

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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Number 9

GOLDEN AUTUMN SQUIRREL DAYS

SEASON SET SEPTEMBER 15—NOVEMBER 15, POPULATION GOOD

EDIBLE FALL FRUITS

By Roberts Mann

Several wild fruits are now ripe and can be enjoyed on your autumn strolls in the forest preserves.

Sweet juicy wild plums, and red haws that are like little mellow apples, burden their trees or cover the ground where they have fallen. There they wait to be eaten fresh or made into jars of delicious jelly. Wild crab apples, though too tart to be eaten raw until they have been frozen a few times, are especially fragrant and make excellent jelly or preserves.

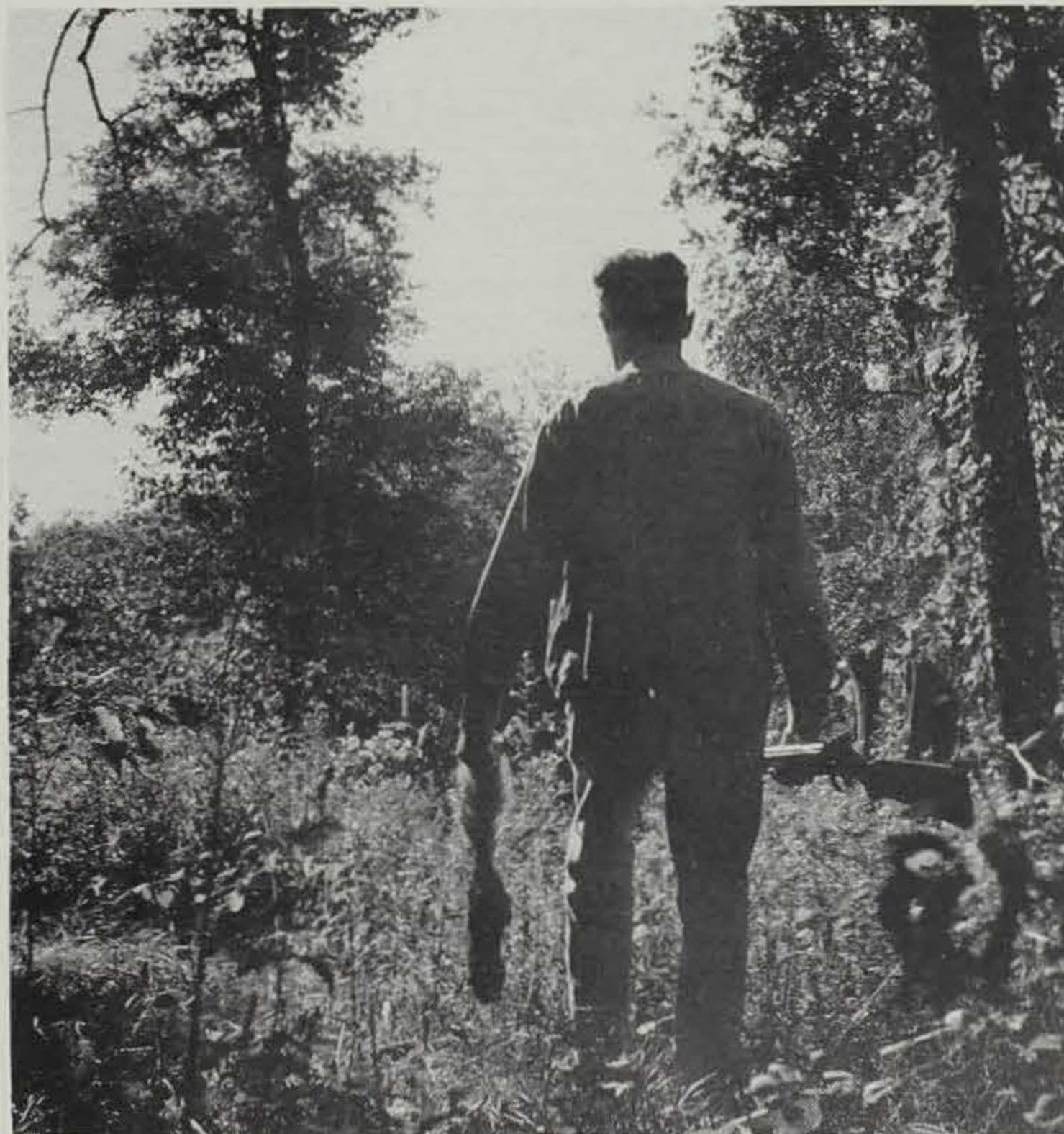
Wild grapes hang on the vines and are full of flavor until well into winter. They also make fine jam, jelly and filling for pies. Their sharp flavor may be toned down by combining them with the sweet bland elderberries which still may be found. Occasionally you may find a black haw with its clusters of sweet soft berries, each with a single flat seed in the center. There are two large luscious wild fruits, common downstate at this season, which Chicagoans seldom see because when ripe they are too soft and mushy to be shipped. One is the persimmon. The other is the papaw, or American banana.

The ground cherry, a rather common, low-growing weed in cultivated fields and waste places of this region, is good eaten raw or made into preserves. Its marble-sized berry is inclosed in a lantern-like paper-thin shell, and looks and tastes like a miniature yellow tomato. In fact, it is a near relative to the tomato.

Later in the season the brownish-purple berries of the hackberry, or sugarberry tree, will delight the sweet tooth of children with patience enough to gnaw the thin layer of sugary flesh covering the single large seed in each berry.

And then there are the rich, oily, toothsome nuts of the black

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With the first faint tint of gold and red in the leaves of hickory and white oak, squirrel fever becomes epidemic. Jim Sherman Photo.

By John Huling
District Forester

With the first faint tint of gold and red in the leaves of hickory and white oak, the temperature of the squirrel hunter starts to climb. As the scrape, scrape, scrape of rodent teeth on walnut or hickory nut carries out of the woodland, the squirrel shooter's fever becomes unbearable and he is soon out on his first day's shoot.

Squirrel shooting, along with other hunting sports, has greatly increased during the past few years. In spite of the tremendous pressure, however, the timber squirrels have been able to hold their own against all hazards except over-cutting of timber. This year young squirrels are observed in better than average numbers throughout most of the state.

The nimrod who knows most about the habits of the game he seeks will generally be most successful. A few squirrel pointers for the newcomer to this sport are in order.

The first problem is to find woodland with squirrels. The gray squirrel prefers the heavy timbers of the eastern part of the state and does not care how thick the underbrush. The fox squirrel prefers more open woodland. Both like woods with water available nearby.

