

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

Volume 8

JUNE 15, 1949

Number 6

PATTERNS FOR STATE PARKS

LET'S GO FISHING

By F. D. Garrett

When someone suggests "let's go fishing" don't scoff at him and inquire with a sarcastic, "Yeah, where?"

With 15,000 miles of streams, nearly 50,000 acres of lakes, along with nearly 2,000 acres of artificial lakes in Iowa, fishing is one of the most popular forms of outdoor recreation in the state. This is clearly shown in the fact that during the period from July 1, 1947, to June 30, 1948, 324,676 resident licenses and 9,176 non-resident fishing permits were issued for a total of \$655,087.

Iowa was 13th on the list of the 48 states in the number of resident licenses issued, but registered 32nd in number of non-resident licenses.

These figures do not cover the total number of anglers in the state, since women are not required to have a license except when fishing in state owned lakes, and no license is required of a child under 16 years of age.

Iowa's fishing waters are well distributed throughout the length and breadth of the state. It is claimed that there is a fishing place—stream, lake, artificial lake or reservoir—within a few miles of any point in Iowa.

Most important of the inland streams, of course, is the Des Moines River which rises in the Iowa Great Lakes region and flows in a southeasterly direction to join the Mississippi at the southeast point of the state near Keokuk. For several miles from its mouth the Des Moines River forms the boundary line between Iowa and Missouri.

Bass, walleyes, northerns, catfish, crappies and the monstrous flathead, as well as bullheads, provide sport and food for many an angler.

Contributing their bit to making the Des Moines the most out-

(Continued on page 143)



Playgrounds may be built and maintained in the state parks, but "not at the expense of those who would walk a woodland trail or contemplate nature's pillared cathedrals." Lake Macbride State Park. Jim Sherman Photo.

CATFISH CARRY LICENSE PLATES

Several thousand channel catfish cruising along the bottom of the Des Moines, Raccoon and Boone rivers, carry license plates inside their intestinal cavity. The tags were placed there by Harry Harrison, fisheries biologist of the Conservation Commission.

The Commission wants these tags returned to aid in the detailed

studies being made of the private life of this popular fish.

From information secured by the return of the tags, the Commission hopes to learn more of migration, growth and other catfish secrets in order to be able to carry out the best management practices to improve catfishing.

(Continued on page 144)

By Tom Wallace

Editor, Louisville Times; Chairman National Conference on State Parks

(Editor's Note: The following address was presented at the Golden Anniversary of the National Association of Park Executives at Boston, October 6, 1948.)

My friend, Harold S. Wagner, who lives in a library and comes out from time to time to serve as Director-Secretary of the Akron Metropolitan Park District, tells me that dictionaries list many words from sundry languages as being possibly, the origin of the word "park".

He also tells me that "paddock" is derived from "park". In Kentucky a paddock is a place in which you may see the horses before the race. When you have lost your money on a horse which resembled Man-of-War but ran as if he had three legs and you feel like shooting him, the animal is taken to the safety of a box stall, and you see in his place in the paddock the horse which you think will pull you out of the red by winning the next race. At the end of the day business has been good for enterprisers who set up pari-mutuel machines.

There should be an enclosure for persons who don't know how to behave in parks; such persons as those who carve their names or prehistoric pictures in Petrified Forest National Park, or upon the sandstone of Natural Bridge in Kentucky's Natural Bridge State Park. But I should not like to hear such an enclosure called a paddock. I never think of a jack-ass pen as a paddock.

The first Frederick Law Olmsted thought the word "park" should be applied, in cities, to a spacious natural scene, preferably a woodland, in which town people could enjoy relaxation.

He deplored applying the term to artificialized scenes, such as "turf pegged down with exotic evergreens regularly spaced" on what had been a rocky shore, adorned

(Continued on page 141)

Iowa Conservationist

Published Monthly By
 THE IOWA STATE CONSERVATION
 COMMISSION
 914 Grand Avenue—Des Moines, Iowa
 (No Rights Reserved)

WM. S. BEARDSLEY, Governor of Iowa
 BRUCE F. STILES, Director
 JAMES R. HARLAN, Editor
 ENID BROWN, Associate Editor

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

E. G. TROST, Chairman.....Fort Dodge
 MRS. ADDISON PARKER.....Des Moines
 E. B. GAUNITZ.....Lansing
 ARTHUR C. GINGERICH.....Wellman
 F. J. POYNEER.....Cedar Rapids
 F. W. MATTES.....Odebolt
 J. D. REYNOLDS.....Creston

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE.....36,000

Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Des Moines, Iowa, September 22, 1947, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Subscription rate.....40c per year
3 years for \$1.00

Subscriptions received at Conservation Commission, 914 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. Send cash, check or money order.

THANKS, FRIEND

It is definitely not amiss at this point to put in a plug for "The Iowa Conservationist." This little magazine is put out by the Iowa State Conservation Commission and you'll enjoy it immensely. You don't have to be shooting a \$1,000 gun over a \$500 dog or casting with a \$100 reel to get a kick out of this sheet. It's as down-to-earth as a can of worms and a willow pole. Only costs a few cents per year. Drop a card to the Conservation Commission in Des Moines and get started. You'll be glad you did!—The Burlington Herald.

