SIT GOOD TO EAT?"

By George O. Moore
Missouri Conservation Commission

If you like fish, all Missouri spe­
s are good!
Some of the kinds rated inedible
are extra good. I've made a prac­
tice of eating every kind of fish
which adds up to 41 Mis­
souri varieties.
Of all the 41, my favorite is
whin, also known as mudfish,
gill and grindle. And this bow­
il is a choice subject with which
begin.
The first ones I caught were
were not dressed until next day;
that time the flesh was so soft
scrapped it off the bones and
ded up with a mess like soft
It.
I considered throwing it
away but clung to my project
of tiling.
I molded the flesh into patties
ile my adventurous wife dipped
patties in beaten egg and
acker crumbs for frying. When
ey arrived on the table my sur­
sise was pleasant and I looked
ross at Polly. She said:
"This tastes like the breast of
young chicken!"
Bowfin-grindle flesh is dry, not
ly, and of mild flavor:
Another type generally discarded
the "shad" which comes in vari­
es called hickory, gizzard, skip­
coks, and mooneye, the last actu­
ly being a herring.
A mooneye is a flat, silvery fish
ith large, colorful eyes, and looks
on the stringer—for a few
utes. But it lives very briefly
handled quickly it can be put in
inside minnow bucket and kept
the water for a while, but its
to clean and dress mooneyes
once and put them on ice or in
et moss.
If your fishing trip lasts more
an two hours, have ice in your
ner or boat. When you have a fish
hat can't be kept alive, dress it
once and put it on ice. Fish
allowed to die never taste as fresh
nd good as those dressed prompt­
ly.
In warm weather bass and
degill develop a "mousy" flavor
this is on the skin and scales and

Outlook For This Fall's Quail Hunting

By M. E. Stempel
Game Biologist

Reports of last year's quail
hunting success indicated that the
birds were in good supply. The
same birds hunted then are now
the brood stock that is supplying
young for the coming season.
After last hunting season, a
ount of remaining quail revealed
that a large percentage of quail
coverts was still occupied. Fall
rain winter checks showed a slight
ward trend over the previous year.

This potential is enough to give
us fine quail hunting this fall.
But first, a successful hatching
summer is needed. To date, in
spite of a late, cold spring, the
calling activities of quail, plus re­
ports from persons observing the
quail territory, indicate that brood­
ing is off to a good start. While
peak quail hatching is in June and
July, later broods add much to the
supply of birds. Birds that have
failed to bring off broods so far
may make nesting attempts until
mid-October.

In 1954, one of the best quail
(Continued on page 62)
**PUBLIC RELATIONS HEAD RESIGNS**

The resignation of George Worley, Superintendent of Public Relations for the State Conservation Commission, was recently announced by the Commission.

Worley’s resignation will be effective September 1, when he will join the staff of Iowa State Teachers’ College at Cedar Falls as an assistant professor of biology.

Appointed by the Iowa Conservation Commission as Educational Assistant on April 18, 1949, Worley was head of the Public Relations Section on June 1, 1949. He was responsible for most of the educational material issued by the section, for numerous bulletins, and for countless public appearances.

He was active in organizing the Teachers’ Conservation Camp, which is held each summer at Springbrook State Park, and was the official representative of the Conservation Commission at the camp.

The baldpate is sometimes called the “thief duck” because of its habit of robbing canvasback and other ducks of food. While a canvasback dives to the bottom of a lake to obtain succulent rootstocks, the baldpate will wait for the diver to return to the surface, where he snatches the food from the canvasback’s bill and swims rapidly—and triumphantly—away.

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**CHANGES ON THE MIGHTY MISSOURI**

**By John Madison**

Until just a few years ago, the Missouri River was about as friendly as a bee-stung bobcat. It ranked high among the nation’s killer rivers, and while it was used for navigation and worked by some commercial fishermen, it was almost entirely shunned by pleasure seekers.

