

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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CARP PROBLEM CHILD OF FISHERIES

To determine the importance of carp fishing to Iowa anglers, a questionnaire was sent to each of the conservation officers. Questions asked included: Do you have few or many regular carp fishermen? Few or many occasional carp fishermen? Where do your anglers fish carp? What are the most popular carp baits? Do the majority of your fishermen utilize carp for food? What methods of angling?

It is surprising to many to know that in 23 of the 48 territories the officer stated that he had many regular carp fishermen, fishermen who went fishing just to catch carp. In 11 additional territories there were many occasional carp fishermen. In only 14 was angling for carp considered unimportant.

Most of the territories in which carp fishing was not important were in the region of the natural lakes where bullheads, panfish and game fish are abundant.

In 42 of the territories most of the carp fishing was done in the streams, the anglers having found out that flesh from carp in streams is much firmer than in still water. In 10 territories carp fishing in bayous and other overflow waters was considered important, with carp fishing in lakes important in only seven districts.

The list of baits for taking carp is almost as long as a list for taking catfish. The carp fisherman uses doughball, bread, worms, fresh or canned corn, crawfish, minnows, raw potatoes, marsmallows, popcorn, and peas.

The most important first choice bait is doughball with 36 first places. Tied for second place, with four first places each, were worms and fresh or canned sweet corn. Bread received three first place votes in the popularity contest.

In answer to the question, "Do the majority of your carp fishermen utilize carp caught for food", 42 of the 48 officers replied "yes," indicating that carp is being widely used for food in spite

(Continued on page 46)



The deeper holes in even the smallest streams generally contain carp. Occasionally a five or six pounder may be taken from under a cut bank in a stream with scarcely enough water to cover the fish's back. Jim Sherman Photo.

WALLEYE—KING OF THE ROCK PILE

In the early summer, the fisherman's fancy turns to walleyes, or yellow pikeperch, especially those who appreciate excellent eating along with a highly enjoyable sport. While not on the spectacular side, the walleye is a solid denizen of the deep, with sufficient attractions to boast a tremendous following among sporting anglers.

The walleye is heavily fished for because of its high food value and willingness to strike nearly any lure. However, nature has equipped it to hold its own, for the walleye is one of the most prolific spawners of all game fish. Some large females will produce as many as 300,000 eggs, each of which is comparatively small, or about 1/12th inch in diameter.

Especially in lakes, walleyes are schooling fish and once they are located, fine sport and finer eating

are the rewards of a successful search.

The walleye is blessed—or cursed—with an abundance of aliases. Most of its names inaccurately connect the walleye with the pike family, while some align it with the salmon group. The most common are: yellow pikeperch, blue pike, dory, glasseye, marble-eye, gray pike, green pike, yellow pike, jack, jackfish, jack salmon, sauger, susquehanna salmon, walleye perch, walleye pickerel, walleye pike, white-eye, and yellow pickerel.

While varying water conditions will affect the coloration of the walleye, generally it is dark olive mottled with yellow, and the blending of the two forms indistinct oblique bars on the back. The white belly and lower fins tend to pink while a characteristic black

(Continued on page 45)

MORE ABOUT CROWS

By W. R. Cadwallader

In the April issue of the "Iowa Conservationist," "Outdoor Oddities" said that "the common crow is considered by most scientists to be the most intelligent of birds." I cannot say whether or not the crow is the most intelligent of birds, but I do want to pass along a few facts about him.

When the white man came to Iowa, and until about 1938, there was a large crows' roost in a bend of the Des Moines River very close to the city of Ottumwa, Iowa. My first experience with the birds in this roost dates back to the early fall of the year 1912. In the evening they would fly in by the thousands, from every direction, in well defined flyways, and early each morning they would fly out for the day to find food. Late in March, at the beginning of the nesting season, the roost would be deserted.

For many years I shot these birds in their roost at night. It was quite an experience to go into the roosting area in the night. The birds were always concentrated in a relatively small space, but they would vary the roosting place as much as one-half mile from night to night. Therefore, we had first to locate the roost for the particular night on which we were out for a few "scalps."

Many a night, in the company of other crow hunters, I have crawled to within a few yards of the edge of the roosting area and have lain for an hour or more listening to the sounds in the roost. To one who has never had this experience, it would be quite amazing. There is a constant murmur—not the usual "Caw, Caw"—but a sound that might be made by thousands of people conversing in low tones in some foreign language. I firmly believe that these birds have a language which they

(Continued on page 48)

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G. L. ZIEMER, Director

JAMES R. HARLAN, Editor

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May Commission Action

A meeting of the Conservation Commission was held in Decorah, Iowa, on May 3 and 4, 1948.

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

The Commission:

Approved plan presented for marker commemorating the gift of Melanaphy Spring area by Mr. Fred Bierman.

Established mileage rates for employees driving personal cars. Transferred funds to cover power bills for Lake Manawa pumping to the Land and Stream Improvement Account from unused personnel accounts.

Approved cooperation with the U. S. Geological Survey in the amount of \$1,500 for Stream Flow Survey.

Approved cooperation with Iowa Geological Survey in the amount of \$1,500 for Cooperative Ground Water Survey.

Approved Cooperative Fisheries Program with Iowa State College for 1948-49 fiscal year to the amount of \$6,000.

Approved inclusion of \$6,000 in budget for 1948-49 fiscal year for the Cooperative Game Program at Iowa State College.

Approved inclusion of \$3,500 in budget for participation in Cooperative Mississippi River Survey.

Approved administrative division budget in the amount of \$261,910 as presented.

Approved proposed budget for Division of Lands and Waters in the amount of \$479,702.

Approved attendance of one staff member at two-day instruction and refresher course for persons engaged in land negotiations to be held by Fish and Wildlife Service,

subject to Executive Council approval.

Accepted resignation of W. J. Youngerman effective May 25.

Transferred Roy Reed from position of District Parks Supervisor to Central Shops position.

Empowered Director to employ an additional Fisheries Biologist with a salary classification of Biologist II.

Empowered Director to employ three Game Biologists with salary classification of Biologist II.

Granted permit to hold regatta on Blackhawk Lake at Lake View.

Granted non-commercial permit for construction of a ball park at Orleans Hatchery.

Granted construction permit to Emil Joens of Jefferson for non-

commercial boating ramp on West Okoboji Lake.

Granted permit to hold Boy Scout Camporee at Red Haw Hill on June 8 and 9.

Authorized \$1,500 improvement on Skunk River road at Oakland Mills.

Declined option on 39 acres at Klum Lake in Louisa County.

Approved acquisition of 6½ acres at Rice Lake in Worth County from Pittman-Robertson funds.

Approved Jemmerson Slough project in Dickinson County from Pittman-Robertson funds.

Approved Four Mile Lake project in Emmet County from Pittman-Robertson funds.

Meeting adjourned.

How Rich Will We Be?

By Tom Wallace

Editor, The Louisville Times and Past National President Izaak Walton League of America

The question asked by J. N. Darling, famous cartoonist and conservationist, in the cartoon published with this article deserves more widespread and serious consideration than, perhaps, it will receive.

Millions, scores of millions, more than 100,000,000 people in the United States, have so little information about natural resources that they fondly imagine that these of the United States are inexhaustible.

That is far from being true and while we consider, gayly or glumly, according to our political beliefs or the degree of our buoyancy, giving billions to needy countries, there is too little consideration of the problem of where we shall get, regularly, and eternally, the means to provide for the needs of others and for ourselves.

All human life, all human enterprises, the economic, cultural and military strength of the nation, depends fundamentally, and entirely, upon natural resources.

The United States is richer in money than it was a generation ago, three or four or more generations ago; immensely richer than it was when its resources hardly had been scratched, but it is not safely and indestructibly rich. It has before it choice between a more vigorous movement to correct abuses of soil and water and loss of its financial strength.

Mr. Darling mentions forests and soil and water. The resource last mentioned has been called by Kenneth Reid, Executive Secretary of the Izaak Walton League of America, the stepchild of conservation.

Not many people know anything about water as a natural resource, and how it has been mistreated and still is mistreated. Nearly everyone knows a little—not much—about forests and farm lands, but nearly everyone omits thinking about water. People com-

placently eat shellfish without knowing that some of our ocean estuaries, scenes of great enterprises, are being ruined by pollution.