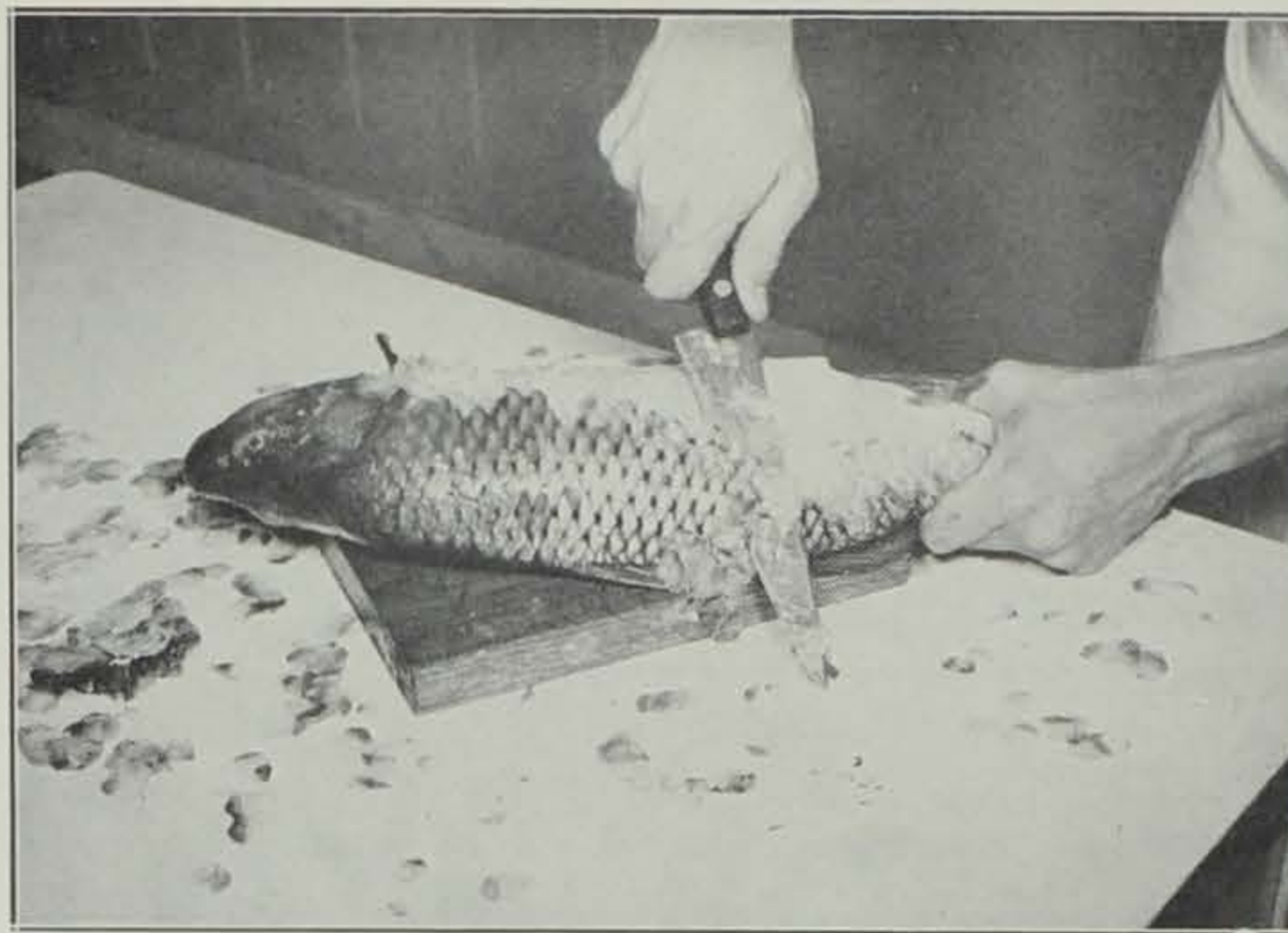


Allen Green Photo.

THE WISE OLD OWL

By Allen Green

A long-eared owl cried out to me:
 "What do you think of my offsprings, three?"
 "Do you not think, for their age and size,
 "That they appear extremely wise?"
 "They certainly do," was my quick retort,
 "They look like members of a higher court."



Carp chunk bait is made by filleting a carp, cutting the fillets in to inch wide strips, and allowing them to sour.

**CARP CHUNK—
 CATFISH CUISINE**

By Harry M. Harrison
 Fisheries Biologist

A channel catfish getter that is becoming increasingly popular with the catfishermen throughout the state is the so-called "cut" or chunk bait. We will have to admit that it may not catch as many fish as some other baits, but when you add up the pounds of catfish caught and consider the time spent fishing, cut bait will rate among the top flight catfish catchers.

The preparation of cut bait is as simple as digging worms and a lot less work. This is the way to do it. Catch a carp, and this is sport

within itself. Remove the scales and fillet it by cutting along both sides of the backbone. This will give you a chunk of flesh about the shape of your hand but narrower at one end. Cut these fillets into strips two to three inches long and about an inch wide. Put these chunks into a glass jar and let stand until you can detect a faint odor of decay. You need not be too concerned about letting the bait reach any certain point of decay. Anything from just turning to short of dead ripe works well. Needless to say, baits that have just turned are not so offensive to handle as those which have decayed further. The length of time required for the bait to ripen will vary from a few days in cool weather to only a few hours in hot weather.

Some cut bait fishermen prefer to skin their fish before filleting them, but we like to leave the skin on because it gives strength to the bait, thus preventing the smaller fish from tearing it off the hook.

You need not necessarily use only carp for cut bait, any kind of rough fish will do. The nice thing about using carp, however, is that they are easily caught, and fish for fish, the carp gives more baits than other species of rough fish.

If you happen to get more carp than you need for one fishing trip, it is a good idea to prepare them for bait as far as putting into the glass jars—or better still cardboard cartons—and then freeze them fresh. Then before the next trip to the stream they can be thawed out and allowed to work until they have "soured" a little.

Some cut bait fishermen use as much finesse in the preparation of their cut baits as that which goes into making a fine cheese souffle. They doctor it with secret concoctions of oils and drugs and age it to a given second at controlled temperatures and then put a voodoo sign on it. We tested some of those baits against those prepared in the usual manner and have not found them any more productive

CARRYING IT TOO FAR

This year, perhaps more than in any recent years, there is a craze among people of Red Oak to hunt for nightcrawlers, those big fat worms that make such good fish bait. Perhaps, it is that they are so plentiful this year—we don't know.

Practically every night groups of people, young and old, may be seen groping around along streets and in yards, armed with flashlights and cans. They don't ask permission of the property owners, but just go right ahead. Most property owners, of course, don't care. Some do. Nightcrawlers are a nuisance, and although they are supposed to better the ground, they also make piles of dirt and make the lawn terribly uneven and hard to mow.

It's a lot of fun, and most people don't mind. However, it is carried just too far sometimes. We know of one family that was disturbed



Nightcrawlers, or "dew worms," come out of the ground on wet nights and are easily captured. While many anglers do not believe them to be as high quality bait as ordinary angleworms, their nocturnal habits make digging unnecessary.

at two o'clock in the morning by people working in their yard, around the house. Many others are around after the hour some families go to bed. When lawns are seeded most people aren't very happy to have the area walked on. Some people just don't like to have people fooling around their property. They are perfectly within their rights.

So we suggest that the numerous clan of nightcrawlers (people, not worms) remember that they are trespassing on other people's land, and that they observe common rules of courtesy and decency. Might save a shot in the night some time.—Red Oak Express.

in spite of the additional trouble involved in preparing them.

Try cut bait for bigger catfish and enjoy the added sport of catching the bait.

Shooting owls reduces the honey production due to the fact that the principal diet of owls is mice, which are highly destructive to orchards (and other plants) and orchards supply the flowers that produce the nectar needed by the bees.



All boats for hire on any of the inland waters of the state are subject to examination by the State Boat Inspector to determine their sea-worthiness. No such rental boats may be loaded to exceed the capacity stamped on the inspection seal. Jim Sherman Photo.

IT'S THE LAW

(Editor's Note: For the next few months, under the above head, we will carry sections of the state law under which the State Conservation Commission operates. Readers who wish to have sections interpreted may write to the Conservation Commission, 914 Grand, Des Moines.)

Section 106.2. Boats—inspection and license. Any person having upon the inland waters of the state any boat, operated by machinery used for hire or offered for hire, must have his craft and all its appurtenances annually inspected and licensed before it is so used.

Every such owner shall file in the office of the secretary of the commission an application for inspection of boats and licensing thereof, on a blank to be furnished by the commission for that purpose.

The boat inspector shall have the power and authority to determine whether the boat is safe for the transportation of passengers and upon what waters it may be used, to determine and designate the number of passengers, including crew, that may be carried, to determine whether the machinery, equipment and all appurtenances are such as to make said boat seaworthy where used and equipped as provided herein, and such other matters as are pertinent.

