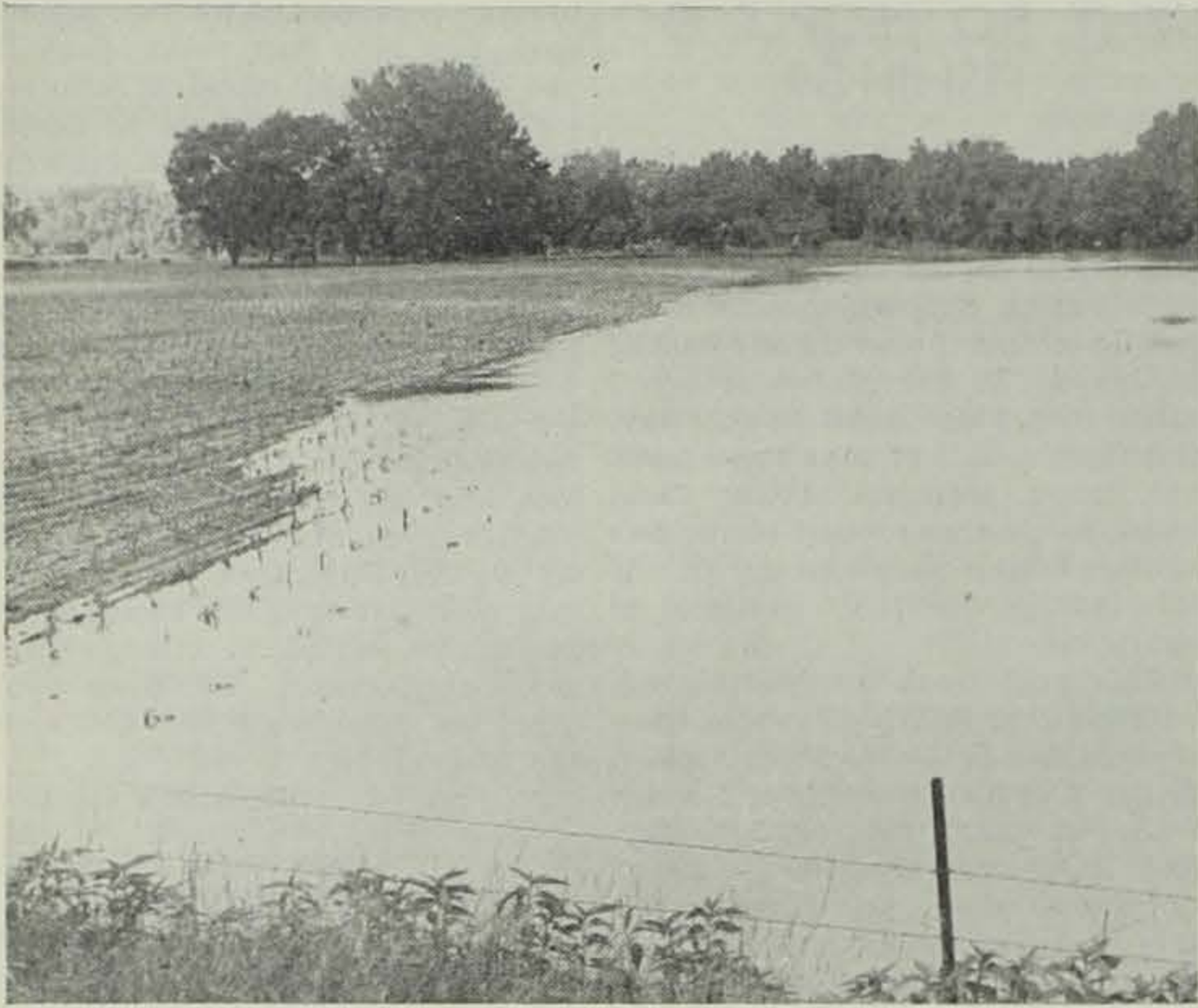
Whether the area is large or small, trees will grow and cover the scars. They will, in time, stop further erosion. In time they will grow into a valuable crop.

Planting trees on eroded areas is conservation, too. So is planting trees along the streams and in the gullies. It is conservation to plant trees wherever they will protect the land and man and give a greater long-time return than another crop.

—Albia Republican



There is no mistake about it, when you are on a fishing trip you have plenty of privacy. You may relax, pray if you choose, forget that a living must be made, just watch the water and bask in the sunshine. Jim Sherman photo.



Damage to nesting quail by overflow water from creeks and rivers was confined to the period immediately after the first storm, no new nests having been started in the river bottoms between the first and the second floods or the second and third. Jim Sherman photo.

QUAIL—UP OR DOWN?

By Bob Moorman
Game Biologist

WHAT kind of quail crop will we have in Iowa this fall? Better or poorer than last year? As good as 1939? Questions like these take considerable answering and all the answers won't be available until the hunting season is actually here in the fall. But let's take a look at what we know now.

Spring Population

Quail were more plentiful this past spring than in any recent year. Conservation officers in the quail territory in the southern part of the state reported heavy populations of birds for half of their counties and medium or normal spring populations for the other counties. Comments such as "more quail than we've ever had" and "we wintered the largest quail population in recent years" were common this spring and early summer. This same high carry-



The 15 to 20 percent of the quail population feeding in farm lots, among shocked corn or soybeans, or being fed by wildlife-conscious school children, farmers, and sportsmen, was in the least danger during the winter storms.

over of adult birds has been reported for other midwestern states.