The spectacle of farmers hauling water from the deeper holes in creeks which have stopped running because of drouth excites comment. People say the farmer should arrange for water storage, and he should do that, but creeks and springs which flowed all of the year when the pioneers explored the continent no longer are dependable because the water ta-

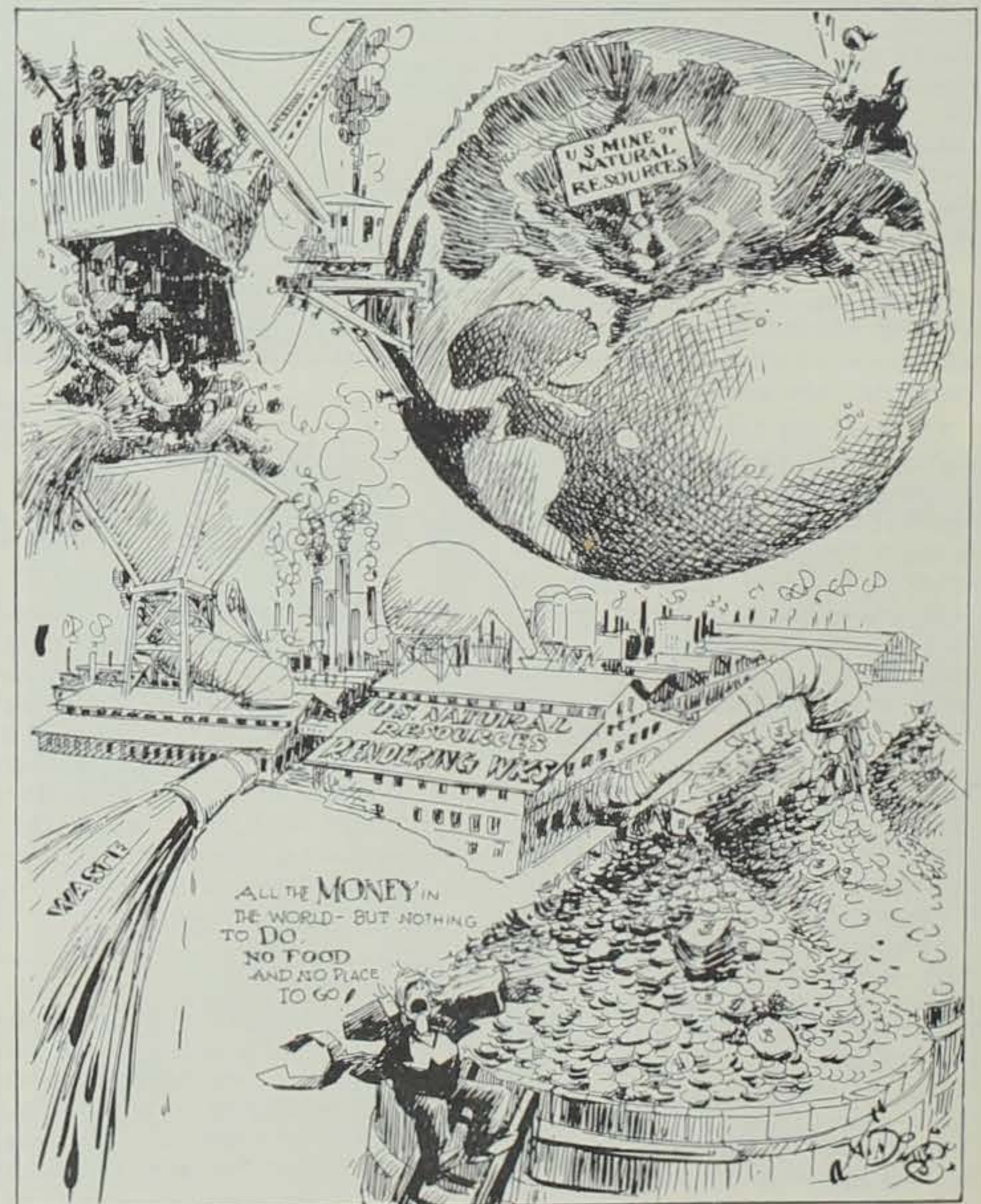
ble has descended. In almost any group of 100 persons, if the group is not made up of scientists or conservationists, mention of the water table mystifies more than half of the group; more than fifty persons wonder if a new mechanical gadget is being mentioned.

Yet the course of every individual who operates a farm affects in some degree the water table—the depth at which ground water is available. Not many agricultural agents, graduated from colleges to become guides of farmers, pay much attention to water pollution or water depletion.

Not many people know that because land is abused high dams built to irrigate land, to create electric power, to control floods, will become useless for the purposes for which they are created unless the problem of siltation is controlled. The local board of trade, in any town surrounded by eroded hills and living upon the fertile soil of stream valleys, is ready to whoop for the high dams on which many millions of dollars will be spent, entirely ignoring the fact that the dam that will submerge 1,000 miles of fertile valley soil will be useless within less than a century because of the silt that will fill the reservoir.

Mr. Darling, the cartoonist, is

(Continued on page 44)



How Rich Will We Be When We Have Converted All Our Forests, All Our Soil, All Our Water Resources And Our Minerals Into Cash?

WHERE AND WHEN TO WET A HOOK YOU CAN CATCH 'EM WHEN THEY'RE FEEDING

By Robert Cleary

Iowa State College

Any fisherman from eight to eighty knows that fish bite better at certain times of the day than at others. The angler in the "know" has found that by and large more stringers will be filled early in the morning or in the evening than during the middle of the day.

Studies being made by biologists of the Iowa Cooperative Fishery Research Unit throw some light on the daily movements of fish. While these studies are still in their infancy, some of the information obtained may be of special interest to sportsmen.

Yellow pikeperch (walleyes) are most active during the twilight hours of sunrise and sunset. Yellow bass generally run in the deeper waters on the "swing shift." Yellow perch like to see what they are eating and quit moving just before sunset. These behavior patterns were verified during a study of the pikeperch in Clear Lake.

Special gillnets with several sizes of mesh were used to catch fish of all kinds and sizes. The nets were set throughout the day and night, and were "run" at two-hour intervals. During the extremely hot weather the nets were checked every hour to keep the fish from dying of over-exertion in the warm water. The fish were released from the net and returned to the water in good condition. A few scales were taken from each fish to determine its age, and each fish was measured to find how fast it grew.

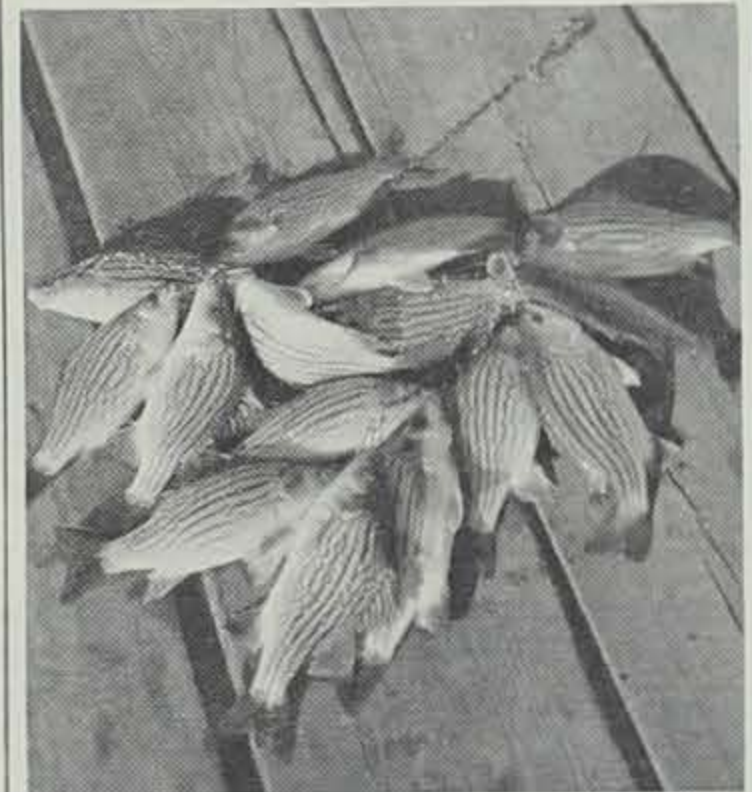
The yellow perch were most abundant in the deeper water. They were most active from noon

to 2 p.m., and again from 4 to 6 p.m. About dark they almost completely disappeared from the nets. In fact one could almost tell the time of day by the number of perch in the net. It was also noted that in water 10 to 15 feet deep, the perch seemed to run close to the bottom and were caught only in the lower 12 inches of the net.