All timber, bottomland or upland, grazed or ungrazed, will have some squirrels. The newcomer should, however, play the law of averages and select the woods containing best squirrel environment.

In the early season, hunt the timber edges adjoining cornfields or get into good stands of white oaks, hickories or walnut, not too dense. Cottonwoods, elms and maples get tall but are hard to hunt and are not the best for squirrels.

It is a fact that heavy grazing makes good squirrel timber. Cattle are rough on the trees, but good for squirrels. Continuous tramp-

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REFLECTIONS OF A FISHERMAN

By Phil Carspecken

"Night-crawlers and Worms For Sale!" So reads the sign across the street from my front porch, where these reflections are penned.

Cars of high and low degree with bamboo poles slung along the sides pause there, men and boys disappear in the shrubbery and soon reappear bearing cans of worms. A can of worms is a homely thing viewed esthetically—not so lovely certainly as a Grecian urn—and yet not wholly destitute of a touch

of pastoral imagery. At any rate the can of worms contains the "meat" of this article.

Time was when my fishing was all with the bamboo pole, bobber, sinker and hook—and a squirming worm as the lowly lure. It was a simple and inexpensive outfit requiring no Manual of Instructions, no theories of technique and no practice for precision. Yet it was sufficient to yield me a mild pleasure that still sweetens my memories.

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The pheasant season opens November 11 in 79 counties. For the first time in the history of pheasant seasons, shooting will be allowed in some counties as far south as the Missouri border. Jim Sherman Photo.

GREBE, RAILS (EXCEPT COOT) AND GALLINULES MOURNING DOVE, WOOD COCK, SWAN—No open season.

MUSKRAT, MINK, RACCOON SKUNK, OPOSSUM, CIVET CAT BADGER, BEAVER—To be announced at a later date. Watch your local newspaper for announcement.

RED OR GRAY FOX, WEASEL, GROUND HOG, WOLF COYOTE—Continuous open season.

OTTER—Continuous closed season.

Wardens Tales

Shop Talk From the Field

Garfield Harker, conservation officer for Jackson and Jones counties, writes:

"Harvey Allison, a farmer living east of Maquoketa, hit a hen pheasant while cutting his alfalfa last June. He had an opportunity to see her at the time, and the mower had cut off both legs below the knee joints.

"A little over two months later he found the same hen with a brood of seven half-grown young in almost the same place where he had first seen her. She flew a short distance with her brood and, upon alighting, rolled end over end in the stubble field.

"That," Harker declares, "certainly shows a will to live and reproduce."

In hundreds of poems and songs written in praise of Mother Nature, most of us have become convinced, through a wide variety of adjectives and adverbs, of the stillness and serenity of the great outdoors at night.

Conservation Officer Warren Wilson, of Boone and Story counties, does not, however, see eye to eye with the poets. In fact, he openly disputes their word.

Recently Wilson and a friend, Harry Bowen of Boone, took a five-day trip on the Des Moines River, making camp the first night some five miles above the town of Fraser. They took care of the usual camp routine, had a meal of fresh catfish, and retired for a good quiet night's sleep.

First the whippoorwills began their nocturnal calling to one another—not just one or two, but a good half dozen. No sooner had they subsided than a red fox's barking and the snorting of a buck deer awakened the men. Then a family of beaver took the stage, apparently holding a contest to see which could make the loudest smack on the water with their flat tails. Fish were jumping and splashing, and a friendly raccoon started climbing down the ropes of Wilson's hammock. A 'possum clanged through the campers' canned goods—and then it happened! A hideous scream shat-

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Black Hawk County had a dramatic illustration of the effects of river pollution recently when some poison caused the death of thousands of fish in the Cedar River below Waterloo.

CALL HEARING ON RIVER POLLUTION

Black Hawk County had a dramatic illustration of the effects of river pollution the other day when some poison, apparently, was dumped into the Cedar and caused the death of thousands of fish. The loss of these, including game fish, was a serious enough matter for fishermen; but the presence of this rotting, stinking, animal life on the banks of the stream constitutes a serious health menace. Unless conditions in the Cedar are cleared up, moreover, the State Conservation Commission will naturally refuse to stock it with game fish.

The State Department of Health is currently conducting an investigation to determine the reasons for the death of the fish and the resulting contamination of the river front downstream. It is not yet known whether a specific quantity of poisonous material was

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1949 HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASONS

PHEASANTS—Open season, long zone: November 11-December 5, 1949, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours—12 noon to 4:30 p.m. Bag limit—two (2) cock birds. Possession limit after first day—four (4) cock birds. Open Counties: Lyon, Sioux, Plymouth, Osceola, O'Brien, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Palo Alto, Franklin, Cerro Gordo, Worth, Mitchell, Floyd, Butler, Howard, Chickasaw, Bremer, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Fayette, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Woodbury, Ida, Sac, Calhoun, Greene, Carroll, Crawford, Shelby, Audubon, Guthrie, Linn, Webster, Hamilton, Hardin, Grundy, Tama, Marshall, Story, Mahaska, Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Poweshiek, Keokuk, Washington, Muscatine, Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Scott, Clinton, Jackson, Cedar, Pocahontas, Kosuth, Humboldt, Winnebago, Hancock, Wright.

Open season, short zone: November 11-17, 1949, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours 12 noon to 4:30 p.m. Bag limit—two (2) cock birds. Possession limit after first day—four (4) cock birds. Open counties: Louisa, Monona, Cass, Adair, Madison, Adams, Union, Taylor, Ringgold, Decatur, Clarke.

QUAIL—To be announced at a later date. Watch your local newspaper for announcement.

SQUIRREL—Open season for gray and fox squirrels—September 15-November 15, 1949, both dates inclusive. Entire state open. Bag limit six (6) per day; possession limit after first day twelve (12).

RABBIT—Open season for cottontail and jack September 15, 1949-January 31, 1950, both dates inclusive. Shooting hours—6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Entire state open. Bag limit six (6) per day.

Possession limit after first day twelve (12).

DUCKS, GEESE, COOT AND MUDHEN—Open season October 21-November 29, 1949, both dates inclusive. Entire state open. Shooting allowed opening day from noon until one hour before sunset. Each day thereafter the season opens one-half hour before sunrise and closes one hour before sunset.

Ducks—Bag limit four (4) per day; possession limit after first day eight (8), with only one (1) wood duck in possession at any time.

Geese—Bag and possession limit four (4). Not more than two (2) of the limit may be Canada, Hutchins, Cackling, or White-fronted geese. Two (2) of any of the above may be included in the limit. The entire bag may be made up of either blue or snow geese or any combination of them.