It was fickle torrent that changed its bed and channel almost hourly. Little more than liquid mud, it was described as “too thick to navigate and too thin to cultivate” by some old-timers, who also said they could drink its water but had to chew it first.

But most of yesterday’s facts and legends must be revised. The Mighty Mo has changed, and while the river is not wholly tamed, many of its teeth have been pulled. And with this change it is rapidly taking its place among Iowa’s aquatic playgrounds.

Conservation Officer Jerry Jauron stood on a sandbar in late July, watching a fleet of fancy runabouts charge up and down the channel. One of the boats towed a pair of attractive girl skiers.

“I’ve been around this river all my life,” he said. “If some of the old river rats I’ve known could see those kids water skiing, they’d die all over again.”

**Big Dams**

The reason for the skiing, and the reason for a new, growing excitement on the Missouri, lies upstream behind the big channel dams in South Dakota and Montana.

The first of these was Fort Peck, built in Montana in the late 1930’s. Then came Garrison, Randall, and finally the new dam at Gavin’s Point, completed only last summer.

Although the Fort Peck dam affected the upper waters of the Missouri, it stood above the White and the Yellowstone, which continued to pour their silt loads into the big river. Changes weren’t too apparent until Garrison and Randall were completed, and by 1953 the Missouri had begun to clear rapidly. In 1955, when the huge dam at Gavin’s Point became effective, results were pronounced.

“They closed the dam last summer,” Jauron said, “and the river was dammed until the impounded waters began flowing over the spillway. For a couple of days the Mo practically stopped running, and you could almost sit up against the river when they shut off the flowage.”

“Then it began to flow over the spillway and the river began to rise again. When it did, I’d never seen the Missouri cleaner.”

**Silt Reduced**

Not that the Mighty Mo is a trout stream. Not even Jerry Jauron would claim that. But its water are no longer rolling clouds of yellow silt and it isn’t any muddier than some central Iowa fish streams. The spray thrown up by fast boats doesn’t look like strong coffee anymore, and is as white as that of any of our larger rivers.

The big silting basins behind the upstream dams are largely responsible for this cleaning up. The basins will fill with silt in time, there’s no doubt. But until they do, they’re allowing the silt load to settle out of the slowed river.

Wide recreation use has come with the stabilization and clearing of the Missouri. On a warm, sunny weekend hundreds of pleasure boats operate from Council Bluffs, Omaha, Onawa, Sioux City, and other river towns. One Sunday recently 72 pleasure boats were counted as they cruised past the boat landing at Missouri Valley.

Jauron believes that the best boating on the Missouri is between Omaha and Onawa. Above Onawa the channel narrows, and shallows and underwater bars may block traffic. Some boaters do travel up to Gavin’s Point South Dakota, but it takes some doing and a lot of shear pins if you don’t know the river.

The nearer one approaches the Gavin’s Point Dam, the clearer the river is said to become. Boaters reporting seeing the end of an oar in five feet of water. In other years it was sometimes impossible to see a silver dollar at four inches!

**And Fish**

Also changing is the attention given to sport fishing in the river itself. State fish shocking crews have turned up big largemouth bass, northern pikie, saugers, crappies and bluegills.

This was sometimes impossible to see a silver dollar at four inches!

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**22 Boats**

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(Co...
A DISH DIVINE

One of the best parts of fishin', the subsequent feedin', and we'd always thought we had eaten some tasty tasty fish. But early this month we were spoiled by the most elegant piscatorial morsels we've ever stuffed into our big mouth.

At the Potter Cold Storage, in Waterloo we met a fell fisherman named Mel Brown, said to be a top man when comes to cleaning fish. Naturally, the talk turned to fishing. "I used to catch catfish, 'chops' or 'chucks' came up, and Mel said at a minute, 'I've got something you to try.' He returned with a sound package of frozen walleye checks, patiently cleaned over a period of time from big walleyes had cleaned for other anglers.

He walleye checks varied in size, some of them being about two inches in diameter and a half-inch thick—morsels of firm, white meat. We fried them up the next day, and they were as fresh as they looked.