Yellow bass were more inclined to move at night than their neighbors. They were most active from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., and from 2 to 4 p.m., and seemed to prefer the deep water. (Just a tip. During the afternoon in late August, try fishing in the small open pockets in the bullrushes where the water is about 6 to 8 feet deep.)

As with the perch, bullheads usually run close to the bottom. The bullheads, however, are more active from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

* * * * *



Clear Lake's yellow bass are most active in their movements from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., and from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Jim Sherman Photo.



Everyone from granddad down to the kids can catch a mess of bullheads in Five Island Lake. Even these willow stick and bent pin boys can catch their share.

There was also an indication that they come into shallow water early in the morning. The pikeperch (walleyes) were consistent in their movements. They were most active just before and after sunset and sunrise. It was evident that this movement was governed by the amount of light, and not the time of day as these peaks of activity shifted with the twilight and dawn of the shortening days in the latter part of August.

It was also noted that the young pikeperch did not hang around with their older brothers. Instead the young were found in shallow water and the bigger ones in deeper water. The pikeperch feeds where he can be the "bully of the block" and beat up (and eat up) the smaller fish in his territory. However, if he strays too far out of his own block he may take a beating from a larger fish.

Pikeperch like the weed beds. Most of their feeding is done along the edges of the weed beds, or they may lie in ambush in the bullrushes with their eyes fixed on the open-water pockets between the bullrushes. Then when a "meal" gets out in the open where it cannot get away into the bullrushes—one satisfied pikeperch. Unless the "meal" had a hook in it.

The netting studies also showed that the pikeperch follow the direction of the wind and favor choppy water, provided that the water is deep enough to prevent the bottom from being stirred up.

Next summer, further studies will be carried out. With more data, fishing may become less trial and error—if the fish will cooperate. Incidentally, these studies should particularly help the fellow who can only get out once in a while, and can't waste time trying to outguess the sometimes unreliable members of the finny tribe.

Thirty years ago the ammunition industry made 14,000 different kinds of shotshells. Now it makes 127.

Five Island Hot

Probably no lake in the midwest has furnished more entertainment for bullhead fishermen than Five Island the last couple of weeks. A drive up the east side of the lake any Sunday or almost any evening will show scores of fishing parties along the shorelines.

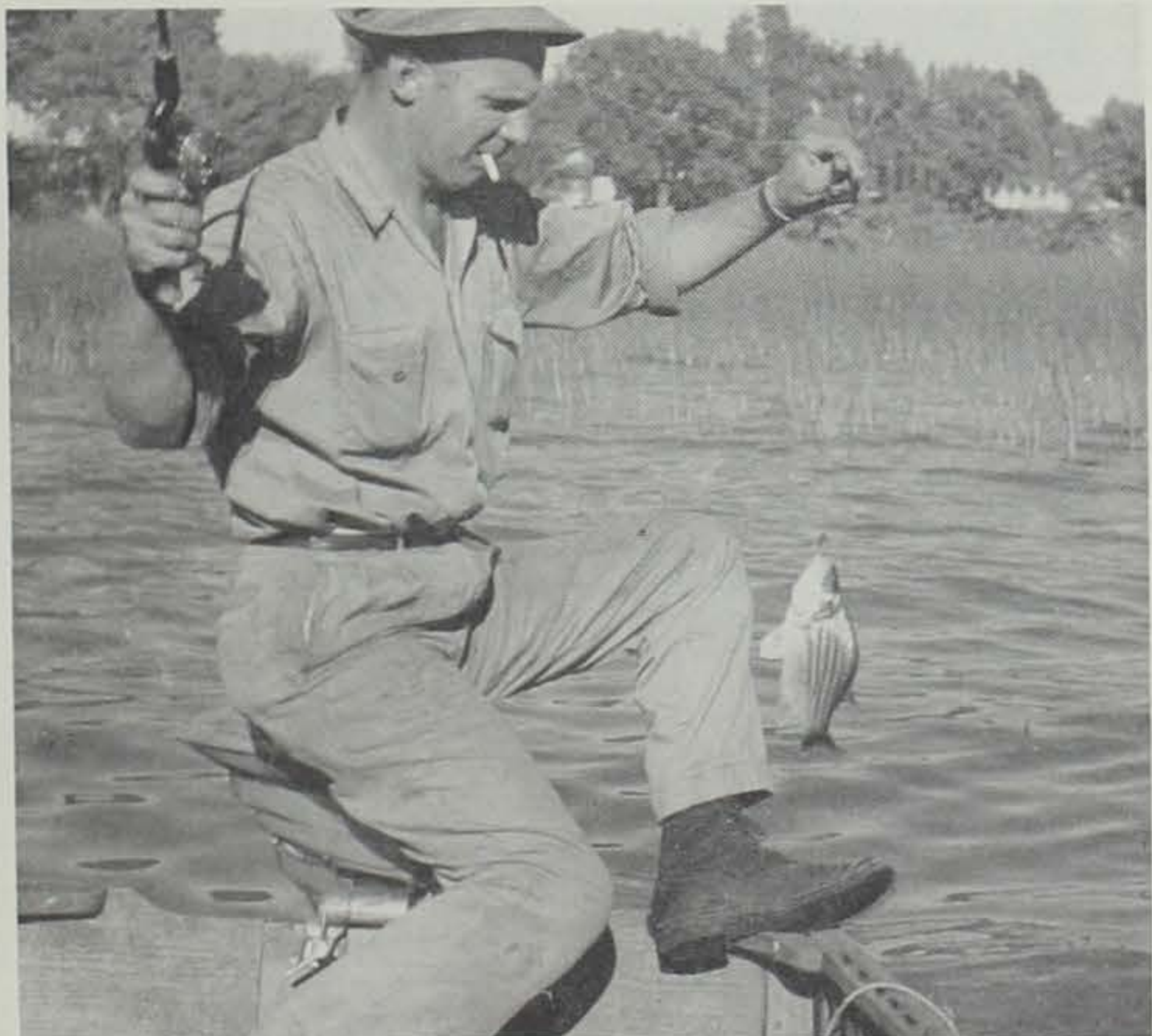
Our lake wouldn't be the popular bullhead lake it is if it weren't easy to catch fish in it. Nearly anyone, from granddad down to junior, can catch a mess of bullheads with a little "know how" and a little luck. The site you choose to fish from isn't especially important. One spot is just about as good as another and you don't need to bother with a boat. The bait you need, night crawlers, is easy to get rainy days and even a willow stick will pinch hit for a rod. No expert casting is required, as bullheads can be caught within a few yards of shore as well as a hundred feet out.

There is no limit on the size or number of bullheads you can keep this year. The only legal requirement is a fishing license and you don't need that if you're under 16. Five Island Lake bullheads are considered the finest eating of all and if you haven't enjoyed a mess this spring you've missed a delicacy.

Biggest complaint against the local bullhead population has been the small size of the fish. There are many six inchers but the last week to ten days more larger bullheads have been showing up. These have been ten to eleven inches long, an ideal size, although no better eating than the smaller bullheads.

Most visiting fishermen are not troubled by the small size. If only the small ones are biting they catch enough of them to make a meal.

—Emmetsburg Democrat



One tip for the yellow bass fisherman on Clear Lake—Try fishing in small open pockets in the bullrushes where the water is six to eight feet deep. A word to the wise is sufficient. Jim Sherman Photo.