The large spring stock of quail was the result of two factors. The birds were numerous last fall, and southern Iowa had a mild winter with few birds lost to starvation or other causes. The storm of January 29th and 30th produced the most dangerous situation of the winter for our quail. The amounts of sleet and depths of snow varied, but the result of the storm was about the same everywhere—much of the food that quail eat was buried where the birds could not reach it. Within four days all of the ice and much of the snow melted, exposing weed seeds and vegetation. If the heavy ice coating had persisted another few days, deaths likely would have begun among those birds weakened by lack of food. Safest from cold and hunger were, of course, those quail, normally 15 to 20 per cent of the total, feeding in farm feedlots, among shocked corn or soybeans, or being fed by wildlife-conscious school children, farmers and sportsmen.

Because the winter was largely mild in the quail territory and because field workers found no evidence of loss of birds throughout the season but continued to see the numerous coveys present as in early winter, our quail are believed to have come through in exceptionally fine condition.

The last weeks of winter and the first weeks of spring were colder than normal, probably delaying the start of the nesting season a week or two past the usual date of early May.

Rain and Floods

Rainfall in southern Iowa during June varied from six to fourteen inches with the heavier amounts to the north and west. Normal June rainfall for this area is less than five inches. The first heavy

rain, up to six inches in a few places, came on June 4th putting creeks and rivers at high flood stage. Rains, one and two weeks later, caused rivers to flood much the same lands as the first one.

Damage to quail nesting by overflow waters from creeks and rivers was undoubtedly well confined to the period immediately after the first storm as no new nests would have been started on the river bottoms between the first and second floods or the second and third floods. Stream flood plains in southern Iowa counties make up from five to 17 per cent of all the land area, with about 11 per cent of such land in the average county. The upper ends of the many smaller streams would not have been subject to an accumulation of flood waters such as was built up on the major streams.

Quail nests on the flooded lands were, of course, destroyed, yet the parent bird would have escaped to the side hills. If the eggs in the flooded nest were near hatching, the parent birds would probably not re-nest. Nests in which the hen quail was still laying, or had only recently started incubating at the time of the flood, would be replaced with a later nest in a dryer spot in the hills or uplands. These later nests are the source of many of our young quail every year as we have varying amounts of flooding, nest desertion, and nest destruction by predatory animals.

Replacement nests bring two disadvantages. These nests almost always have fewer eggs and therefore hatch fewer young quail than the earlier nests. Secondly, if the young birds do not hatch until fall, they may not be able to survive an early winter storm. It is these immature birds that hunters call "squealers."

Newly hatched quail caught in a flood are unable to escape to higher land and drown. Young birds two weeks old can fly 50 feet, however, so even at that age they stand a chance to get to dry ground ahead of rising waters along small streams.

During the heaviest rains some quail nests in upland areas undoubtedly become filled by surface water, causing the hen to desert the nest. If such desertion is permanent, the hen quail will probably build another nest and lay another clutch of eggs.

Rates of Increase

Another factor exists that will affect the rate of increase of quail this year. In nature a decrease in breeding stock is commonly followed by an increase in the number of young raised per brood, and likewise, an increase in the spring breeding stock is followed by a decrease in the number of young raised per family. Since the spring stock of quail this year was greater than last, the rate of reproduction is expected to be less this year than last.

Ratio of Young to Adults

The actual determination of the

number of young raised by the average pair of adult quail is best made during the hunting season. An examination of the wings of quail killed by hunters tells us the number of young birds and the number of adult birds. The study of over 2,400 wings collected from cooperative hunters last year by conservation officers showed that there were six young birds for every old bird, or 12 young for each two adults. The Conservation Officers will collect quail wings again this fall to determine what the ratio is for 1947. Whether the ratio will be 5-1, 4-1, or 3-1 remains to be seen.

The Quail Crop

It must be remembered that we have been talking about the number of young raised per brood of quail and not about the total number of quail expected this fall. The crop of quail, or the number of both young and old, may be high after either a summer of high reproduction or a summer of low reproduction. It is the total of young and old birds together that determines whether quail are more plentiful or less plentiful. Whether or not the 1947 crop of quail will be as good or better than the 1946 crop cannot be definitely told this early. So we await the annual quail census made by conservation officers in September for more complete data and the quail hunting season success reports. So far general observations point to a successful quail hunting season.

AUNT WHO

Do ants converse with their antennae?

Yes, ants seem to use their antennae in communication. The antennae are thought to combine hearing, smelling, and touch senses.

Do ants grow wedding wings?

Yes, they have mass marriages and fly together on their honeymoon flight.

Do ants practice chemical warfare?

Yes, in battle they expel formic acid at their enemies.

Do ants have cows?

Yes, they milk aphids for honey dew and herd them like any human dairy farmer.

Do ants build stables for their cows?

Yes, they build tiny shelters of mud and vegetable material for their aphid cows in the crotches of shrubs.

Does temperature affect the ant's speed?

Yes, the lower the temperature, the slower the ant.

Do ants have toilet aids?

Yes, they have tiny combs on their elbows and other toilet helps.

Do ants flout a federal law?

Yes, they are notorious kidnappers and think nothing of raiding the nurseries of a neighboring ant hill.

—Canadian Nature