Coot and Mudhen—Bag and possession limit ten (10).

WILSON OR JACK SNIPE,



The 1949 quail season will be set upon completion of quail censuses made in September. Watch your local newspaper for announcement. Jim Sherman Photo.



Sixty-one per cent of all males in Iowa between the ages of 15 and 64 use firearms for sport. Jim Sherman Photo.

17 MILLION SHOOT FOR SPORT

Seventeen million shooters! That is the amazing number estimated to be using firearms for sport annually in the United States, according to a hunting and shooting study conducted recently for Remington Arms Co., Inc., by the Psychological Corporation.

This estimate was reached through an analysis of 4,562 actual interviews with men and boys in 157 cities, towns, and rural areas in 14 states at the beginning of last fall's hunting season.

Among interesting data obtained was information concerning who the shooters are and where they come from. Shooting apparently is a "start early" sport, for more than 60 per cent of those interviewed started shooting before they were 20 years of age. At least another 20 per cent became devotees of the shooting sports while in their twenties. The percentage of shooters among those living in small towns or farm areas, as is to be expected, larger than that among those who live in cities, but in point of numbers there are almost as many city shooters as rural shooters.

Upon receipt of the Remington figures, the Des Moines Register poll did a little analyzing on its own relative to the number of shooters in Iowa. According to its conclusions, Iowa, compared to other states, has more than its proportionate share of shooters. On a percentage basis, Iowa has 1.8 per cent of the male population in the age group of 15 to 64 years, and according to percentage on a population basis, should have about 306,000 shooters. It has been determined, however, that Iowa has approximately 500,000 male shooters, or 2.9 per cent of

all the male shooters in the United States.

Another interesting relationship pointed out by the Register poll is that the 500,000 males using firearms for sport in Iowa constitute 61 per cent of all the males in the state between the ages of 15 and 64, whereas the Remington poll shows an over-all average of 37 per cent. This may be explained by the fact that a large portion of Iowa's population is found in small towns and on the farm, which places tend to show a larger percentage of shooters.

OUTDOOR NOTES

By Joe Austell Small

Rod Grips

Don't let your fishing rod get in a state of degradation like most fishermen's. The dirt and discoloration of a cork rod grip can be removed with acetone. Apply with small sponge and wipe off with cloth. Keep it up until clean. It sure helps the looks, and feel, of a rod.

Reds Cropping Up

You can't ever tell where a Red will creep up these days. A Soviet whaling expedition carried back to Russia a family of redheaded penguins from Antarctica recently. They'll probably be used for propaganda purposes in the cold countries.

What, No Cheesecake?

Dr. S. W. Bromley, entomologist, says that some insects signal, or talk, with one another on supersonic wave lengths. He placed a giant silkworm moth in an odor-proof glass cage. Soon she had male moths rushing to her window.

"She signals them by some supersonic squealing," he explained. Just like a woman.

FISHERY OBSERVATIONS AT CLEAR LAKE, 1949

By John Parsons

Iowa Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit

A few of the field observations made at Clear Lake the past summer are worthy of reporting at this time, even though the data collected have not yet been analyzed.

The walleye pike or yellow pikeperch are apparently abundant and in particularly good condition, even though the fishing for this species has not been good this summer. In connection with the research studies of the Iowa Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit, experimental gill nets have been set in all parts of Clear Lake. On two occasions 48 walleyes were caught in 375 feet of gill net in 10 hours, and on another, 63 were caught in a 12-hour period. Such catches are almost phenomenal for this type of netting. Many of the fish weighed over two pounds each and not infrequently weighed from four to seven pounds each. Test seining has also indicated a high population of large walleyes.

According to most reports, angling for walleyes has not been good, despite the high population of these fish. It is possible that the walleyes are well fed, consequently not biting well on hook and line. The forage fish population, including both minnows and small fish, seems to be higher than in some of the past years. It is also possible that more walleyes can be caught by using different angling techniques.

The netting indicates that the walleyes come into shallow water in the evening and remain until early morning. In the daytime the walleyes frequently come into the rushes in shallow water for short periods of time. These fish have shown no particular preference between calm and wavy waters during daylight activities, but definitely favor calm waters at night.

It has also been noticeable in shallow water during all hours that the walleyes move about very

HOW GREEN OUR BOUNTY

This is God's country. Let no man be mistaken about that. Fish in the waters to be caught. Bushes laden with berries to be picked. Oats in the bundle to be shocked. Corn on the cob to be eaten. Tomatoes on the bush to be picked. Potatoes in the hill to be dug. Apples on the tree to be cooked and cucumbers on the vine to be pickled. And so we could go on, but you are as aware of it as we, and we simply remind you to be thankful for the abundance of the produce of the earth. Soon there'll be squirrels on the limb, and ducks on the wing. There'll also be quail in the covey, and pheasant under cover. Yes, and fox on the trail and 'coon in the night, 'possum in pot, and pumpkin in the pie. This is a great land, and a great day in which to be alive.—Bellevue Leader.

near the surface. This surface movement is also apparent in deeper water during the evening and night. Stomach analysis during the summer indicates the walleyes feed heavily, but for only short periods of time.

Although the evidence is not so strong for the bullheads, it would appear that the bullheads in Clear Lake are more abundant than their appearance in the fisherman's creel would indicate. At the same time, the bullhead reproduction this summer is exceptionally poor.

Another striking observation is the discovery of large numbers of young white bass. There have been very few white bass raised in Clear Lake for several years, and the adult brood population has been very low. Yet this summer the young white bass appear to outnumber the young yellow bass which have dominated the lake for several years. It will be interesting to follow these fish and see whether they may come back in large numbers in Clear Lake.



In experimental gill netting at Clear Lake, 63 walleyes were caught in 375 feet of gill net in a 12-hour period. S. W. Lock Photo.



The tree toad knows he is no John Charles Thomas, but he does hope to strike a responsive chord in Tessie Toad's counterpart of a breast when he gives with his love song. Reeve Bailey Photo.

TOAD LISTENERS' LEARNING

Consider the case of the lowly tree toad. He could give you and me his correspondence course on how to be calm and take things easy. Worries are the things he has the least of. He sleeps all day, which in itself would eliminate nine-tenths of this old globe's troubles, and does a bit of modest prowling only at night. He doesn't give a hoot if his seams are straight or if the Murphys have a new car. You couldn't even get him to raise an eyebrow in concern over our southern senators. He just goes ahead doin' the things that any healthy, normal, young tree toad does to keep in the happy column.