HOBNOBBING WITH THE SPORTSMEN

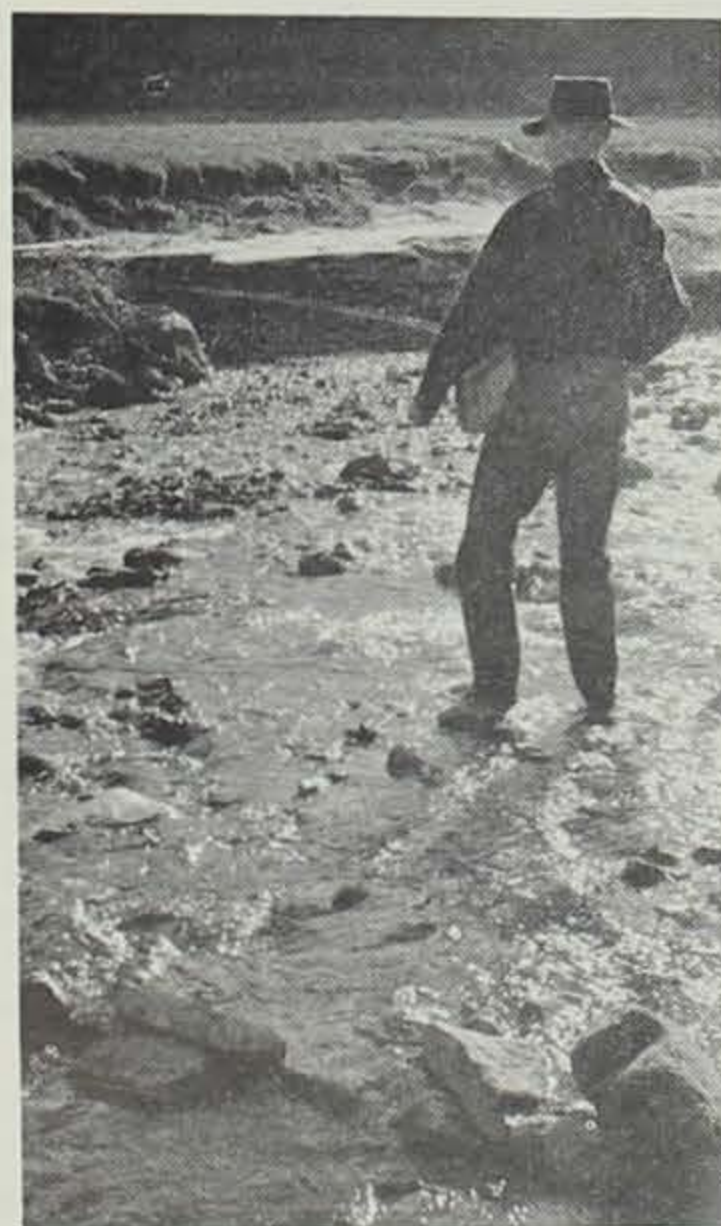
My wife thinks I'm crazy for getting up in the morning—she calls it the middle of the night. I'm not crazy, but if you have to be crazy to fish, then I want to be crazy!

Say brother, did you ever go fishing early in the morning? Did you ever sneak up to a creek bank sorta like the sun does when he comes over the eastern horizon? And did you see the rainbow and the German brown feeding in the shallow water? Say, that's great!

The alarm goes off at four bells, you reach over to shut it off before everybody in the house is awake. Then you crawl out of bed and put your clothes on in a hurry, gather up your tackle, worms and license and crawl into the car by flashlight. The moon just closed up and the sun is not out yet. That in-between spell when it is neither light nor dark, cold or hot, but you're happy because it's fishing time. Then you call for your pal and he's waiting for you, even got a hot cup of java waiting. You drink it in a hurry and hustle out to the car and out to the creek.

You scan the meadow between you and the creek, green lucious grass, cattle grazing; they look up in wonderment. What's this fellow doing so early in the morning? Here's a second fellow, too. You run across the meadow, and every time your boot lifts, the morning dew spreads ahead of you like a giant silver duster. It's beautiful out. The sun is just coming over the bank.

Rod assembled, reel mounted, line threaded, you search for a suitable hook. You tie it on and then put on a nice juicy worm—I mean a fly! The fresh morning air



"And now, pal, that I have brought you to the creek at sunrise, I'll leave the rest to you." Jim Sherman Photo.

fills your nostrils and you inhale, it seems, a barrel of the gorgeous aroma. Your line is in the water—at last you're fishing!

And now, pal, that I've brought you to the creek, I'll leave the rest to you.

—Bellevue Leader

CONSERVATION

During the past few days we have seen one film emphasizing the need for conservation of water and read several articles dealing with the same subject. Both made us wonder at the change that is coming over America or perhaps we should say, is being forced upon America.

There was a time not very long ago that water was looked upon as an inexhaustible resource, a gift which nature kept renewing over and over again in never ending beneficence. That belief is slowly dying because the cold hard fact is that the water is slowly, and in some places not so slowly, disappearing.

Right here in our own county, within the lives of everyone of high school age or older, the water level has dropped materially. Today's wells go many times further into the earth in search of water than wells did 25 or 50 years ago. The wealth of water which made this area the garden spot of the country is slowly disappearing. It will not disappear entirely, because luckily, man has become aroused to the danger in time to save the situation in Iowa and most of the rest of the country.

But this has not always been the case. Farms are being abandoned in some of the richest areas of California because the water level has sunk to such a level that it can no longer be pumped profitably or has disappeared altogether. Artesian wells are growing fewer and fewer throughout the country and streams having been straightened, are carrying off the rainfall faster and faster, giving it no time to sink in and rebuild the substrata water levels.

But the waste is being slowed and in time may be checked entirely and water levels brought up again. However, the process is slow and expensive, almost as expensive as the man-made processes by which the water has gone to waste for so many years. Man has been taught an expensive lesson, a lesson which has been learned so slowly that many sections of the world have degenerated from fertile spots to deserts, but he is learning and happily for this country, in time to save most of its remaining natural resources. The lesson is that the balance in nature must not be destroyed, if man is to prosper and enjoy pleasant living conditions.

The lessons of conservation in

THE FISHERMAN'S LAMENT



Jim Sherman Photo.

Backward, turn backward, oh time in your flight;
Please make 'em bite again for tonight.
I've sat on this boulder for sixteen long hours,
And baited with crawfish and doughballs and flowers,
And minnows and rye bread and liver and bees,
And grasshoppers, fishworms and limburger cheese.
And never a nibble—a jerk on the line—
Of sunfish or sucker I've seen not a sign:
My arms are fried brown and my nose is burnt red,
My seat is worn thin and my legs are both dead.
My stomach is puckered, tied up in a knot,
And yearns for a waffle or something else hot.
I'm sore and I'm dirty and thirsty and stiff;
I've lost my tobacco and ain't had a whiff.
And I've got the smallpox, the measles or pip;
I'm all broken up on my shins and my hip.
It's fourteen long hours by the road to my shack—
To cold cream—to comfort—to rest and a snack.
Oh, backward, I guess, is the way I shall turn;
They don't want to bite and I don't give a darn'.
For I have been fishing—I've had a good day;
Now all that I want is some grub and the "hay."
—Pennsylvania Angler

general are being brought home to the people of North America in expensive and sometimes tragic fashion in these times. The drains created by the war and the increasing demands of more and more people existing on an ever climbing standard of living have brought the western world to within seeing distance of the end of many of its natural resources. The picture of what lies beyond the exhaustion of these resources is a frightening scene and one which the people have at last been aroused to fight against. Much of the natural wealth of this country is gone—some of the rest will go but the major portion of that which is left can yet be saved.

—Atlantic News-Telegraph

WET BOOTS

Maybe some of our readers have tried this, but on the outside chance that many have not, we pass on to you our method of drying out quickly a water-soaked hip boot.

At this time of the year, when the home heating system operates on a limited basis, the best bet we know of is to use an electric light bulb. It takes a small one, as we discovered by trial and error, finally hitting on a tiny, seven and one-half watt job. A 25 or 40 watt bulb is much too large and may damage the boot.

Just suspend the bulb down inside, so that it touches no part

of the boot, and in about 30 minutes you have a boot that is bone dry. An hour at the most, for even the wettest boot.

A wet boot is no source of comfort. We like ours absolutely dry when we start out. Try this little kink the next time you have the misfortune to get a boot full of water, fishing or duck hunting. It will work.

—Davenport Democrat

HOW RICH . . .

(Continued from page 42)

much more of a statesman than the United States Senator who has some friends who wish to exploit a virgin forest which the federal government has been protecting. He is more of a patriot than the senator who wants to get money from the federal treasury spent on a series of dams which aren't really needed now and which may be entirely filled with sand, clay, gravel, and trash before the senator's grandson is graduated from college.

How rich will we be when we have converted all our forests, all our soil, all our water resources and our minerals into cash? Ask King Midas—he found out!

In a normal year close to 69,000,000 pounds of wild rabbit are harvested in the United States.

Keep your shirt pockets buttoned when fishing, hunting, trapping or hiking. Open pockets cause the loss of many small but valuable articles of needed equipment.