We told Mel that we used to catch "chops" in many male fish during the spawning season, including eel and trout. We knew that they were found in male catfish, now in high demand in commercial catfishing areas.

These catfish chops are delicious, delicate meat. Assistant editor Jim Harlan recently dug into their background, and came up with the following information:

He talked to Jack Erlick, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources who has handled some catches of commercial fishermen on the Mississippi for 35 years. Jack said that he first noticed catfish chops being used on the Mississippi in about 1944, when he saw some of his fish dressing cutting a chunk of meat out of the head of a catfish. He tried some, and found them delicious.

Commercial fishermen acting as guides for sportsmen have introduced them to the catfish chops. The fame of the morsel spread, and the meat began to appear as a commercial item.

They were first sold at about 25 cents a pound. They now cost about $2.50 a pound, if you can buy them. As far as we know, they are available only from Lasing and Harpers Ferry commercial fishermen, particularly in early summer. The chops may be found at any time of the year, but are usually larger during the spawning season of the male catfish.

Erlick told Harlan that his dressers use a thin knife, cutting under the flesh to the bone, turning it back, and pulling the meat away from the skin. Each "chop" has the general appearance of scallops.

Most rivermen like to french-fry them in batter. They are firmer in texture than the rest of the fish's flesh, and are tops in table delight.

J.M.

If fishing a great deal each day with a casting rod and reel, it is wise to clean and oil the reel each evening. For transporting fishing tackle in a car, a small zipper case that fits over the rod handle and reel is invaluable. For more reels are worn out from road dusty than ever ruined by river sand. Worn gears and bearings of "name" reels can usually be replaced from parts obtainable in most tackle stores and sporting goods shops.

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

1956 IOWA DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS

The 1956 Iowa deer hunting season has been set by the State Conservation Commission, with few changes over last year's regulations.

The statewide shotgun season for deer will extend from December 8 through December 9, both dates inclusive. Daily hunting hours for shotguns are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shotgun deer hunters will be limited to 6,600, and if applications for shotgun hunting exceed 6,600, a special drawing will be held to determine what hunters receive licenses. Applications for deer licenses must be made before licenses will be issued.

The deadline for shotgun license application is October 12. There is no deadline for bow-and-arrow application.

The bow and arrow season for deer will extend from October 13 through November 12, both dates inclusive. Daily hunting hours for bow and arrow are from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no limit on the number of licenses that will be issued to bowhunters.

All counties will be open to deer hunting. For both the bow season and the gun season, the daily bag limit is one deer, with a possession limit of one deer. Any age or sex of deer may be taken.

Deer hunting licenses will cost $10, and will be issued only to Iowa residents. Owners or tenants of land and their children may hunt, kill and possess one deer without a license on that land, but may not remove the deer from said land in whole or in part unless it is tagged with a locking seal provided on request from the Conservation Commission.

If you are out of state, the Conservation Commission will issue two types of licenses this year, one stamped "for shotgun only" and the other "for bow and arrow only." Both licenses will cost $10. The bow hunting license may not be used during the gun season, and the gun license may not be used for bowhunting. Applications for licenses may be sent immediately to the State Conservation Commission in Des Moines, and must be accompanied by a check or money order for $10.

No shotgun license applications postmarked later than October 12 will be accepted.

A metal locking tag will be issued with the license or on request by the landowner and must be affixed to each deer before the carcass can be transported. All hunters required to purchase licenses must wear a red license number and insignia provided when hunting deer.

Ten, 12, 16 and 20-gauge shotguns shooting rifled slugs only may be used during the two-day gun season, and bows of 40-pound pull or more shooting broadhead arrows only will be permitted during the bow-and-arrow season. The use of dogs, domestic animals, automobiles, aircraft or any mechanical conveyances, salt or bait is prohibited for taking deer.

Biologists report that the deer population is "about the same as last year," or about 14,000 animals.