After said boat has been inspected and licensed as provided herein, the license shall be kept posted in a conspicuous place upon or in said boat and shall be so maintained at all times by the owner of said boat.

Any license issued for the operation of a boat shall be in effect only for the calendar year in which such license is issued.

The owner of all boats used for hire is held responsible for proper equipping and licensing thereof, as

provided in this chapter. (Code of 1946.)

Section 106.3. Engineer or pilot license. No motor boat shall be operated for hire by a pilot or engineer upon the inland waters of the state, without his first having obtained an annual engineer's and/or pilot's license hereby required for all operators, who have charge of the steering or directing of the boat's course, or who do steer or direct the boat's course. An engineer's license is required for all operators, who have charge of or operate the equipment by which the boat is propelled. If one person acts in a dual or alternate capacity, he shall first obtain both an engineer's and pilot's license.

Any person desiring a pilot's or engineer's license shall file with the commission an application therefor upon forms prepared and furnished by the commission. Such license may be issued by the boat inspector or inspectors aforesaid. Before the boat inspector shall issue such license, he shall investigate the competency of the applicant, his acquaintance with and experience in boat work, his habits as to sobriety, his mental and physical qualifications for the work, his acquaintance with the waters for which application to operate upon is made, his familiarity with the laws and regulations pertaining to boat operation, and all other pertinent matters. Such license shall not be issued to any one under the age of eighteen years.

Any license issued for operating as a pilot or as an engineer shall be in effect only for the calendar year in which such license is issued. (Code of 1946.)

Section 106.7. Block numbers on boat. Every licensed motorboat

(Continued on page 144)

STORM LAKE HEALTH REPORT

The United Counties Chapter of the Izaak Walton League had a rip-snorting meeting Monday night. The chief topic was lake pollution and this subject was covered fully in the Tuesday Register. But as a special attraction, Earl Rose, state fish biologist, showed a few slides of vital interest to local anglers. They gave the results of the fish census taken here last year, made public for the first time.

When the state crews seined rough fish here in the winter of 1947-48, they kept careful tab on the number of fish of each specie on which they clipped one fin. This was followed up on and after May 15 by an extensive fish census which noted the number of fish caught and the number with clipped fins thereon. By applying a scientifically approved formula to these statistics, the department computed the estimated total adult fish populations of the several species living in Storm Lake.

For instance, the conservation boys clipped 849 silver bass. Of the total of 3,584 silvers caught during the season as reported by boat liveries, census cards and personal takers, 58 of those with clipped fins were noted. On this basis, Rose estimated that the total silver bass population here last year was 52,462, and that the "harvest" amounted to only 6.8 per cent. Fish husbandry recognizes harvest or "takes" up to 25 or 30 per cent as good conservation practice.

Using the same line of approach, Rose estimated the total perch population at 24,829 adult fish, and a harvest of only 5 per cent. The crappies population was

set at 80,806, with a 6.7 per cent take. There were 5,568 walleyes reported caught, of which 118 were among the 1,397 previously clipped. This indicated that 8.4 per cent were taken and that the walleye population here was 65,919.

The bullhead population in Storm Lake was estimated at almost a million. The reported catch was 18,423, which was only 1.9 per cent of the potential catch. The other fish represented here in measurable quantities were channel catfish, with 4,299 estimated, and northern pike with 2,713 estimated population. There were not enough black bass nor bluegills noted in the seines to justify attempts to number their species.

Rose went on to point out that the average weight of the fish reported was as follows: silver bass, 1.35 pounds; perch, .76 pounds; crappies, .63 pounds; pike, 1.53 pounds; channel cats, 3.6 pounds, and bullheads, .6 pounds. He stated that the total catch reported was probably about half of the actual catch, due to the unreported takes of shore fishermen, those fishing in privately owned boats, and other miscellaneous anglers.

The total estimated adult fish population in Storm Lake was 1,190,000 game fish, with an estimated total weight of 832,835 pounds. So the next time you can't catch any fish, don't gripe about the lake being fished out; blame your fishing methods and that mysterious factor known as "fisherman's luck."—Storm Lake Pilot Tribune.

COTTONTAIL

Maximum old age unknown; has a 20 to 1 chance of reaching age of one year in the wild and 130 to 1 chance of reaching two years of age.



Biologists estimate the adult game fish population of Storm Lake at 1,190,000. Part of the cause for this phenomenal population has been the constant removal of rough fish by state seine crews to make living space available for game species. Jim Sherman Photo.



Iowa's state parks played host to 2,756,690 visitors in 1948. The Des Moines Register's Iowa Poll revealed that the majority of visitors did not travel more than 50 miles from home to reach the parks. Jim Sherman Photo.

State Parks Most Popular With Residents of Iowa Towns

The Iowa Poll shows that Iowa's state parks are apparently more popular among townspeople than among Iowans living in cities or on farms.

This recent survey reports that 54 per cent of town residents visited an Iowa state park last year. Thirty-nine per cent of city residents and 45 per cent of farm residents visited a state park during the year.

Eight out of ten found no fault with the parks they had seen.

In order to provide more money for better state park service, a majority of Iowans interviewed would be willing to pay a small gate fee at state parks.

The majority who visited parks last year did not travel more than 50 miles from their homes to reach the parks.

Iowans in all walks of life and from all parts of the state were asked the following:

"During the last year, have you visited any of Iowa's state parks?"

	Total	City	Town	Farm
Yes	44%	39%	54%	45%
No	54	60	44	53
Don't remember	2	1	2	2

Those who had visited a park were then asked:

"Do you have any particular fault to find with the state parks you have visited?"

	Total
No, find no fault	82%
Run down facilities	8
Nothing specific	3
Lack recreational facilities	2
Lakes understocked with fish	1

Rough roads	1
Overcrowded	1
No firewood	1
Miscellaneous answers	1

A slightly higher proportion of city residents found fault with the state parks than either town or farm residents.

Those who visited state parks were also asked these two questions:

"Did you visit more than one state park and if so, how many?"

	Total	City	Town	Farm
No, only one	64%	66%	70%	59%
Two	24	23	20	29
Three	5	5	3	6
Four	2	2	0	3
Five	1	0	0	1
Six	1	2	0	0
Don't remember	3	2	7	2

"What was the longest distance in miles you traveled to make a trip to a state park?"

	Total	City	Town	Farm
Under 25 miles	36%	32%	45%	33%
26- 50 miles	26	24	22	32
51- 75 miles	11	16	5	10
76-100 miles	11	13	9	10
101-150 miles	6	6	9	5
151-200 miles	2	2	0	3
Over 200 miles	3	3	5	2
Don't remember	5	4	5	5

All Iowans in the poll were asked:

"Would you be willing to pay a small gate fee at a state park to provide more money for better park service?"

	Total	City	Town	Farm
Yes	60%	62%	67%	52%
No	29	28	23	35
Undecided	11	10	10	13

—Des Moines Sunday Register.