WALLEYE . . .

(Continued from page 41)

blotch usually is distinct on the membrane of the dorsal spines.

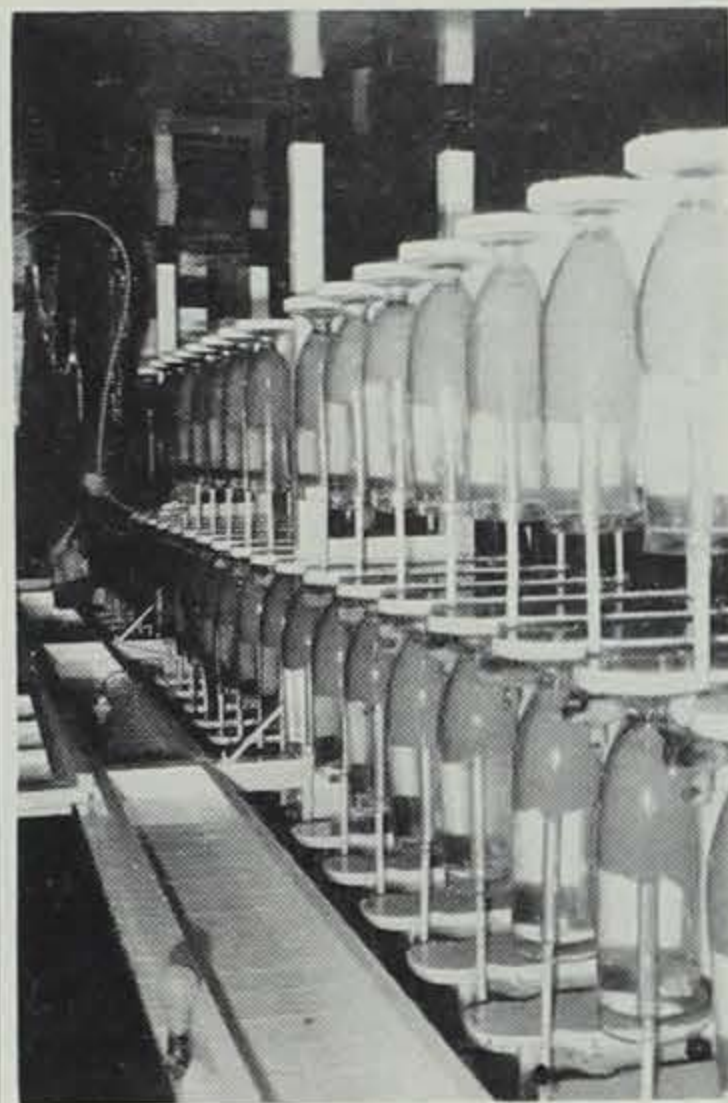
The walleye is easily distinguished from the pickerel, pike or muskellunge because it has both a front and rear dorsal while the members of the pike family have but one dorsal fin.

The walleye is a heavy nocturnal feeder, and as night approaches it will leave the deeper holes to feed around the shallows, particularly sand or gravel bars and the flats below dams or rapids.

Originally, the walleye was found through eastern Canada to Alberta, and from Minnesota southward through the Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes basin. Because the walleye is so easily propagated by artificial methods, transplanting has brought this fine fish to nearly every state in the Union, with the exception of the far west and extreme south.

In lakes walleyes prefer moderately deep, clear waters with rock, gravel or sandy bottoms. In streams usually the best fishing will be found in those deeper holes where the swifter currents bring in food, or under falls and below rapids, as well as along reefs, ledges or along rocky shorelines.

The world's record walleye was taken by Patrick E. Noon, using rod and reel, at Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, on May 26, 1943,



The walleyed pike is a prolific spawner, some large females producing as many as 300,000 eggs. Here is a series of battery jars at the Spirit Lake Hatchery, each containing some 150,000 eggs.

and weighed 22 pounds, 4 ounces. The country over, the average weight will approximate 2 to 5 pounds, but in certain sections, because of more favorable conditions, the average will run higher. In Iowa's Storm Lake walleyes weighing 12 pounds and more are not uncommon.

Nearly anything that moves or flashes will attract the walleye,



From 70 to 80 million pike are reared in the hatcheries at Clear and Spirit lakes each year. Here a hatcheryman is stripping eggs from a walleyed pike. Jim Sherman Photo.

Wardens Tales

Shop Talk From the Field

Conservation Officer Ralph Lemke, in charge of Emmet County, writes: "There is an elderly man who lives in Estherville about a block from the Des Moines River. He is totally blind. He has had a wire stretched from his back door down to a deep hole in the river. He fishes nearly every day all summer and fall. He generally fishes for catfish and pike for several hours before he tries for carp. Then he uses a small hook and baits it with raw potatoes or angle worms. He catches a lot of all kinds of fish."

Harry Rector, conservation officer in charge of Tama and Benton counties, writes: "When I received the carp questionnaire, I noted the question — What kind of tackle do your carp fishermen use? It stumped me for a while. I have seen about everything in use, buggy whips, pool cues, deep sea outfits, to mention only a few of the unusual ones. The most interesting tackle layout, however, was in use by a couple of boys. They had laths about the size of a yardstick for poles and they had small staples driven into the boards for guides. They had large wooden spools for reels, the handles of which were ten penny nails. I stopped for a visit and one of the youngsters was landing a carp. When I asked them, 'How's fishing?', they said, 'Boy oh boy, it's really good.'"

thus any small aquatic animal such as minnows of all kinds, frogs, crawfish, worms, etc., fall prey to these busy jaws.

Nearly any active underwater plug, particularly one designed to go deeper than average, which has a good wiggle at slow retrieve, will produce. In weedy territory, spoons and weedless pork-rind lures are better, while surface plugs will produce in late evening. After dark, any diving plug with a violent motion will bring in more walleyes than those with a fluid motion. Feathered minnows, small spoons, spinner combinations, large flies and bass plugs are favored by the fly fishermen.

It may take considerable scouting around to locate "old marble eye"—but, once you find the spot which rates the walleye's favor for that particular day, you have uncovered a bonanza.

It is conceded that a lake walleye does not have the fight of a stream walleye which battles current nearly every second of its life. However, a walleye from any part of the country is consistently desired as a table fish more than the other species found in the same waters.—Heddon Fish Flashes.

Kenard Baer, in charge of Howard and Chickasaw counties, writes: "A few years ago while seining rough fish at Spillville, we had a large group of spectators. The older people were really quite put out when they found out that we were removing carp as well as other rough fish. Taking out quillbacks was okay because they didn't bite on a hook very well anyway. These people wanted the carp left in to provide sport fishing as well as food.

"Another time near Fort Atkinson we made a heavy haul of carp and quillback and we had the net staked out about 15 feet from shore in three feet of water in order to sort out the game fish. We had a big crowd of spectators that were lined up on the bank and they were ready to grab any fish that came their way. Quite often a carp would speed out of the net up to the bank and one of the spectators would grab him. One big old grandpa carp came swimming towards shore and a woman dressed in her Sunday best clothes made a dash right out into the water, grabbed the large carp in her arms, and made for the bank. You can well imagine the mess the mud and water made of her good shoes, hose, and dress. At other times I've seen people who had a big carp hooked they couldn't land. They would call for help and get assistance from some fully dressed fellow fisherman who would wade out into the water and assist by shoing the catch ashore."

Dave Fisher, in charge of Des Moines and Henry counties, writes: "More and more women are taking an interest in carp fishing. I was checking at Oakland Mills one evening and ran into a man with his wife fishing just below the dam. I don't know why it is that the women have all the luck when they're fishing with their man but while I stood there the Mrs. hooked and, after a while of a fight, landed a big carp, about 11 pounds. The Mr. sat there looking glumly ahead, biting a little harder on his pipe stem and not saying very much. In a couple of minutes she hooked another carp of about four pounds. The lord of the manor had nary a nibble. The lady did all right with her four pounder until she had it a foot or two out of the water, lying in the rocks. There it was flopping like mad and finally shook the hook. The proud fisherwoman said to her husband, 'We don't want to keep the small ones, do we, Ben?' He, thinking she was joking and perhaps ribbing him a little, said, 'No, we don't want to keep the small ones.' With that remark she gave the flopping fish a kick back into the river. The husband, too startled to talk, just sat there with his mouth wide open and his eyes bugged out watching the river where the fish disappeared."