Some of the country's most astute toad-listeners tell me that our tree dwelling friend must be considered fairly intelligent, as he has almost no dealings with mankind in general. About the only connection he has with the (currently) most popular bipeds is to warn them of approaching rain. Here is the payoff—he doesn't even mean to do that. After much peering down toad throats and hiding in leafy bowers, science has discovered that the warm, moist air preceding a rain does something to Hubert Toad's libido. His mating urge rises to the surface and, though he fights it, young Hubert can do nought but give with his dismal bleatings. He knows he is no John Charles Thomas, but he can and does hope to strike a responsive chord in Tessie Toad's counterpart of a breast. With all this deep sex stuff going on, we mortals, within ear-shot, pull in the lawn chairs and lower the windows, smiling smugly and saying, "Yep, hear that tree toad? It's going to rain." Now if that ain't a damp solution to the

love problems of our warty warbler!

What I really mean is, there should be a moral here somewhere, if I just could find out in which direction to point.—*Under the Sky, Burlington Herald.*

EMMET COUNTY AREA DEVELOPMENT

When the Conservation Commission's program is completed, Emmet County will have the finest game refuge, game breeding grounds and also the best hunting that there is in the state. And more than that, there will be good fishing on High, Swan and Mud lakes when the program becomes fully effective. High and Mud are to be dredged, while a temporary draining will cleanse Swan Lake. It may be necessary to drain High and Mud if other treatment, such as rough fish removal, silt treatment by dredging, rip-rapping and property acquisition along shoreline prove only partially effective.

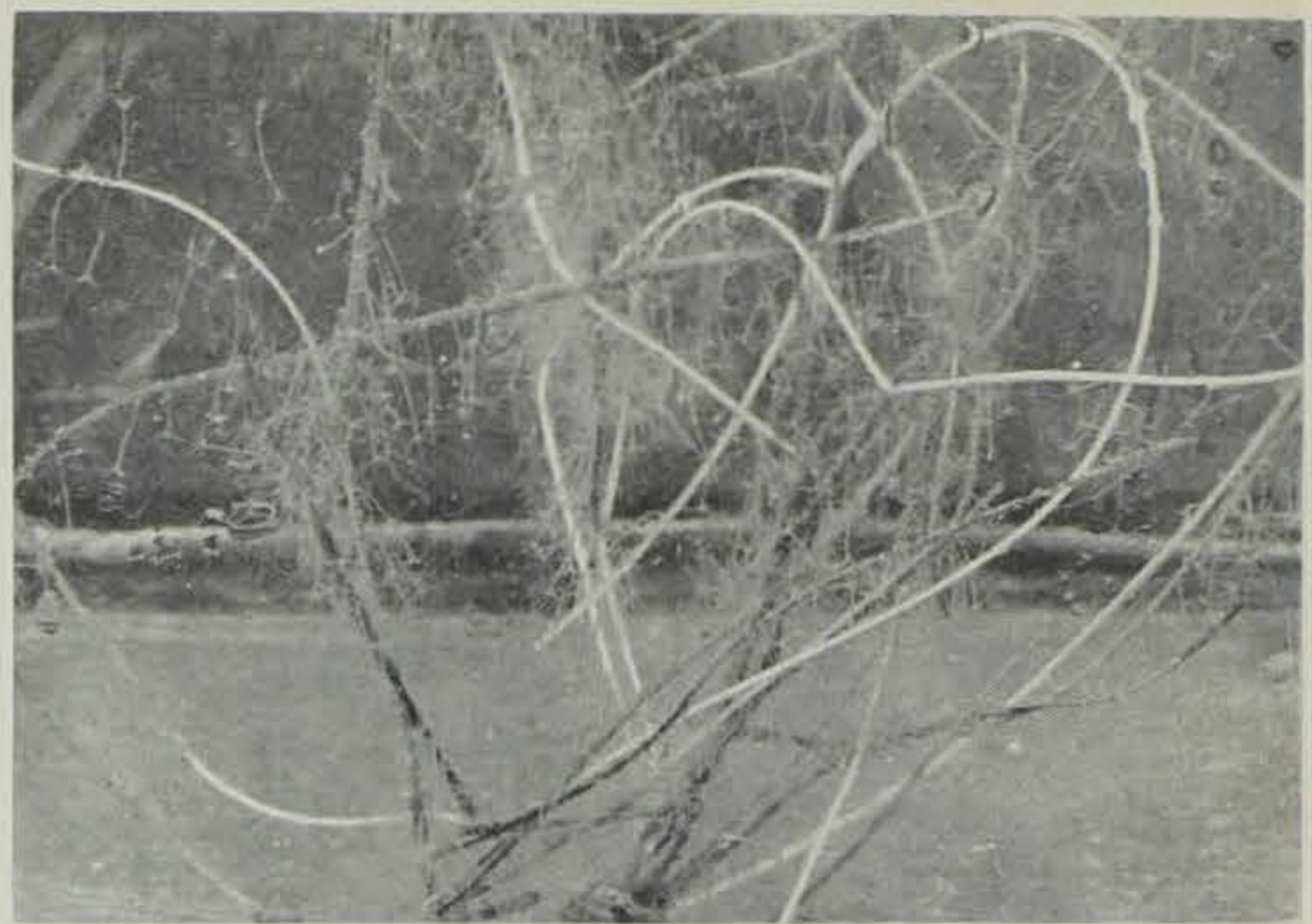
The Conservation Commission is taking that interest in Emmet County game and fish resources which they deserve, and the entire state will benefit from the long range program for which the people of the community have been waiting patiently.—*Estherville News.*

HONEY CREEK LAKE

The new artificial lake being built by the State Conservation Commission at Honey Creek is now under construction. The watershed area for the project lies in Washington, Keokuk, and Jefferson Soil Conservation Districts. Commissioners from these districts have organized a special commit-



Conservation Commission officials inspect the new Honey Creek artificial lake development in Washington County. The dam, which will impound 400 acres of water, will be 200 feet wide at the base, 47 feet high, and will extend from the left foreground of the picture to the trees in the right background 725 feet distant.



Manipulation of the complicated biological balance below the water surface can and often does bring unexpected results. Jim Sherman Photo.

"Weeds In Lakes—Maybe They're Good Thing"

Lake residents "up north" and others who just roost on their shores during the swimming and fishing season are all excited over weeds in Spirit Lake, East Okoboji and shallow bays of West Okoboji.

The Spencer Times prepared an article in which Prof. B. Shimek

of the state university is quoted on the subject. Storm Lakers, as well as residents in towns on other Iowa lakes, will find the article interesting, so here it is in toto:

Spencer Times: Everyone is complaining about the "weeds" in the lakes this year. The Des Moines Register came out with two long articles on them as a great liability to the lakes and quoting lake residents on their annoyance over the "weeds" and their desire to get rid of them.