WOMEN'S FISHING LICENSES

During the past several weeks the Conservation Commission has received numerous cards and letters, asking whether or not women are required to have licenses to fish in Iowa. Female residents of the state under 16 years of age are not required to purchase fishing licenses. Female residents over 16 are required to have licenses to fish in state-owned lakes. They may fish in all other waters of the state without paying a license fee.

It is believed the confusion was caused by a bill introduced in the 53rd General Assembly which would have required all women over 16 years of age to secure a license to fish in any state waters. This bill did not become law.

A list of state-owned lakes and the county of their location follows:

- Kains Lake, Allamakee.
- Lansing Big, Allamakee.
- Mud, Allamakee.
- New Albin Big, Allamakee.
- Pickerel, Buena Vista and Clay.
- Beaver Meadows, Butler.
- Heery Woods, Butler.
- North Twin, Calhoun.
- South Twin, Calhoun.
- Artesian, Carroll.
- Swan, Carroll.
- Clear, Cerro Gordo.
- Dan Greene Slough, Clay.
- Elk, Clay.
- Round, Clay.
- Trumbull, Clay.
- Osceola, Clarke.
- Lake Wapello, Davis.
- Backbone, Delaware.
- Silver, Delaware.
- Center, Dickinson.
- Diamond, Dickinson.
- East Okoboji, Dickinson.
- Lower Gar, Dickinson.
- Upper Gar, Dickinson.
- Minnewashta, Dickinson.
- Hottes, Dickinson.
- Jemmerson Slough, Dickinson.
- Little Spirit, Dickinson.
- Marble, Dickinson.
- Pleasant, Dickinson.
- Prairie, Dickinson.
- Silver, Dickinson.
- Spirit, Dickinson.
- Swan, Dickinson.
- Welch, Dickinson.
- West Okoboji, Dickinson.
- Cheevers, Emmet.
- Four Mile, Emmet.
- High, Emmet.
- Iowa, Emmet.
- Mud, Emmet.
- Tuttle, Emmet.
- Twelve Mile, Emmet.
- West Swan, Emmet.
- Echo Valley, Fayette.
- Beeds Lake, Franklin.
- Forneys Lake, Fremont.
- Riverton, Fremont.
- Springbrook, Guthrie.
- Little Wall, Hamilton.
- Crystal, Hancock.
- Dead Man's Lake, Hancock.
- Eagle, Hancock.
- East Twin, Hancock.
- Pilot Knob, Hancock.
- West Twin, Hancock.

- Pine, Hardin.
- Upper Pine, Hardin.
- Steamboat Rock, Hardin.
- Nobles, Harrison and Pottawattamie.
- Babcocks, Johnson.
- Lake Macbride, Johnson.
- Swan, Johnson.
- Goose, Kossuth.
- Swag, Kossuth.
- Green Bay, Lee.
- Coggon, Linn.
- Palisades-Kepler, Linn.
- Wapello (Klum), Louisa.
- Lucas Forest, Lucas.
- Red Haw Hill, Lucas.
- Lake Keomah, Mahaska.
- Pioneer (Brownsville), Mitchell.
- Blue, Monona.
- Keokuk, Muscatine.
- Muscatine Slough, Muscatine.
- Mill Creek, O'Brien.
- Rush, Osceola.
- Iowa, Osceola.
- Five Island (Medium), Palo Alto.
- Lost Island, Palo Alto.
- Rush, Palo Alto.
- Silver, Palo Alto.
- Virgin, Palo Alto.
- Clear, Pocahontas.
- Lizard, Pocahontas.
- Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie.
- Arrowhead, Sac.
- Black Hawk (Wall), Sac.
- Union Grove, Tama.
- Lake of Three Fires, Taylor.
- Farmington, Van Buren.
- Lacey-Keosauqua, Van Buren.
- Lake Ahquabi, Warren.
- Allerton, Wayne.
- Duck (Harmon), Winnebago.
- Rice, Winnebago and Worth.
- Browns, Woodbury.
- Brights, Worth.
- Silver, Worth.
- Cornelia, Wright.
- Elm, Wright.



Female residents over 16 are required to have licenses to fish in state-owned lakes. They may fish in all other waters of the state without paying a license fee. Jim Sherman Photo.

Mrs. Nick Loos was trapping for pocket gophers which were bothering her garden and was very much surprised when she discovered that she caught a snow white pocket gopher in her trap.

She has trapped pocket gophers for a number of years but this is the first time she has caught a snow white pocket gopher.—New Hampton Economist.

Patterns . . .

(Continued from page 137)

by natural colors of native flora.

Maria Edgeworth, Harold Wagner tells me, putting his finger on a passage in a book, said scornfully that in Ireland any place that would just feed a cow is called a park.

Some such idea, apparently, was in the mind of the writer of "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside still waters." Mrs. Edgeworth meant to be bright, but she said something which all park executives should ponder. A cow pasture invites the soul more than it is invited by the piece of trim, and trimmed, turf pegged with arbor vitae.

A cow pasture in Kerry, spangled with wildflowers, a wind-swept moor in Donegal, is a good enough park but one may encounter in the Kerry pasture a little black Kerry bull, and the unacquainted, unguided wanderer in Donegal may get into a bog. Parks must be safer.

Put enough cow pastures together, with a pond here and there, a stream here and there, and a grove here and there, and dedicate the area to the public, sans bulls and bogs, and you have the sort of park which large elements of urban population prefer to areas rich in facilities for organized amusements.

There should be in every city ample playgrounds. But a park, at least a large part of every extensive park, should differ from a playground as a symphony differs from a circus.

In almost every human enterprise compromise is necessary.

Those who would rather play golf, or tennis, or baseball, or pitch horsehoes, than to be led beside still waters, or made to lie down in green pastures seem as the sands of the sea for a multitude. If allowed to work their will in an ideal park, they may be more terrible

than an army with banners. Yet they are, among visitors to parks, a minority—a diminishing minority.

Such persons are as admirable as anyone else. They must be served, and should be served. But those who should, and must, serve them should deal considerably with persons who agree with the first Olmstead, who, speaking in 1870, said: "A park should present the greatest possible contrast with town conditions."

Many first class people like games, even games not played by athletes. Playing cards are said to have been devised to entertain an idiot king, but bridge interests many intellectuals. Draw-poker keeps many able, admirable men awake. I am not against bridge or poker or golfing but I don't think a forest in a municipal park should be felled to provide card rooms or golf links in an effort to give the public what it wants.

I think men who have, in paunch, outgrown tennis, should get their mild exercise at the teeing ground, on the fairway, on the putting green, and by crooking their elbows at the club, but not at the expense of those, a larger element of population, who would walk a woodland trail or contemplate nature's pillared cathedrals. The spectator element at baseball should be served, but not in a wild reserve.

As investments the wooded areas of parks are more important than land skinned for games, not because games should not be played, and muscles built by players and athletes, and wholesome sports enjoyed, but because cities grow larger every year, and forests within or near cities diminish. Increasingly large elements of urban populations value outdoor relaxation amid natural scenes.