A multitude of different fishing rigs are used by carp fishermen, but a thumbnail sized doughball made of cornmeal or moistened bread is the favorite bait of the majority.

CARP PROBLEM . . .

(Continued from page 41)

of the fact that a noisy minority loudly proclaim to all who will listen, "I wouldn't eat a carp."

The six officers who believed that the majority of their anglers do not utilize carp caught for food stated that carp were caught for sport or that carp were caught, cut up, and used for chunk bait for catfish.

The heaviest carp fishing is in the vicinity of the larger cities.

In the following paragraphs various conservation officers give carp tips.

Conservation Officer Lloyd Huff of Des Moines makes the following comment: "Doughball is made from cornmeal and flour, often flavored with different types of flavoring such as vanilla, anise, etc. Fishermen fish from the bridges considerably, using Calcutta poles, salt water reels, and a number 1 or 2/0 hook. Carp fishing is a fast sport because the fisherman must be alert and ready to set his hook, otherwise the carp is an expert bait thief. They are good fighters and pound for pound will outclass most other fish in this respect. Carp are not necessarily the scavenger fish that they are said to be. They are more particular in their food habits than a catfish. They will not usually tackle the offensive-flavored baits used for cat-fishing."

Les Pike, officer at Cedar Rapids, writes: "My fishermen use a Calcutta pole five to six feet in length, with home-made reel seat and guides plus a salt water reel. Fishing off bridges they use a 25-pound test line to hoist the fish up the elevator and over the rail. Small Sprote or Kirby hooks are generally used. Use a small bait, just enough to cover the hook. A good trick is to tie a piece of match stick in the line about six inches above the hook, using a sinker with a hole through it. When the carp bites the line runs free and the fish does not feel the weight of the sinker. Carp fishing pro-

vides the biggest single outdoor recreation for the working people here in Cedar Rapids. It's free and above all it's available for the river runs right through the center of town. Not only that but they catch fish. Even though carp may not be as pretty as a trout, these fishermen want to get outside after being in a factory all day. I've heard a thousand times while checking licenses, 'Why for you wanta get rid of carp?'"

Sam Hyde, Jefferson: "There are probably more people fish for carp than for any other fish. They have a great amount of sport out of it. In fact, most of the people that fish for catfish fish for carp some time during the day when they are out."

Dave Fisher, Burlington: "Fishing for carp seems to be on the increase each year and this is one sport where the sportsman does not have much money invested in his equipment. The carp will put some of our 'game fighting fish' to shame once he is hooked."

Kenny Baer, Cresco: "The Bohemians and Germans are especially interested in carp fishing. I have seen a fisherman with a three-pound bass trade it for a carp of five pounds and so on. There is probably no need to mention it but it's darned important in preparing carp for the table to remove the dark red streak or mud vein along the fish's side before cooking. I have two excellent recipes for pickling fish."

Walt Harvey, officer at Marshalltown, where John Moehrl puts on an annual carp catching contest, writes: "The carp beginner should fish with a dyed-in-the-wool carp fisherman and practice in known carp waters. Once the beginner has gained the technique, carp are not too difficult to catch. I have, however, many times seen good fishermen get red faces as they missed bite after bite while a regular carp fisherman flipped them out on the bank with regularity. Carp fishing interest is increasing each year, both among the old and the young, and especially among women."

Wes Ashby, Oxford: "I have two ladies in Iowa City who fish carp constantly and consistently take large and numerous carp. They probably could be called experts. Their home-made bait is whole wheat bread, oil of cinnamon, and sweetening."

Officer Harker, Maquoketa: "Carp are generally recognized as having as much real fight as any other fish. They won't break water very often but it takes a long time to tire them out. Like all fishing, the thrill of catching a big one is always foremost in the angler's mind and the big ones are not uncommon. Try fishing the calm waters behind a driftwood pile for lunkers. I haven't had as much carp fishing on the Maquoketa River this spring as normal because the catfishing has been so good but, nevertheless, there

are some that fish only for carp."

Gene Goeders, Manson: "A little sugar or anise oil added to doughball seems to have a fatal attraction for carp. Whole wheat bread seems preferable to white bread for dough bait."

Officer Berkley, Earlham: "Most fishermen make the mistake of using too large a hook and too large a sinker. Most carp are found directly below dams and in the river proper in slow, deep water, especially around drifts. Rye bread is a good bait, using all but the crust. Dampen with water and work in the hands until a tough dough is prepared. Sour carp meat might be mentioned as being good catfish bait. Broiled carp is not bad eating. Pickled carp is good. Smoked carp is delicious."

Earl Scherf, Independence: "Carp provides sport equal to any game fish. No hard jerking to set the hook. His mouth is tender. The fish must be played for some time to allow him to tire, especially if it is a big one."

Floyd Rokenbrodt, Humboldt: "Find quiet water, not too large bait. Use no sinker; watch line and give a light, quick, jerk when fish starts to make steady run. When it comes to fight they are much like bass but will tire sooner."

Conservation Officer McMahon, Stuart: "They are not a stupid fish and are worthy of skillful angling. The number of carp fishermen is increasing steadily from one year to the next. There are various reasons. Disappointment with other fishing is one. The accidental catching of a big carp sets a fisherman off, a dawning appreciation of the carp's ability as a fighter and realization by many that carp is really edible."

Ecil Benson, Fort Madison: "Use small baits, small hooks, and care in landing the fish so the hook will not tear loose. I contacted

several fishermen a week ago Sunday on the Skunk River with carp that weighed up to ten pounds. One of the anglers had been using a fly rod until he hooked a good one and it tore his rod up for him."

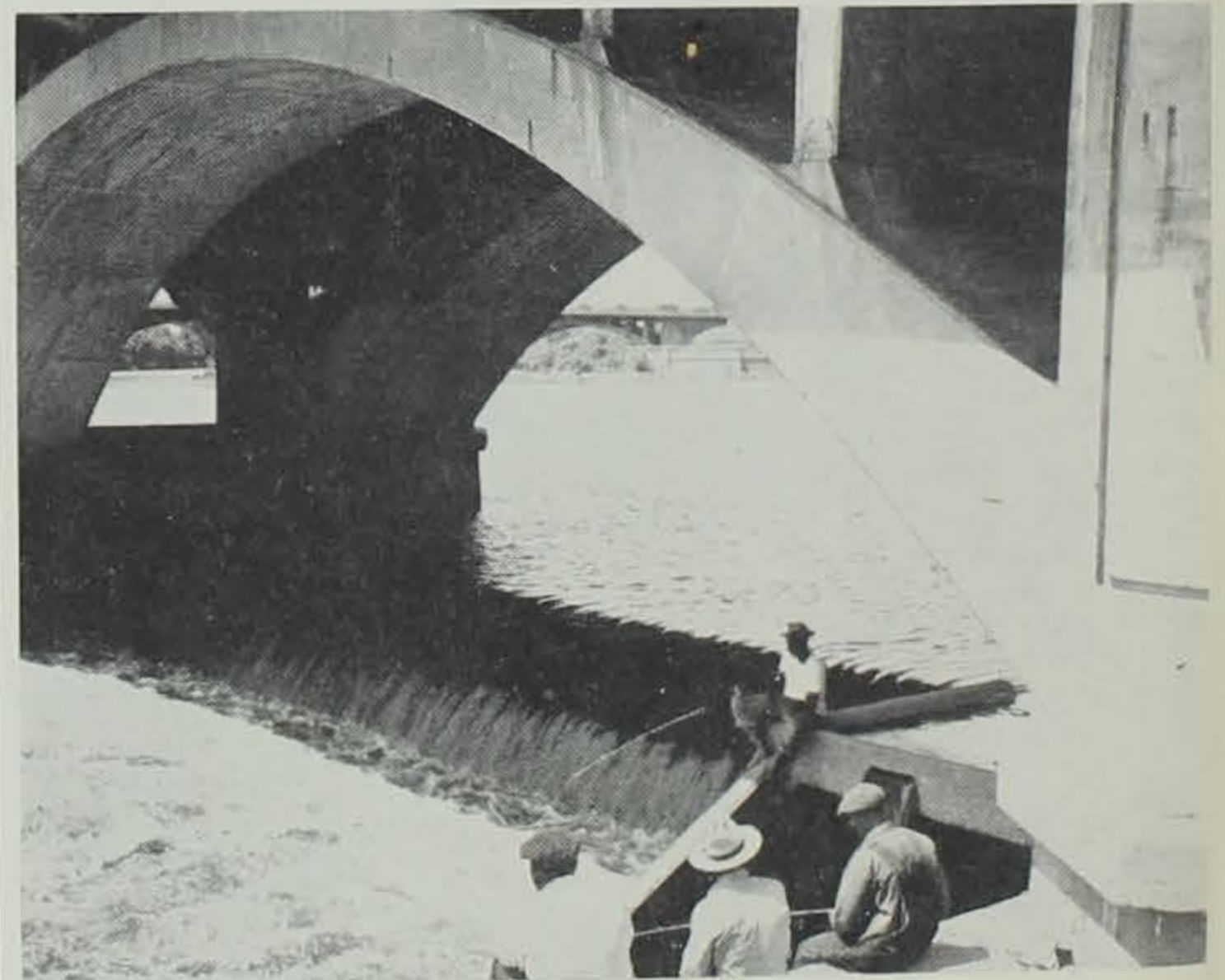
Jerry Kelley, Lake View: "In lake fishing a quiet day is ideal for carp. Do not jerk the line hard when you get a bite. A carp's mouth is easy to tear and you lose the fish. Some of our best fishermen do a lot of carp fishing with fly rods. I've tried it myself. It's fast sport. You get ahold of a honey once in a while that will make you wish you'd left your good fly rod at home. Some people laugh at carp for food but if they are prepared in the right manner they can be a tasty dish."