One of the scientific names of the yellow bass is interrupta, taken from the broken, "interrupted" lines on the fish's sides.
When our streams go dry, their finny residents may seek refuge in isolated ponds or bankside ponds. Such "stream havens" restock the rivers when water levels return to normal.

**STREAM HAVENS SAVE FISH**

By Andreas A. Paloumpis

Iowa Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit
Iowa State College

During the past two years Iowa has experienced severe drought conditions. Many people are aware of the effects of drought conditions on crops, but what is the effect of the drought on the fish population of the streams?

During a study of Squaw Creek near Ames, it was found that certain types of habitat provided places where the fish survive even when many stretches of the stream were completely dry. These habitats were referred to as "stream havens." The fish that survived in these havens repopulated the stream when water was again present in the stream.

Isolated

As the water level dropped in the creek the stream was reduced to a series of isolated pools. The fish were concentrated in these remaining water areas. Here they were subjected to the dangers of easy predation and suffocation. Raccoon, heron, and other tracks around drying pools attest to the predatory pressure. These pools do permit some of the fish to survive, however.

The Skunk River also served as an important haven. Fish migrating into Squaw Creek from the Skunk River in the spring to spawn aided in the repopulation of the stream. At times, though, even the fish in the Skunk River must resort to "havens pools" to survive some of the drought periods.

The repopulation of Squaw Creek by fish from the Skunk River following severe winter and drought conditions is very important. Prior to the re-establishment of a continuous flow of water in Squaw Creek to the Skunk River in March, 1956, only four species of minnows were present in the creek. In June, 1956, after Squaw Creek had connected with the Skunk River, 13 species of fish were collected.

Creekside Ponds

The ponds which border Squaw Creek and the Skunk River served as important havens during the drought period. The ponds were not affected by the drastic fluctuations experienced in the stream and the fish population contained within them had a better chance for survival. Floods are necessary to repopulate the stream from such bordering ponds.

Fish havens are also important during flood periods. The smaller tributaries of Squaw Creek and the bordering ponds serve as protection during floods when small fish and fish eggs might otherwise all be swept downstream. Creek chubs were found to be spawning in small tributary streams during the 1954 flood.

The survival of a fish population in Squaw Creek and other intermittent streams is possible only because certain rather limited fish habitats remain even during the most severe catastrophes which overtake the stream as a whole. These limited habitats are the "stream havens" of fish.

The Invasion of hunters for the pheasant season recalls an incident of a year ago when one of them brought to Mrs. Barbara Miller, who dresses game birds on occasion, a plump fowl for plucking. It was a goose, an old, tame gray goose burdened with much fat, but it was evident the proud mirrond really believed he'd bagged a wild one. Since the mistake could not be corrected, Mrs. Miller was the soul of tact: She dressed the bird, handed it over and accepted her fee without saying an embarrassing word.—Emmetsburg Democrat

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**GOOSE CALLING CONTEST: SEPTEMBER 29-30**

Officials of the World's Championship Goose Calling Contest have announced that this year's competition will be held at Missouri Valley on September 30, climaxing a two-day program of parades and other entertainment.

It will be the sixth annual meeting of the contest. This year's first place will be a $1,000 savings bond and a 34-inch trophy valued at $250. Second prize is a 14-foot aluminum boat, and third prize is a 12-gauge magnum shotgun. Trophies will also be awarded second and third-place winners. Many other prizes will be awarded to runners-up.

The contest will be held at the Harrison County Fairgrounds in Missouri Valley at the west edge of town. A full program of entertainment is scheduled, including a return engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Beegle of the Remington Arms Company, who will highlight the show with an exhibition of fancy shooting.

A crowd estimated at 7,000 persons attended the contest last year and watched a Lake Charles, Louisiana father-son team take top honors. Clarence and "Dud" Falk, prominent Louisiana game callers, took first and third place in the competition. Second place winner was an Iowan, Don Drustup of Missouri Valley.

During the first few years of the competition, veteran Iowa goose callers were virtually unchallenged, but competition has become increasingly keen with recent contests. Contest officials report that the Falks will return to defend their titles this year, and may be accompanied by other southern callers.