Before the age of wire services, pipe services, and high town taxes, Queen Elizabeth of England ruled, or contended, that every residence should be surrounded by three acres



There should be ample playgrounds; but a park, at least a large part of every extensive park, should differ from a playground as a symphony differs from a circus. Springbrook State Park. Jim Sherman Photo.

of ground. Nowadays many people who can afford country life, after city experience, endure frequent inconveniences, occasional hardship, to live in the country. Others seek homes in suburbs. Millions unavoidably or by choice continue living in dense-population areas. For them there should be skinned recreation grounds, widely distributed, and spaces with trees and turf, for those among them who for one reason or another cannot visit major parks.

No civilization can afford to overlook the vital importance of ministering to children of all types and classes. Nobody can reasonably expect that such children as Eugene Field studied, and Fontaine Fox studies, will want to spend all of their time plucking primroses by the river's brim, or seeing in a brook "here and there a lusty trout, and here and there a grayling". But there is a suggestion for park administrators in the fact that when James Whitcomb Riley sought a simile for the crowning glory—speaking literally—of a young girl he thought of a scene like that in many a cow pasture in Ireland, or elsewhere, and wrote the unforgettable line: "Tresses glimmering and gleaming like glad waters running over shelving shallows rimmed with clover."

No tennis court or baseball diamond, or horseshoe pitcher's paradise has inspired such a figure of speech. Millions of mute inglorious people appreciate scenes which only the articulate few describe.

The author of the now forgotten poem, "Festus" declared: "But for the stars I should go mad in dull towns of trade."

You do not see the stars when you walk under street lights or watch from the steering wheel the green and red lights that regulate traffic. You don't walk much in town. You drive or you stand ribs-to-ribs with your fellow sufferers in street cars or busses. Your experi-

ences induce longing for shelving shallows rimmed with clover, for reedy streams and forest aisles, for quiet, spacious meadowlands.

Major city parks should not be like a village green or a commons, and no United States town—because any United States town may become a city—should be without a park. Yet many a town which had a central plaza when it was hardly more than a village tolerates encroachment of commercialism upon its priceless possession.

The motor-mad mob, in many cities, would sacrifice any park for greater easement for the ever-greater fleet of passenger vehicles and trucks which threaten to become the Frankenstein's demon of the twentieth century.

I hear that old Van Courtland Park, in New York, is to be traversed by an expressway over which a stream of freight and passenger traffic will flow day and night. In Louisville some fuzzy-minded developers want to run such a highway through Cherokee Park, which, because of its flora and topography and geographical situation, because of growth of Louisville's population, should be protected from any project which would cause radical change within its boundaries.

Wooded areas in Rome which were recreation grounds in the period of the Caesars, the first Olmstead said, are now so used, and the Mount of Olives has been for centuries a retreat for citizens of Jerusalem. These facts should be suggestive to those who, not understanding the biological value of such places would lightly yield them to builders of trunkline roads.

The United States government should prevent in our national parks, which constitute a service unique in the world, intrusion of projects which would mar them. But the people are the government of a republic. If they fail to keep

(Continued on page 142)



No civilization can afford to overlook the vital importance of ministering to children of all types and classes. Jim Sherman Photo.



As investments the wooded areas of parks are more important than land skinned for games, not because games should not be played, but because cities grow larger every year and forests diminish. Increasingly large elements of urban population value outdoor relaxation amid natural scenes. Pine Lake State Park. Jim Sherman Photo.

Patterns . . .

(Continued from page 141)

out of Glacier National Park irrigation dams which would damage or destroy major features of that reservation, and rob herds of deer and elk of their feeding ground, the fault will be the public's, whose representatives in Congress, even beset by lobbyists, will do what the public wants them to do if the public attends to its own business, which includes directing members of Congress.

The people have sovereign rights. They can exercise those rights. While irrigationists would injure some of the western national parks irreparably, by building dams another group would injure Mammoth Cave National Park as seriously by building an unimportant multiple purpose dam in the name of flood control. A third group, lumbermen, would rob Olympic National Park of a large part of its primeval forest.

The public has not in one of these cases done more than respond, rather feebly, to outcries of small devoted bands of conservationists.

National parks, state parks and municipal parks, once dedicated to the people, should be held in trust by each succeeding generation for future generations, but unless, or until, the public is made aware of reasons why they should be so held any among them may be marred or destroyed by ruthless enterprisers or by insufficiently informed people holding public offices.

The ideal means of awakening the people is cooperation of the park executive and the local newspaper provided the park executive is well trained and judicious. Park executives are approaching the level of members of the learned

professions. They should be members of a profession, recognized as such. They should be protected by laws making it impossible for them to be shoved aside after an election.

They should be, in the interest of taxpayers, in the interest of future generations, clothed with adequate authority. By them all classes of parks should be protected from the office-seeking class with its glib declaration that park management should give the people what they want. Government should always serve the people. But it is not possible or desirable in park management to give every element of the people the diversion it desires.

Some people want horse or dog racing, pari-mutuel betting at the track, downtown handbooks. Others want night clubs, in which they can hear the new ditties sung, and see the nudities dance. Some people like roulette better than they like forest trails or tennis. Some people want to meet young women who are met, by anyone, easily. No park management tries to meet their demands.