When you have a toothache, there probably is a reason for it. We hate these "weeds" just like we hate a toothache. Let's investigate, though, before we act rashly.

The lakes had a bad case of "weeds" in 1931. Residents on the shores will remember that.

Dr. B. Shimek, chairman of the committee of conservation of the Iowa Academy of Science and the moving force always behind the Lakeside Laboratory, whose scientists studied our lakes for years, probably knew more about our lakes than any one man. He had something to say about that earlier case of "weeds". He and other scientists of that time petitioned the governor and general assembly of Iowa asking that the blue-green algae not be destroyed.

Algae Not Cause of Pollution

They wrote in their petition: "We respectfully call attention to the fact that the blue-green algae are not the cause of pollution in our lakes, but that they are evidence that such pollution has taken place. They are the scavengers which remove the filth and to kill them would not remove the cause of their presence.

"It must be remembered, moreover, that the same process which kills the blue-green algae will also kill green algae and many other small organisms which directly or

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In late afternoon squirrels seek water. At this time of day heavy stands of old timber along streams are especially productive. Jim Sherman Photo.

Squirrel Days . . .

(Continued from page 161)

ing and browsing by stock causes root rot and die-back in the tree-tops. Cattle also clear the underbrush, and unsuspecting squirrels may be seen for considerable distances on the ground.

Squirrels are active during the daylight hours only. Research studies have shown that they are most active on clear mornings from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. They are least active during the day between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Partial or complete cloudiness or rain decreases their movements. Most active temperatures are from 40 to 49 degrees. Exceptionally low temperatures cause squirrels to retreat into their leaf nests, or into tree hollows. During very high temperatures squirrels are rather inactive, lying around sprawled on some shady limb, trying to keep cool.

Light snow does not decrease squirrel movement to any appreciable degree, but snow of more than two inches that hinders the squirrel in its ground travels does cut down their activities.



The first step in skinning squirrels is to cut through the tail bone from the under side, being careful not to sever the skin on the back. Jim Sherman Photo.

High wind velocities decrease activity noticeably. Swaying branches make a tree trip hazardous at times, and even the extremely nimble gray squirrel is not as evident in windy weather as during quiet autumn days.

In periods of greatest activity, squirrels may best be located on their feeding grounds, where their tell-tale feeding noises are dead give-aways to their location. During other periods careful search of the trees is necessary for, like most other wild animals, they have learned the value of relaxation and loaf, flattened out on some convenient tree limb sofa.

In late afternoons, especially during drought periods, squirrels may be found in the areas around water. Under such conditions, often the heavy stands of old timber along streams are especially productive.

Like the squirrels he hunts, the hunter, too, should learn to relax. Some of the most successful squirrel hunters slip into squirrel territory, sit down and remain motionless, watching the woodland scene for considerable periods of time. In still hunting often two, three, or even four squirrels may be located from one vantage point.

Squirrels have acute sight and hearing. Dull colored clothing should be worn. Many successful squirrel hunters use a moccasin-type soft-soled shoe or boot, being careful to avoid stepping on dry leaves, sticks or branches which may be a dead give-away.

The Simon-pure squirrel hunter scoffs at the idea of a hunting companion. He is a "loner." If he hunts in company, it is with only a single companion, and then each hunts independently of the other some hundred yards or more apart. The expert carries a small caliber rifle and growls, "There oughta be a law!" when a scatter-gun is mentioned. He is extremely care-

ful around livestock and leaves no gates open. He is truly the dry-fly fisherman of the hunting fraternity.

For the tyro, one drawback to squirrel shooting is his inability to skin squirrels. With a little know-how it is very easy.

On the underside of the tail next to the body, cut through the tail bone. Slip the skin up the haunches about an inch on each side. Take the two hind feet in the right hand, step on the squirrel's tail with the left foot. Pull up on the hind legs until the skin peels up tightly against the shoulders. Change the hind feet to the left hand, still standing on the tail, and with the right forefinger and thumb pull



The second step in squirrel skinning is to take the two hind feet in the right hand, step on the squirrel's tail with the left foot, pull up on the hind legs until the skin peels tightly against the shoulders. Jim Sherman Photo.



A successful still hunter slips quietly into squirrel territory, sits down and remains motionless, often spotting two, three or even four squirrels from one vantage point. Jim Sherman Photo.

the exposed forelegs out of the leg skin. Pull the unpeeled fur at the stomach over the hind quarters and legs. Cut off the head and feet and remove the entrails through a full-length incision on the underside.

With this method of skinning, the expert can dress a squirrel in less than sixty seconds and leave no hair on the body.

If these few pointers help you have a pleasant hunt this fall, they are well worthwhile and we're glad to pass them along.