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The world's champion goose caller is Clarence Falk of Lake Charles, Louisiana. He won, Dud Falk, took third place in last year's contest. Both will return in September to defend their titles.
Bank, and of greatest interest to foresters and fish and game managers, is the Conservation Reserve. Unlike the annual acreage reserve, the conservation reserve contract is made for not less than three years and for no more than fifteen years.

It is designed to: "establish and maintain protective vegetative cover, water storage facilities, and other soil, water, wildlife, or forest-conserving uses on specific acreage of land regularly used in the production of crops."

Such acreage must be in addition to land that would normally be left idle. For example, a farmer who normally holds a tract of idle land may not designate this land as "conservation reserve." He must enter part of his cropland into the reserve, and continue to allow the other lands to remain fallow as he normally would have.

The conservation reserve part of the Soil Bank is not expected to be as extensive as the acreage reserve, for total costs of this part of the program may not exceed $450,000,000.

**Timber, Wildlife Harvests**

Areas under conservation reserve contracts may not be grazed until January 1, 1959, or until such later date as provided in the contract. At the end of the contract period — if such lands are grazed — it must be done in accordance with sound pasture management. Until then, no crops may be harvested from the conservation reserve. However, timber may be taken under good forest management, and wildlife and other natural products may be harvested which do not increase food supplies for livestock. The farmer cannot adopt any practice or divert other lands on his farm from conservation in any way tending to defeat the purposes of the contract.

Conservation reserves will be allowed to lie idle for 3 to 15 years, depending on types of plantings. Planting must include grass and trees, but is not limited to those annual types and may include others.

In return, the Secretary of Agriculture will make an annual payment based on potential crop and land values and which will be a "fair annual payment." No individual may receive more than $5,000 a year for conservation reserve payments.

The government also bears part of the costs, including labor, of establishing and maintaining vegetative cover, water storage facilities, or other soil, water, wildlife, or forest-conserving uses. If the contract is for not less than five years, the government may pay up to 80 per cent of the cost of establishing vegetation or water storage facilities.

**Plant Supplies**

This is where state conservation departments can enter the picture. 

(Continued on page 64)
Much of this fall’s quail hunting will depend on weather in August and September, which could produce late broods if favorable. Moisture will be an important factor to work with.

Quail Hunting...

(Continued from page 57)

In summary, the southeast has had a good quail hatch this year. The south-central part of the state has had drought and violent summer storms, causing below-normal quail production to date.

A wet August and September, plus warm days, would create a really good supply of young birds for fall hunting over the entire range. Hunters are already assured of good quail shooting in most of the southeast, but it will be above average only if the weather is wet. Quail are extreme wary when it is dry.

Is It Good to Eat?...

(Continued from page 57)

can be gotten rid of by thorough scraping with a sharp knife, under water or under the faucet.

Anglers often complain that fish from sluggish have a muddy taste, but I’ve taken carp from very stale water and find none of this taste if the fish is handled properly. But if these fish are allowed to die and the body contents not removed for several hours they will taste “muddy” or worse.

The carp is one of my favorite food fish. Some object to the fine bones but these won’t be noticed if the fish is “scored” before cooking. With a very sharp knife cut the flesh deeply crosswise, at intervals of a quarter inch or closer. You will not O.K. this “Works” until you try it. Even a person who chews food thoroughly can eat carp prepared in this way.

Carp are fun to catch, too. They are very wary but when hooked likely to be tackle-busters. It’s the only fish that has ever jerked a pole out of my hand—and more than once.

Most fishermen consider the various suckers and redhorse good but too bony, but these can be scored like carp and the bones are no trouble.

For best eating, most scale fish over two pounds should be filleted. Lay the fish on a table or board with the head to your left. Hold the head in your left hand and

with a sharp, long-bladed knife cut down behind the gills to the backbone, then turn the knife and slide it along the top of the backbone. The ribs usually sever easily.