Charlie Adamson, Davenport: "Ninety-five per cent of the commercial fishermen on the Mississippi would rather eat carp than any fish they catch. Carp prepared smoked or pickled are very popular. Commercial fishermen make more money on carp than any other fish they catch in the river. For this reason, if for no other, they always have a good word for him."

Jerry Jauron, Earling: "Fishermen along the Missouri use a light cane pole, line, and medium sized hooks with float. They wade out into the willow bats and still fish. This has proved very successful in this area. Water does not have to be very deep."

Ward Garrett, Council Bluffs: "Any water that contains carp in any number, especially shallow lakes and sloughs, will be roily constantly while the carp are working in the shallows. They can be located by watching the condition of the water."

Ken Madden, Clinton: "Fish the deep waters in out of the current in the daytime; and the sandbars at night. Spit on the bait and say



Heaviest carp fishing is in the vicinity of the larger cities. Here a group of anglers are fishing carp at the Scott Street Dam in Des Moines.



Below power dams is a favorite location for carp fishermen. Each dam has its carp fishing faithful who return day after day throughout the summer. Jim Sherman Photo.

a few words in Chinese. Would suggest a novice learn the correct way to clean and score carp to remove bones."

Jim Gregory, Sheldon: "Carp are found in slow flowing, sluggish water. They have a tender mouth the hook will tear easily. Carp have a tendency to suck at bait. If you pull on the line too soon you are not apt to hook your fish; if too late, the bait is gone."

Floyd Morley, Forest City: "Early in the spring carp take worms best, but as soon as the water warms up I think dough made of cornmeal and a little salt will take more carp than any other bait all summer. Carp are usually wild. Do not tramp up and down the bank or kick the bottom of the boat. Sometimes they will take the bait and run. Other times they will pull it a short distance and let go. To make doughball, cook fresh cornmeal, adding the meal to lightly salted, boiling water until it is rather stiff. Then cook it slowly until a small piece will bounce when thrown on the floor. (Better put the pan to soak if you wanta get along with your wife.)"

Kay Setchell, Eldora: "A hook with the point protruding through the bait seldom brings results. Common white bread moistened to the proper consistency and packed around a treble hook will catch as many carp as the most elaborately prepared doughball. Carp are seasonal in their feeding. For instance, should a mulberry tree extend over the water, when the fruit ripens and falls, a mulberry on the hook is the only real killer at that time in that locality. More and more annual carp contests are springing up."

Earl Saxton, Hampton: "Fishermen around here use mostly doughball with hundreds of recipes (each one the best). A cane pole, good strong line, with a small hook if using doughball. Carp fishing furnishes a lot of sport, considerable food, and helps to keep

carp populations down. If carp populations do not get too high they are not too undesirable in our streams but they should be kept in balance if possible."

Glen Yates, Osage: "Carp are very strong. They are good fighters. They are the most common fish in our streams and if properly cleaned the flesh is quite good. The best way for cleaning and taking care of the carp is to bleed the fish while still alive by cutting its throat. Then skin and fillet. Soak the fillets in salt water over night. Then freshen them in fresh water. When cooked you will have a very good tasting fish. Most fishermen remove the dark flesh along the lateral line."

Claude Alexander, West Union: "Most carp fishermen in this area claim that carp caught from the cool, clean streams have firm, solid meat and are excellent eating. This seems to be especially true in the spring. Smaller carp, two to three pounds, are preferred for eating. A carp of fair size is a great fighter and will match other more desirable fish for their fighting ability. Many fishermen take a turn at carp fishing with light tackle chiefly for sport. Several have told me that an eight or ten pound carp on a fly rod is a half-hour battle for the most expert."

Elden Stempel, Gravity: "According to carp fishermen, carp are more sensitive to the angler's presence than are channel catfish. Fishermen suggest sitting quietly while carping. Once hooked the fish must be handled carefully, as the hooks tear out easily. Carp are frequently heard or seen jumping in the Nodaway and most anglers believe the carp is hard to catch."

Stubb Severson, Ruthven: "Use small baits and hooks, very light sinker. Floats may be used but the hook should be on the bottom. Fishing with doughball the first carp in a pool is the hardest to catch. After a few are caught

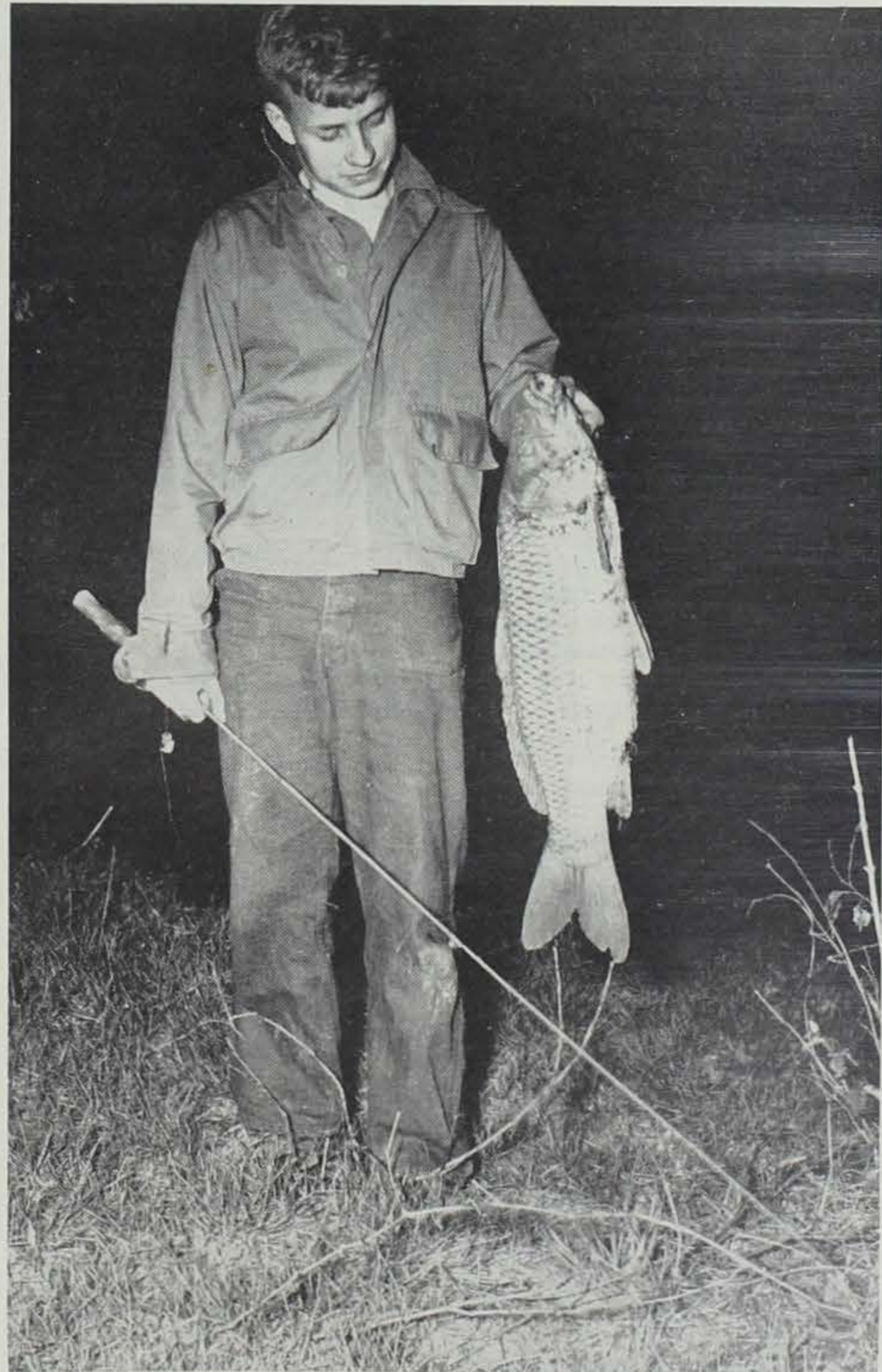
they seem to bite faster and faster, if the angler will place his baited hook in the same spot. I believe the reason for this is that when a carp is hooked he spits out the bait and other carp start feeding on the pieces. Carp are a school fish and when the school is located there is usually plenty of action. One of the best and simplest doughballs can be made as follows: Equal parts of yellow cornmeal and flour mixed together dry. Add enough boiling water to moisten. Stir well, being careful not to add too much water, as the bait will be sticky. Prepared correctly it will stay on a hook and will catch carp."