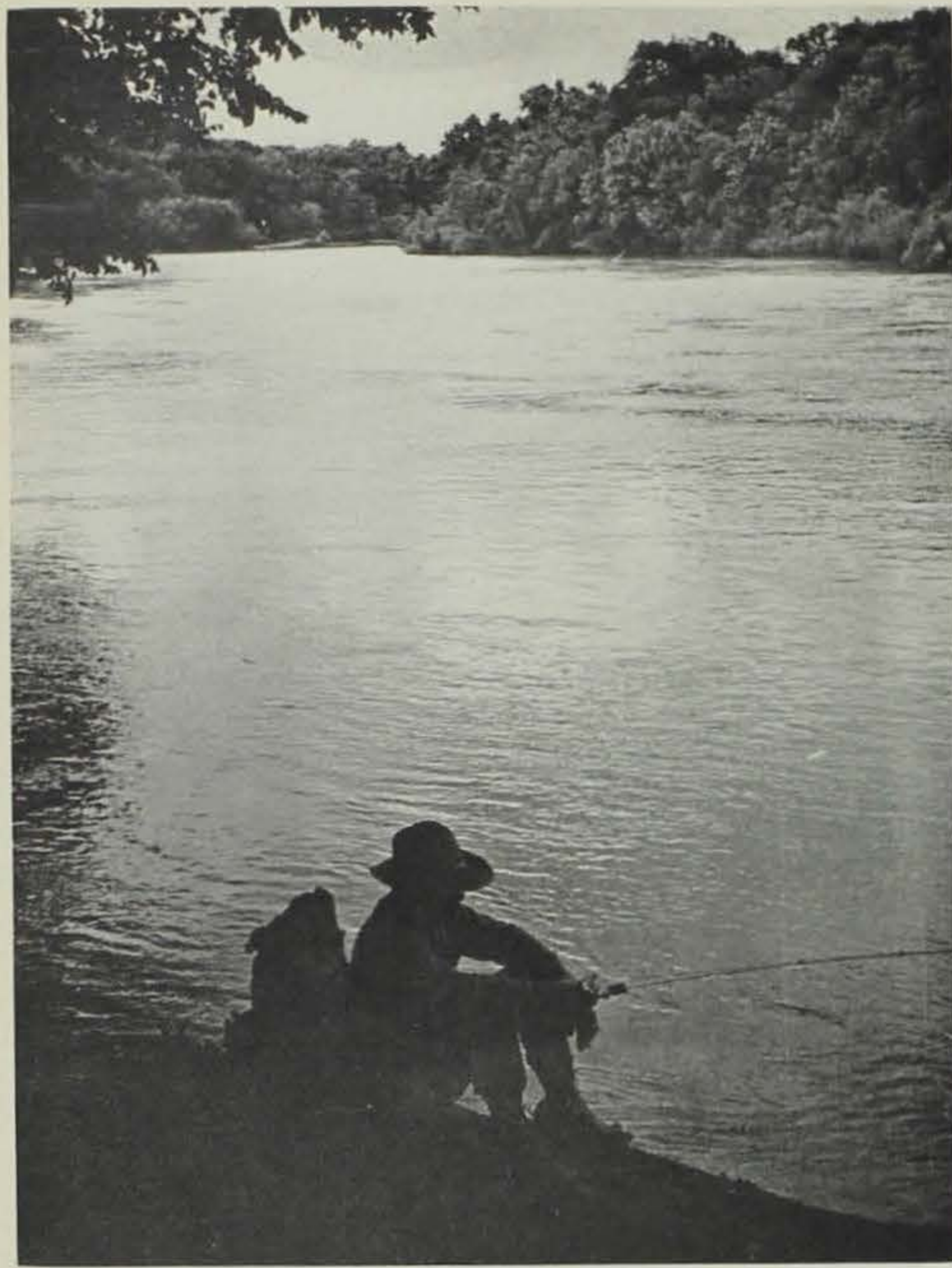
One other point, however, and probably the most important of all: ask the farmer first before you trespass in his timber.

WASP LARVAE FOR TROUT BAIT

Ever catch your trout bait with a broom? Take a look under the eaves of your house or garage. If you see grey clusters of egg cells attached to the underside of the boards, you have an endless supply of trout bait, always fresh and easy to get. Knock these wasp nests down with a broom and run. After these winged furies have settled down, you can pick up the nests and carry them in your pocket or creel until ready for use. Just hook a white grub through the neck and jerk it out of its snug little home. They are excellent for trout and panfish. The author caught eight trout and a sucker on grubs in Bloody Run near Marquette last week. A tour around the house this evening assures us of enough bait for the rest of the season if the ladies of the house will tolerate the wasps that long.

—Milo Gerry.

Izaak Walton, the world's best known fisherman since Saint Peter, was a devoutly religious man given to philosophy and meditation. He was born in England on August 9, 1593, and died on December 15, 1683, at the age of 90.



Izaak Walton's underlying philosophy of angling was relaxation and meditation beside quiet waters. Jim Sherman Photo.

Reflections . . .

(Continued from page 161)

Indeed, I confess to occasional pangs of regret that I ever abandoned the bamboo pole for the sportier casting rod and I rejoice to see that this primitive method of fishing still holds its place in the modern scene.

For the sport of angling, like the Old Gray Mare, "ain't what she used to be." The tendency of the times is to diversify and infinitely complicate what formerly was a modest but satisfying pastime within the reach of all. Gaudy and costly accessories have cluttered the scene, robbing the sport of its original simplicity. Now the pole-bobber-worm combination is looked upon with some degree of condescension.

I am confident that if old Ike Walton were to reappear from his English countryside and stroll through a modern sports shop with its glittering array of intricate reels, finely tempered rods, and its grotesquery of spoons, plugs and flies, he would exclaim, "Gosh all fishhooks!" He would then return to his solitude to completely rewrite his "Compleat Angler" and toss the original edition in the creek.

But Ike's underlying philosophy ought not to be so tossed in the discard. The very essence of the

pastime, as he envisioned it, was relaxation and philosophical meditation beside quiet waters. The emphasis now is upon thrill and action with its inevitable tension—and the quiet waters are forsaken for turbulent streams. No longer may the term "gentle" be properly applied to the Waltonian pastime.

Your modern angler must have his excitement and unremitting activity or he counts his day wholly lost. Like a piscatorial Shylock he exacts his pound of fish. In his quest for a record catch and a breath-taking thrill, he loses that which his soul most sorely needs—the healing and sweetening balm of meditative introspection. One's cup "runneth over" only when the soul is led beside "still waters."

Sport, when it becomes too "sporty" and is removed from the grasp and purse of the common man, loses some of its savor and becomes merely a purchased pleasure. It is consoling to reflect that the rarest pleasures of life are not purchasable with coin of the realm, but are dependent largely upon one's mental attitude and spiritual capacity. It is conceivable that the man with the bamboo pole and can of worms may derive more physical benefit and spiritual uplift from his brief outings on local streams than do those with surf-

rods, fly-rods or casting-rods who range afar in exclusive and "sporty" waters.

My accumulated 52 weeks, more or less, over a period of 20 odd years, casting for trout, walleyes and bass in the Canadian wilderness afford me priceless memories now that the last chapter has been written and the book closed.

In fancy I stir the ashes of extinguished campfires, retrace old portages and paddle phantom canoes over lonely and mirage-like lakes. There still sounds in my ear the diapason of thundering falls, the whine of the rapids, the maniacal cry of the loon at night shattering the solitude, followed by the muted "plunk" of the beaver's tail as he submerges. Those experiences held plenty of thrill, with some spots of danger and a few panicky days of being lost with a dwindling grub supply.

The memories will be with me always—and yet, as the years click off with seemingly increased tempo, my thoughts roll farther back to that prior era of the pole-bobber-and-worms, less dramatic in incident but more soul-satisfying in retrospect.

For it was beside "still waters" that I whiled away my happiest hours with Billy Burhans, George Washburn and Ed Wesner—pole-and-bobber fishermen, all of them. Reclining on the banks of the sleepy sloughs north of Burlington with our poles "set", we talked of many matters, exchanged confidences and even reverently speculated upon the life beyond where we hoped to foregather some day and renew our delightful camaraderie.