Turn your fish over and repeat the operation, then take these two slabs of fish and lay them on the board, tail to your left and skin side down. Start your knife a quarter-inch from the tail, leaving a “ridge” of meat that you can get a grip on with your fingers, and slide the knife along between skin and flesh, holding the knife blade close down against the board. For something special cut these fillets into strips the size of two fingers, dip in beaten egg, shake up in a paper bag containing a mixture of half flour and half cornmeal, with salt, and fry till well browned.

I consider gar the most questionable for eating, but when gar is all I catch then gar is what I eat. They have a skin like a stove pipe and the easiest way of dressing them is to chop into short sections with a hatchet. Then a sharp knife run around under the skin will let the meat drop out ready to use. It should be cut small and cooked more than other fish.

For dressing catfish I use pliers Grip the head of the fish with your left hand, nip the skin at the bone projections behind the gills and strip the skin down either side. Cut the flesh top and bottom behind the gills, twist off the head, and scrape the body cavity. Be sure to stun the fish with your pliers before beginning work.

Small fish from little creeks are fun to catch on light tackle, and are excellent eating—creek chubs, river chubs, shiners, dough-bellies, muckie-heads.

Here’s hoping you catch a lot of fish—and don’t throw any of them away until you try proper handling—and eating.

Wardens' Tales

Shop Talk from the Field

Frank Starr, Conservation Officer at Storm Lake, sent in the unusual accompanying picture of Mrs. John Gilchrist of Cherokee, and a deformed catfish that she recently hooked in Spring Lake in Greene County.

Ruby and John Gilchrist have taken many catfish, but none quite like this one, which was caught on chicken entrails and weighed 5 pounds, 4 ounces.

Fish are sometimes taken from lakes where they have been scarred by outboard motor propellers. No such scar is evident in this photograph, and it is possible that the catfish was deformed as a fingering. However, it appears to be in good flesh and healthy condition.

Something’s always happening down in Mills and Montgomery counties, Conservation Officer Christie Hein’s home territory. Christie was crating some racoons for the state fair, and one of the animals was not being very cooperative. He’d just get most of the ‘coon in the crate and would begin to shut the lid when a foot would come over through the opening and Brrr’ Coon would pull himself out of the box.

At first it was funny, but after a time Christie began getting a little tired. Which was about the same time a small voice piped up at Christie’s elbow, and one of the junior Heins commented ‘Daddy that ‘coon just has too many feet.”

The July issue of the CONSERVA TIONIST included a Wardens’ Talk from Commissioner Deg Reynolds of Creston, who told of an angler catching two 1½-pound bass at the same time on a small black pond in Green Valley Lake.

Two weeks later, the editor went fishing in Green Valley Lake, at the same time of day, and with the same make and color of plug.

Two 1½-pound bass caught at the same time on one cast.

Trouble is, no one believes such a story, and we’d be better off if it had never happened—
No one is quite sure whether it should be called "frog fishing." It probably depends on how you go about it, and however you go about it, it's none of our other field sports. Iowa's main table frog is the bullfrog, which reaches generous proportions in southern and eastern parts of the state. This is the largest American frog and may reach a total length of 15 inches. Such giants are quite rare this far north and Iowa's frogslegs that measure 7 inches are big ones.

"Frog Fishing"

An effective but more unusual method is by "fishing" with a long fly rod or cane pole during the day. The time-honored bait is a small strip of red flannel on a small fish hook. Dangled before a bullfrog's nose, it produces results. However, the traditional red flannel is not necessary, and almost any artificial fly or panfish "bug" will do as well.

This "frog fishing" can be done at almost any time of the day when there is good light. We usually do it by scanning areas of the bank with field glasses, spotting the motionless frogs and marking them down by nearby landmarks. Although they may be hunted by simply ambling along the shore, the frogs may be resting below a low bank or overhang and are difficult to see until it's too late.