Waldo Johnson, Grinnell: "Carp generally take bait slowly by sucking it into their mouths and by moving slowly at first until they feel the hook. Don't hurry them too much. Jumping and rolling carp rarely bite. If they are indulging in these antics, go home and try them when they are quiet. Even relatively small bayous may produce three to five pound carp."

However, remember when fishing bayous in summer that if the weather is hot and the water low carp will taste muddy. River carp tend to be firmer fleshed and better to eat than pond or bayou carp."

Vern Shaffer, Murray: "Probably more fishermen would angle for carp if they got wise to the excellent sport of catching them. Most fishermen in this area are strictly bullhead and catfish anglers and have not as yet got into the sport of carp fishing. The trend is toward more carp fishing, however."

Warren Wilson, Boone: "Carp aren't always easily caught. It requires patience and skill and often good catfishermen can't catch carp because of the difference in bites and runs the carp makes. You often hear them say 'It's the turtles biting.' Every year more people are fishing for carp as a substitute for other fish. Smoking and pickling are increasing the popularity of carp for food. Each year more people are using sour carp as chunk bait for catfish."



"It was a tough fight, Ma, but I won." This familiar breathless phrase of the prize ring might well be used by the angler who catches a large carp on light tackle.

The State Conservation Commission condemns the carp because it uses food, oxygen, and living space in our public waters that could and would be utilized by more desirable game fish. Because of its tremendous annual reproduction this is very serious. In some of our fertile Iowa lakes carp may almost completely take over, crowding out bass, crappies, walleye, perch, and other more desirable natives.

Another serious complaint is the carp's feeding habits. Rooting in the mud-bottom lakes they stir up the water, making it cloudy. The sunlight then fails to penetrate the water, plants cease to grow, and vegetation desirable for muskrats, waterfowl, other fish, and winter aeration is completely eliminated. Then the carp has made the lake almost a biological desert.

These two undesirable characteristics of the carp are the main reasons for the State Conservation Commission's aggressive rough fish removal campaign in our lakes and streams. It is a never ending job.

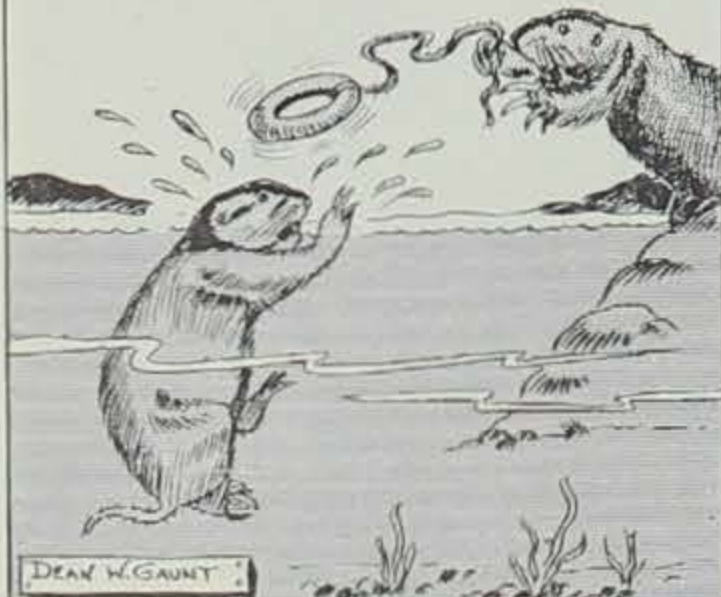
Fish hooks today are made in England, Scotland, Norway, France, Germany, Japan, and America. However, each country seems to produce a different quality hook, but the undisputed quality comes from Norway and England, with America rating next to Japan in junk quality.

The American hook industry contributes a very small portion of the hooks marketed in this country. There is no factory in America producing hook steel that is even close to being as good as the material used by the Norwegians and English.

—Pennsylvania Angler

OUTDOOR ODDITIES
BY
WALT HARVEY

The **POCKET GOPHER** IS ONE OF THE FEW ANIMALS THAT CANNOT SWIM.



CROWS . . .

(Continued from page 41)

can speak and understand, and I will endeavor to prove that this is true.

Now the crow can see at night fully as well as we humans; however the hunter has the advantage in that he can crawl on the ground, and can often see the dark outlines of the birds against the sky. We would get as near as possible to a tree where there would often be hundreds of these birds, and when the first few began silently to take to ghostly wing we would open up with automatics and pump guns. The whole roost would instantly spring to life. The birds would all take wing with a thunderous roar. This beating of wings would only last a few seconds until all the birds were in the air. Then, except for a slight whistling sound made by many thousands of wings, all would be silent.

A strange thing would now happen—a single crow would give three or four sharp caws. This was the leader or king of this great host of seventy to eighty thousand birds calling to lead them away from danger.

I have gone through this experience many times, and never have heard more than one crow call after the birds in the roost had taken wing at night. This proves to me, without a doubt, that one bird ruled over the entire roost.

In order to test this theory of one bird as the leader, I once took my crow call with me when we were going over to the roost for a shoot. After the birds had taken wing on this particular night, I gave a loud series of "Caws" with the call. The result was astonishing and not too pleasant for me, as some forty to fifty crows, perhaps crow policemen, came swooping out of the sky and all but knocked me down. Although none of them actually hit me, they came too close for comfort. They told me in no uncertain terms that I was out of order. This demonstration, no doubt, was a protest against a strange bird calling out at night when only the leader had the right to do so.

When disturbed at night these birds would usually settle on the ground in an open field. This put them on even terms with the hunters, and it was impossible to approach them for any further shooting that night.

This sort of thing went on for years. I thought that these birds had one stupid trait, that is they came back to the same place to roost each winter, regardless of how much or often they were persecuted there. One winter after we had killed some six thousand crows, about the same number we had been killing each year, the crows left at the regular time in the spring to scatter for the nesting season.

It is almost beyond belief, but the next fall when the time came for these birds to concentrate in



Some of the ingredients for a first class sport—crow shooting: shot gun, mounted horned owl, and stuffed crows for decoys. Jim Sherman Photo.

their winter roost, not a single bird came back to the roost, nor has there been a crows' roost in the vicinity of Ottumwa since that time. There is only one conclusion to draw from this strange occurrence. These birds had been instructed by their leader to abandon forever this roost that had been

for ages the winter home of this great, gregarious band of birds.

From the above facts, it would seem to me that crows are not only highly intelligent, but they can plan a course of action and can communicate it to one another months before it is to go into effect.

Plenty of action in a 50 bird crow shoot. Here a pair of crow shooting enthusiasts sack up after a winter day along a good flyway. Jim Sherman Photo.