Billy and George and Ed! A finer trio of sportsmen never gathered upon any shore. They watched their bobbers, as all good fishermen should, but occasionally lifted their gaze to the heavens—and beyond. All three have crossed

the river now, and I find myself peering thoughtfully into the sunset where my fancy pictures them grouped on some celestial bay. Possibly they have rigged up an outfit for me against the time of my coming, and I sense it will not consist of a surf-rod, nor a fly-rod, nor a casting-rod—but a bamboo pole with bobber—and a golden hook, baited with a glowworm.

"Night-crawlers and Worms For Sale!" Another jalopy just stopped at the sign across the street, and soon a father and son trot briskly and hopefully forth. Good luck, fellows! That which will accrue to you from your projected outing is not to be weighed on the scales, nor measured by rule, nor computed in number. It is a certain ineffable something—as refreshing as the evening zephyr carrying fragrance from flower to flower—which seeps into the soul and cleanses it, for a brief time at least, of the residuum of care that bends it low. In future years when your memories, like mine, are rolled up and counted and weighed, that can of worms may well prove to be as lovely as a Grecian urn and as precious as the fabulous pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

ROAD OVER GEODE DAM

We're glad to see the State Conservation Commission, in going ahead with the improvement of Geode State Park, is wisely providing for a highway over the dam. Thus the old Agency road will not have to be rerouted.

In fact, we've often wondered why the federal government did not provide river crossings when it built the Kingston dam and other dams along the Mississippi. This could have been done at extremely low additional cost, without interrupting the system of locks for the passage of boats.—*Burlington Hawkeye-Gazette.*



Father and son go hopefully forth. That which will accrue to them from their outing is not to be weighed on the scales, measured by rule, nor computed in number.



Conservation Officer Warren Wilson prescribes a good night's sleep along some stream as a remedy for the nervous tensions of modern times. Jim Sherman Photo.

Wardens Tales . . .

(Continued from page 162)
 tered the "stillness" of the night!
 "I jumped out of my hammock with a start," says Wilson. "The yell was all too familiar to me. Yes, Harry had fallen out of his swaying bed, landing posterior down in a clump of nettle."
 "Ah, yes," he concludes, "there's nothing more relaxing than a good night's sleep along some quiet running stream in Mother Nature's great wilderness."

"I picked up some adult pheasants at the Game Farm last spring," writes Tom Berkley, conservation officer in Fayette and

Winneshiek counties, "and released 24 hens and three roosters west of West Union."

"The West Union club officers helped me, and when we released the fifteenth hen, she flew across a slough into an open pasture. She had scarcely alighted when a redtailed hawk swooped down and hit her. Within a few seconds, however, six or eight blackbirds attacked the hawk, driving him off the hen and chasing him away."

"We picked up the hen, still alive, and while her back was quite bloody, she came to and managed to walk away."

"Makes me wonder how much damage is really done by redtails."

Weeds . . .

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 indirectly form the basis of food for fishes."
 During that siege of "weeds" the scientists wrote, "There is little doubt that sewage is the source of pollution." What the source of pollution is now, we are not at all qualified to know.

Danger of Sewage

Then the scientist recommended as the right steps to take to restore and perpetuate the purity and former normal condition of our lakes:

"1. If the towns along the lakes established their sewage plants legally and in good faith (as they no doubt did) the state should assist them in so changing their plants that no part of the sewage should enter the respective lakes, but in any event no sewage of any kind should be permitted to enter any lake within the state. The accumulation of sewage in the quiet lake waters is even more serious than in running streams, for it has little chance of purification."

"2. Encourage the growth of

green vegetation in the shallows of the lakes. *Green plants release bubbles of oxygen which are the great cleansing agents of our waters, besides making aquatic animal life possible.* Green algae, as well as the so-called 'moss-beds', serve this purpose, and the latter also form breeding and feeding places for fishes and important foods for water birds.

Effect of Seining

"3. Prevent seining for soft fishes in our lakes in shallows where aquatic vegetation is abundant. This practice destroys much of the vegetation, causing premature decay and pollution of the water, destroys much of the fish food, and endangers fish-life."

We're sure we don't know the best way to get our lakes back to "the beautiful blue waters" of which we have always been so proud. We do know that, a few years ago, the state went to much expense and work to drain Trumbull lake, clean it and restore the vegetation in it, so the game fish would live there again. We know that the sportsmen wish there were vegetation again in Greene

Slough, so it could once more be the "happy hunting ground" it formerly was.

Getting Tangled

We don't like getting tangled up with the Okoboji and Spirit Lake "weeds" any more than other residents but, if that plant life is trying to help us out of a bad spot by purifying our waters, which we have polluted, let's not act hastily and pull up or destroy those "weeds" and then be sorry.

Spencer sportsmen say that after that other case of "weeds" nearly 20 years ago, we had the best fishing in our lakes ever known here. The increasingly large number of people living at the lakes may have contributed to the pollution. Let's find out what are the wisest steps before we act.—*Storm Lake Pilot Tribune.*

Hearing . . .

(Continued from page 162)
 dumped into the river just preceding the mass extermination of fish, or whether the deaths were the result of a combination of circumstances like pollution coinciding with low water and hot weather. In any case, the investigation should reveal some reliable facts on the situation here.

Fortunately something can be done about it after the facts are ascertained. One of the laws passed by the last legislature, as a result of the interim flood control committee report, provides for a legal and carefully defined procedure in these cases. It is the procedure that should be followed in Waterloo.

The State Department of Health can undertake an exhaustive investigation of river pollution on its own initiative or upon petition by the city council, a local board of health, township trustees or a

petition signed by 25 residents of the state. After the investigation, including "such engineering studies, bacteriological, biological and chemical analyses of the water and location of the sources of contamination as may be found necessary," a public hearing will be held and those accused of contaminating the water will have the right to present evidence and examine witnesses.

If the department thereafter feels that legal action should be taken, it may issue orders to compel compliance with practices which will prevent pollution. Such orders must be approved by a majority of the newly-established Iowa Natural Resources Council. Violation of the orders thereafter is punished as contempt of court, except that appeal may be taken to district court. The law provides, however, sufficient authority to compel compliance with reasonable rules for preventing pollution.

The Cedar River pollution is now serious enough to justify proceeding under this section of the code; and we therefore ask that the State Department of Health initiate action. If it does not, then the hearing should be called either by the city council or by petition of residents.