Once the frogs are spotted, we slip along the bank until we're directly behind them and then dangle a small fly or lure over the bank in the general vicinity of the frog. Big frogs will sometimes strike a lure instantly; at other times they must be teased a little. When we first took a big frog by this method we expected quite a scrap. However, the frog was easily hoisted up on the bank with little resistance.

"Fly Fishing"

Bullfrogs are listed in Iowa's fishing regulations as a protected species, with a daily catch limit of 12 and a possession limit of 12. The 1966 bullfrog season extends from May 12 to November 30.

A big bullfrog's legs may be almost as large as the drumsticks of a chicken, and in the opinion of many are much better eating. Although the hind legs are the main fare, some frog hunters also use the backs and front legs of larger frogs. The skin is easily stripped off, and cleaning a mess of froglegs requires only a few minutes.

A favorite cooking method is frying the froglegs just as you might fry a young chicken. The legs may also be breaded, dipped in batter, or deep-fat fried. They are delicate and fine-flavored and rank with lobsters in many plush restaurants.

Bullfroggin' hits its zenith in the southern states where bullfrogs are quite common and reach their largest size. Generally, they are not heavily hunted in Iowa except in local areas where they occur in fair numbers. But they can provide delicious rations, and a unique sport that helps make life interesting. J. M.

DECRIES ROADSIDE SPRAYING

R.R.
Weyer, Iowa

Gentlemen:

We subscribe to your Conservationist. The whole family, including my wife and daughter, like it very much, but my two boys read it many times. But! I didn't write this letter to praise you. It is simply to ask why you constantly preach on cover for wildlife, preservation of trees, and keeping down erosion, yet do nothing about county road crews spraying the country roads with weed and brush killer.

We live on Skunk River and perhaps you are familiar with the beautiful rough country around here. We have many beautiful small side roads that used to be a wonderful treat to drive—or walk along—either in winter or summer.

The trees were so thick that they formed a tunnel over the road, and on the roadside were wild plum, ash, dogwood, locust and many trees not common in heavy woods. Under the trees were bloodroot and many other wild flowers and mushrooms.

But since they've started the spraying program, these roads are only a speck of yellow clay and dead trees. Beautiful, white-limbed sycamores were even killed.

We don't blame the power companies—it wasn't them. I contacted the county agricultural agent but he wasn't interested. If you people have any power at all, please practice what you preach.

Our whole family loves nature. We know how to enjoy it. We love to hunt and pick mushrooms, black berries, gather nuts and wild plums, and find wild flowers (without picking them) and look them up in our flower books. I only hope that my grandchildren have the same opportunity. But I feel it is up to people like you gentlemen to preserve nature for them.

My voice is small and weak, for I am just a laboring man with no position or political influence, so there isn't much I can do. You people have strong voices—please use them.

Sincerely,

(Est) Eston E. Ross

IMPROVING SCENERY

Mark Twain, lover of the American outdoors and a pretty good man with a hook and line, once said: "Nothing helps scenery like ham and eggs."
Soil Bank... (Continued from page 61)

acres were removed from cultivation and planted to vital wildlife cover.

Weak Link

Game managers have long known that the weakest link in the chain of game production is lack of suitable nesting, escape and wintering cover. One of the greatest losses sustained by Iowa pheasants is not during the hunting season, but during the early nest- ing season, when hens are forced to nest in hayfields for want of more suitable cover. Thousands of hens pheasants, and their eggs and broods, are destroyed during spring and early summer laying.

Clover and other cover plants collapse of rabbit population is large- College. It was the lack of suitable nesting, escape and wintering cover. Thousands of cottontail caught in the open season, but during the early nest-ants is not during the hunting the chain of game production is

More suitable cover. Thousands of crops would be healed by protection should be placed in the conservation rentable, no Importance rent _market rates.

Iowa farmer is being paid $44 for every acre in his acreage reserve, until at least next fall, and possibly than

land retirement

employee of the great­ cultivation and the can affect Iowa's farm economy. This year the average acreage reserve, no Importance rent _market rates.

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