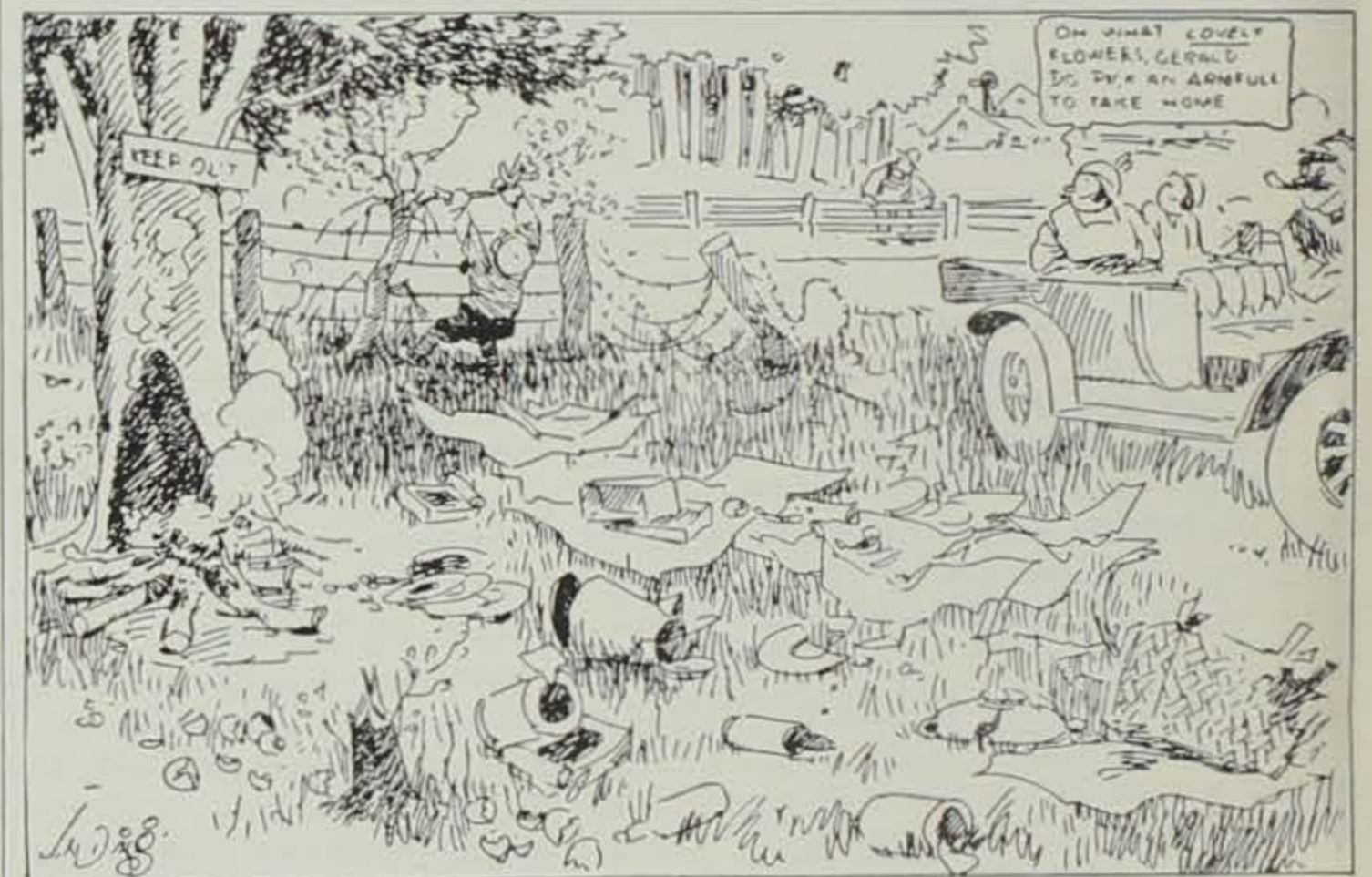
The politician with his "give the public what it wants" knows he cannot serve the entire public in parks, but often because he has little understanding he has little sympathy with those who want the dignity and beauty of natural scenes in parks defended against destroyers.

Against his influence every park executive should be on guard. But nobody can be on guard against anything worth guarding if he holds his position at the will of the bosses of the political party that has won a victory and wishes to divide the spoils among those who, in its camp and on the battlefields, have been faithful.

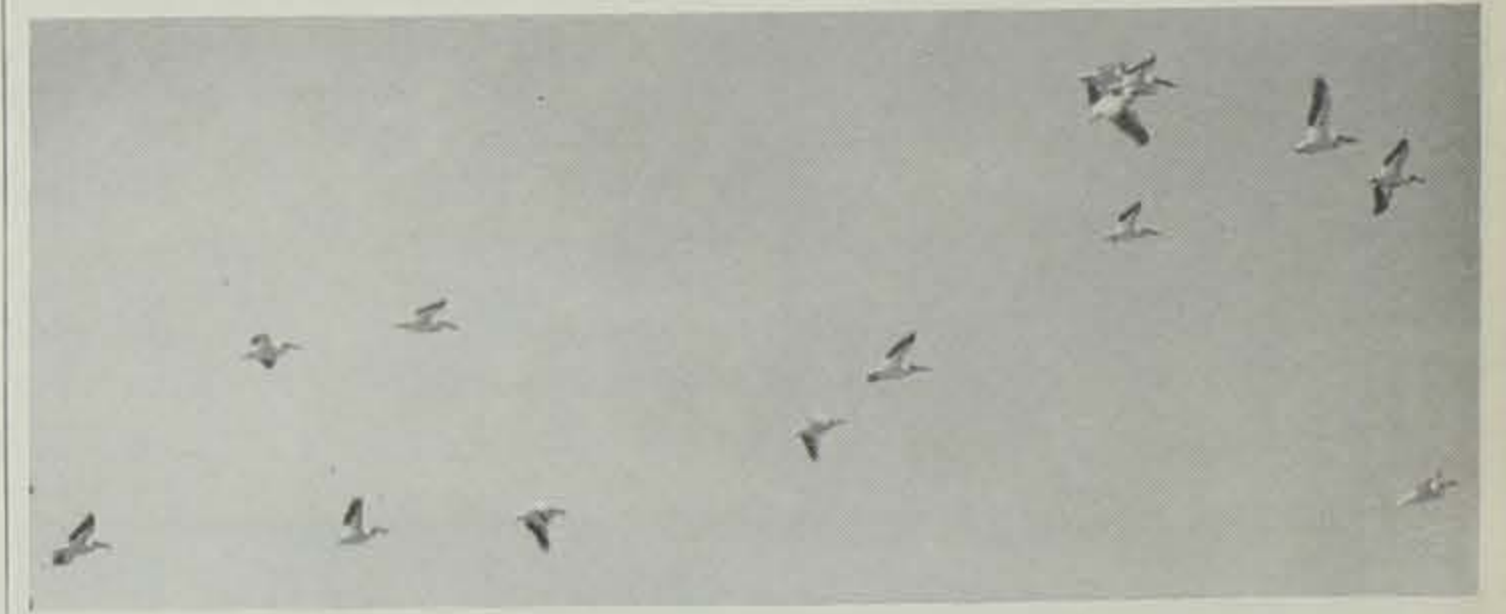
If We Treated Our Homes As We Do Our Woods



What A Lucky Thing Folks Never Took To Holding Picnics In Other Folk's Houses



Moral: Take Your Indoor Manners With You When You Go Outdoors



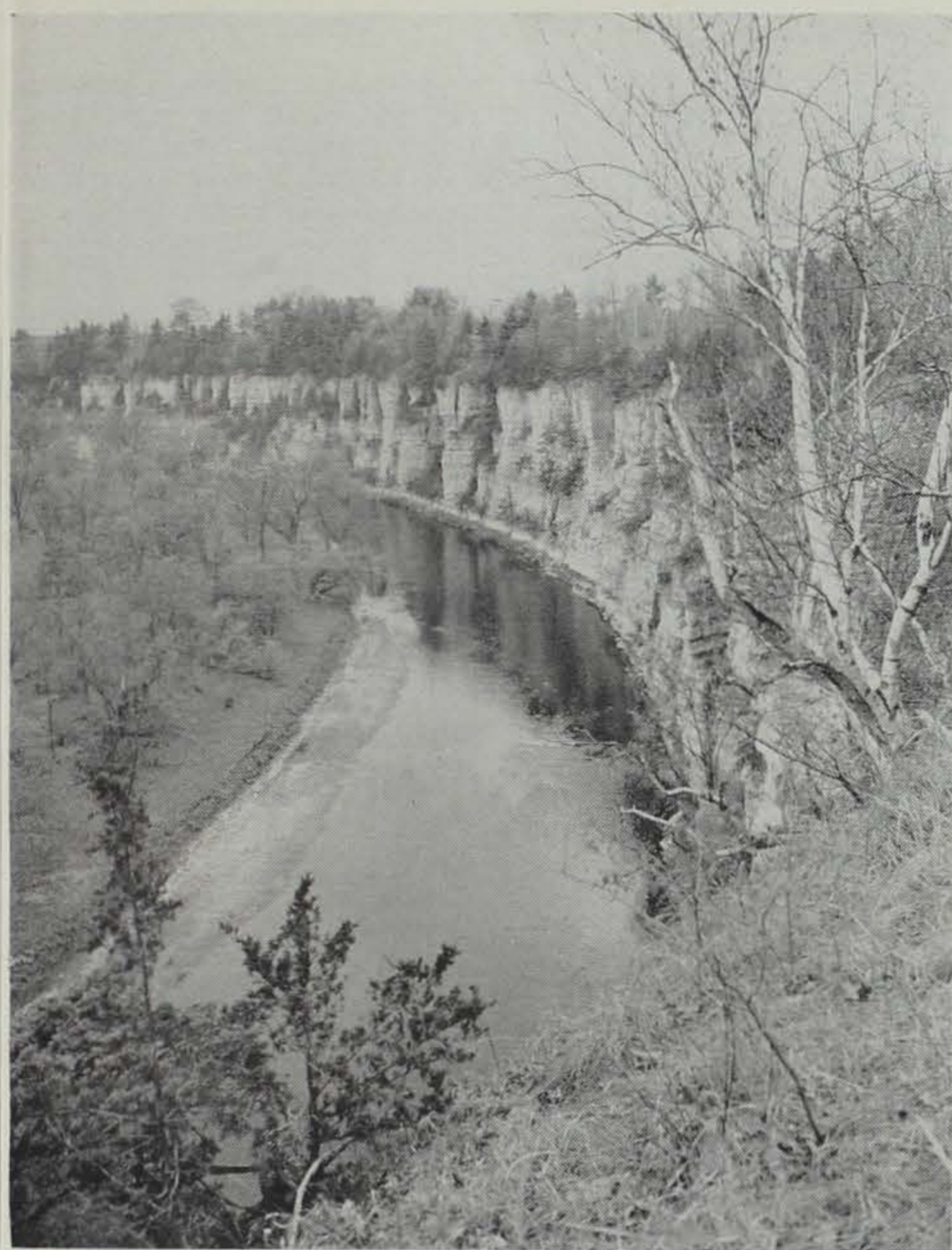
Large flocks of white pelicans resembling flights of heavy bombers stop each spring on north Iowa lakes before continuing to their nesting grounds. R. B. Cooper Photo.

WHITE PELICANS SPEND WEEKEND AT LAKE, FISHING AND RESTING

Huge flocks of white pelicans stopped at Rush Lake over the weekend for rest and food, bringing hundreds of people to view what bird students call one of the most impressive sights in the avian world. It is estimated that there were several thousand of the large web-footed birds at the lake Saturday night and early Sunday. Although many of them left that day, hundreds remained for a longer stay. While pelicans often visit Rush

Lake at this time of year; local sportsmen report that this was one of the biggest flocks seen in recent years. Pelicans range in size from four to six feet in length, with a wing expanse of eight to 10 feet, and weigh up to 16 pounds. They have huge bills, 14 to 18 inches long and sharply hooked at the end, with a membranous pouch attached to the throat and hanging from the bill.

(Continued on page 143)



Many of northeast Iowa's streams are unbelievably beautiful, and in addition to scenery provide excellent fishing. Upper Iowa River near Bluffton. S. W. Lock Photo.

Let's Go Fishing . . .

(Continued from page 137)

standing river in Iowa are the numerous streams which join it on its long journey across the state. Among these are the Boone River and the various tributaries which form the Raccoon River. Both of these rivers are noted for their catfish and bass, and have yielded some pretty nice walleyes.

The Raccoon system drains a large area north and west of Iowa's capital city, and it is interesting to note that the upper reaches of the "Coon" River lie practically "just over the hill" from the Little Sioux which also rises in the Iowa lakes region, and flows a southwesterly course to join the Missouri River, Iowa's west boundary stream. The Maple River is one of the tributaries of the Little Sioux.

Flanking the Little Sioux is the Boyer to the south and the Floyd River to the north. Each of these streams flows in a southwesterly direction to join the Missouri, and from that river receive a continuous supply of catfish.

In southwest Iowa are the Nishnabotnas, the Nodaways, and the Grand River, with their tributaries which serve as a drainage system for that section of the state. These rivers all flow in a more southerly

direction, cross into Missouri and eventually reach the Missouri River. These streams also provide for catfishing, and like other Iowa streams bullheads and sunfish are sought by the fisherman—young and old.

Back across to the east side of the state-severing Des Moines River we find practically all of the streams flowing in a southeasterly direction, almost parallel to the central river.

Two branches of Skunk River in central Iowa unite in Keokuk County to flow on south and east into the Mississippi. Catfish and bullheads are most prominent, while some sections provide good bass and crappie fishing.

The Iowa, which has its beginning near Crystal Lake in Hancock County, flows the general southeasterly direction to Iowa City. There it swings more to the south and at Columbus Junction is joined by the Cedar and a few miles south of Dubuque it flows into the "Father of Waters."

A large area in north Iowa is drained by the tributaries of the Cedar River. Beaver Creek, West Fork, Shellrock and Little Cedar all join the larger stream north of Cedar Falls. Shellrock, Little Cedar and the main Cedar extend beyond the Iowa-Minnesota line.

The Iowa-Cedar system is popu-

lar for bass, walleyes, catfish, northerns, crappies and bullheads.

The Wapsipinicon, "Wapsi" for short, extends from border to border across the northeast part of Iowa, adding its waters to the Mississippi below Clinton. Its main tributary is Buffalo Creek, which joins the Wapsi near Anamosa. Bass, crappies, catfish, walleyes and bullheads furnish sport for the angler, while some parts of the upper Wapsi produce trout.

Among other northeast Iowa streams are the Maquoketa, Volga, Turkey, Yellow and Upper Iowa rivers, and their numerous cold water, spring-fed creeks which form the trout fishing streams of Iowa. Like other streams of this section they flow to the Mississippi and also produce bass, catfish, bluegill, crappies and bullheads.

In north central Iowa, one stream worthy of mention is the Blue Earth. It is not a large stream, but unique in that it puts on a complete reverse to other Iowa streams. Rising in Winnebago County, it flows west and then makes an abrupt righthand turn to flow north into Minnesota.

Many of the Iowa streams are of sufficient size to provide good boating over long stretches, while many dams on smaller streams make for limited boating activities on the waters impounded. The area around all these dams is always attractive to the angler also.

Located along Iowa's streams are many of the state park areas and numerous group camps and private cottages.

Many of the streams provide a form of outing popularized by Missouri Ozark resorts—float trips—but few Iowans take advantage of these opportunities. An advantage Iowa streams offer for float trips is that they are free from waterfalls or dangerous rapids, together with the advantage of be-

White Pelicans . . .

(Continued from page 142)

Although there are several species, the ones at Rush Lake were white with black wing tips.

Two of the American species are maritime, inhabiting the coasts of the southern states. The white pelicans, however, spend the winter in the salt water districts of the south but in the summer frequent only fresh water, nesting far to the north. Many of them go far into Canada.

When feeding, white pelicans skim the surface of the water or dive beneath it. They scoop up small fish in the net-like pouch, and, after draining the water off, swallow them. They are often seen in long lines beating the water with their wings and so driving the fish into shoal water where they are easily captured.

Visitors at Rush Lake Sunday were amused to see many birds which appeared to be posted as sentinels or "lookouts," standing on muskrat houses and looking around while those in the main flock were fishing or resting.—Laurens Sun.

ing able to plan for either long or short trips because the streams may be easily reached from good highways. Because of the numerous small dams, fairly light, shallow draft equipment should be used for float trips. Ideal for this is the canoe or flat-bottom boat.

So long as Iowa's streams are kept free from pollution they will continue to provide for a major outdoor recreation. When pollution has done its damage, it will be too late. Let's all do our share now to stop—and prevent—further pollution, and improve our streams for our own use and for the use of those who follow us.—Ames Milepost.



Most of Iowa's 15,000 miles of streams flow through rich agricultural lands and are bordered by heavily wooded flood plains. They provide vast amounts of low cost recreation. Jim Sherman Photo.



Biologist removing adipose fin from one of the license plate carrying channel catfish. Harry Harrison Photo.

Catfish . . .

(Continued from page 137)

The procedure of tagging catfish is as follows: Native catfish are taken from the river by means of traps. The length and weight of each individual is recorded. Then, using a small scalpel, a half-inch incision is made in the belly wall just in front of the left pelvic fin.

After the opening is made, a little sterile numbered tag is inserted. Following this the small fatty fin, called the adipose fin, located on the catfish's back just ahead of the tail, is clipped off and the fish is returned to the river. Both wounds heal quickly.

The adipose fin is removed in order that fish bearing internal tags can be recognized at the time of recapture.

When the marked fish is retaken, its length, weight, date and place of recapture is again recorded and the numbered tag is retrieved.

By studying returns and comparing data of time of release with that at the time of recapture, it is possible to determine how far a fish has moved since the time of release, as well as what it has gained in weight and length. In addition, by knowing the total number of tagged fish in the stream and comparing the percentage of marked with unmarked fish caught, it is possible to get a general idea of the river's total population of catfish.

Each and every sportsman who fishes the Des Moines River system can take part in this experiment and contribute valuable information by returning tags from fish they catch.

Simply remember that a tagged catfish can be recognized by the absence of the small fatty adipose fin.

The tag will be found somewhere within the intestinal cavity, not inside of the intestines nor the stomach, but floating around inside the body. The tags are small and sometimes difficult to find, but if the adipose fin is missing from the fish, the angler may be sure that the tag is there.

Please return the tag, together

with the length, weight, date and place of capture to your local conservation officer or directly to the Conservation Commission office in Des Moines.

PRICELESS POSSESSIONS

"State parks are a power for elevating the spirit. Their standards are much higher than the average visitor's mental or physical requirements and so, incidentally, are public libraries, galleries or concert organizations. Their purpose is not merely to satisfy but to uplift. . . .

"For that reason any plan which is evolved for the use of the parks by visitors must be subordinated to the policy governing their establishment and maintenance; namely, the preservation of a portion of the state's original domain in its primitive condition—now and forever. . . .

"And if this is true of the present, what will it not be of the future? When the congestion of an ever-increasing population in those days has changed everything but these primitive places, our state parks will be one of the most priceless possessions of our people."—Richard Lieber, Regional State Park Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1935.

ON A TEN-POUND TEST LINE, TOO

Some fishermen catch fish; others wind up with old boots; but Carl Cress of Troy Mills snagged a safe Tuesday afternoon.

Carl was casting from the Troy Mills bridge when he got his "strike." He called Deputy Sheriff Larry Condon, who brought the safe to Cedar Rapids.

Detectives identified it as the one stolen from the Knights of Columbus Club in Cedar Rapids on February 8, 1947.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

Some scientific names for animals make sense even to the layman. Such is the case of the puff adder, whose generic name is *Bitis* and the timber rattler whose specific name is *Horridus*.

Tapeworms contracted from eating raw fish may grow to a length of 60 feet in human beings. Cook all fish well before eating.

It's the Law . . .

(Continued from page 139)

operated for hire shall have visible, upon both sides of the bow, a block number corresponding to the license number, plainly marked in figures not less than four inches in height. Such numbers shall be in color contrasting with the color of the boat. (Code of 1946.)

Section 106.8. Registration. All machinery propelled boats, not operated for hire and capable of a speed of eight miles or more per hour, shall be registered with the commission. No fee shall be required for such registration. The registry number shall be plainly marked, upon both sides of the bow, in block figures not less than four inches in height. Such number shall be in color contrasting with the color of the boat. (Code of 1946.)

Section 106.9. Definition of "motor-boat." A motor-boat is defined as any boat or watercraft propelled by machinery. Any boat or craft propelled by attachment to another craft which is propelled by machinery shall be deemed a motorboat. (Code of 1946.)

Section 106.14. Right-of-way rules. Boat traffic shall be governed by the following rules:

1. Passing from rear—keep to the left.

2. Passing head-on—keep to the right.

3. Passing at right angles—boat at the right has right-of-way, other conditions being equal.

4. Sailboats have right-of-way over all other boats. Motor-boats, when passing sailboats, shall always pass on leeward side.

5. Any boat backing from a landing has the right-of-way over incoming boats. (Code of 1946.)

Section 106.23. Accidents reported. All navigation accidents shall be reported as promptly as possible to the nearest police officer and to the commission or its authorized representative. (Code of 1946.)

Section 106.24. Overloading boats for hire. No person offering a boat for hire nor any person using a rented boat shall permit said boat to be occupied by more passengers and crew than the licensed capacity of the boat permits. (Code of 1946.)

Section 106.25. Unworthy boats drydocked. No person shall place, or allow to remain in the public waters any boat for hire which has failed to pass inspection. (Code of 1946.)

Yellow perch spawn is deposited in hollow, ribbon-like bands several inches wide and plaited like the bellows of an accordion, and may be drawn out to a length of several feet.



Never before have Iowa's fishing streams been greeted by the number of anglers present this spring. Typical is this lineup of fishermen at the hydro-electric plant at Ottumwa. Ottumwa Courier Photo.

HOOKS THICK IN RIVER SUNDAY

Even the old timers were amazed at the numbers fishing Sunday, especially along Skunk River.

At Oakland Mills persons were sitting side by side with elbow to elbow, while several boats were "parked" in midstream. All up and down the river at virtually every bridge, there were several

fishermen along the banks and on the highways were motorists going and coming with fishing poles on their cars.

Many said they could not recall a day when there were as many trying their luck at Oakland as there were Sunday. Perhaps the report of a 34½-pounder caught there by Neil Kracaw may have given the fishermen new hopes. No reports of any catches of similar size were received.—Mount Pleasant News.