Pollution of the Cedar at Waterloo, of course, is only a small phase of the problem. Preventing of contamination here will help a great deal; but action should also be taken at Cedar Falls and other spots both up-river and down. Making the stream clear and unpolluted must be a long-range effort involving, among other things, soil conservation practices by farmers. But we can make a satisfactory and worthwhile beginning by stopping pollution here.—*Waterloo Courier.*



In autumn, sweet, juicy wild plums burden their trees and cover the ground in thousands of miles of fence rows.

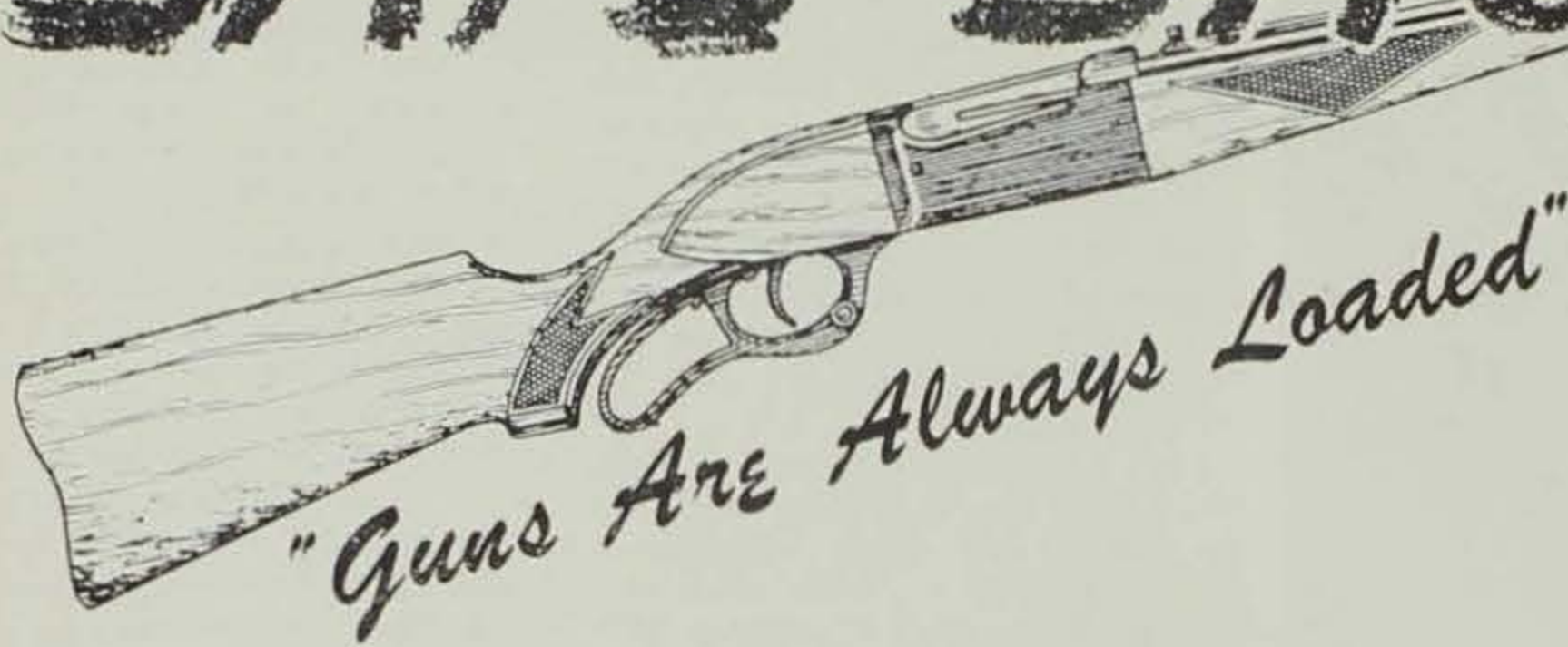
Fall Fruits . . .

(Continued from page 161)
 walnut, the butternut or white walnut, and the shagbark hickory trees. They are beginning to ripen and fall and, if you are lucky

enough to get there ahead of the squirrels, you may get enough to treat your friends on a winter evening. But don't break or injure the trees to get them.

Take yourself on a tasting tour.

SAFE SHOOTIN'



SO — WHEN YOU PICK UP ANY KIND OF A FIREARM EXAMINE ITS CARTRIDGE CHAMBER CAREFULLY WITH THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AND WITHOUT TOUCHING THE TRIGGER.

IF THE GUN HAS A BOLT ACTION OR A LEVER OR A PUMP ACTION, WORK IT SEVERAL TIMES TO EJECT ANY CARTRIDGES THAT MAY BE IN THE MAGAZINE. YOU DO THIS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHER PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE INJURED IF THE GUN WAS ACCIDENTALLY FIRED.

OPEN AND LEAVE OPEN THE ACTION OF ANY GUN YOU PASS TO ANOTHER PERSON.

SHOULD YOU BE HANDED A GUN WITH THE ACTION CLOSED, OPEN IT AT ONCE AND LOOK INTO THE CHAMBER.

UNLOAD YOUR GUN BEFORE YOU PLACE IT IN YOUR CAR TO AVOID ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE AND COMPLY WITH STATE LAWS WHICH MAKE IT ILLEGAL TO CARRY A LOADED GUN IN AN AUTOMOBILE.

UNLOAD GUN BEFORE ENTERING A TENT, CABIN OR ANY BUILDING WHERE THERE MAY BE PEOPLE — YOUR OWN HOUSE OR A HUNTING CAMP.

WHEN WITH ANOTHER HUNTER KEEP GUN MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION. WATCH THAT HE DOESN'T SWING HIS GUN TOWARD YOU.

WHEN TWO HUNTERS COME TO A FENCE THE ACTIONS SHOULD BE OPENED. ONE HOLDS GUNS WHILE OTHER CLIMBS OVER AND TAKES THEM AS SECOND FOLLOWS.

IF ALONE CLIMB OVER CARRYING GUN WITH MUZZLE POINTED AWAY. IF YOU PREFER PUT GUN THROUGH ON GROUND BEFORE YOU CLIMB OVER, WITH ACTION OPEN AND MUZZLE POINTED AWAY FROM YOU.

WORKING THROUGH A "BLOW DOWN" OR ACROSS BOULDER COVERED GROUND HOLD GUN SECURELY IN CROOK OF ARM. KEEP SAFETY DEVICE ON BUT READY TO RELEASE IF GAME APPEARS.

WHEN YOUNGSTERS ARE TAUGHT TO SHOOT, THE DANGER OF ACCIDENTS IS GREATLY REDUCED. A TRAINED SHOOTER IS USUALLY A SAFE ONE. TEACH 'EM WHILE THEY ARE YOUNG.



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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA