

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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Number 6

NEW CONSERVATION LAWS ENACTED

WANT MORE BASS? TRY A NEW RETRIEVE

Keith C. Sutherland
Editor

It's hard to imagine by the peakneck speed and bulldozing power he displays each time he strikes a lure that ol' Mr. Largemouth Bass would ever have inconsistency as part of his make-up.

But he does!

For a reason or reasons known perhaps only to him—or another bass—Mr. Largemouth has a basic disregard for temperamental stability from one season, one month, or even one moment to the next.

With behavior bordering on the unpredictable, he may strike with abandon one moment at nearly any offering, disregarding color, pattern, or skill of its presentation. The next, he may spend long, sultry moments (the awaiting angler refers the word "eternity") giving the offering the full "whammy" treatment before he is coaxed from his lair.

He likes a fast, "jerky" retrieve sometimes. At others, a slow steady one may bring him up, "boiling" mad and itching for the are-knuckled, "no holds barred" crap that is his stock and trade.

Chugging, blurping and splashing lures often bring him running. *But don't count on it!* Next time out, their use may only send him currying to the deepest, darkest and most serene part of the lake.

Extreme Craftiness

To make matters all the more bewildering, Mr. Largemouth's stubbornness is likely to be in somewhat direct proportion to his growth rate. The reckless days of his youth soon give way to an extreme craftiness, making him all the more difficult to bring to the landing net.

So perplexing is the bass's behavior that the fisherman may be inclined to ponder why he spends his time fishing for such an irresponsibly behaving and "shifty" character as this. Or, in his plight,

(Continued on page 142)



Beginning July 4, women anglers of the state over 16 years of age must have fishing licenses to fish in any of Iowa's waters.

Iowa's 57th General Assembly adjourned on capitol hill May 3 leaving behind a number of new laws and other legislation of particular interest to conservation-minded Iowans.

Of special importance are the new regulations concerning fishing and hunting license price increases, new motor boat laws, new legislation in the area of lands and waters, and appropriations for operation of the Conservation Commission during the new biennium ending June 30, 1958.

Effective July 4 resident hunting and fishing licenses go to \$2 each or \$3.50 when purchased in combination. The six-day non-resident fishing license fee goes to \$3, effective on the same date. Also effective July 4, all women anglers over 16 are required to have a fishing license to fish in any waters of the state.

Increases a Necessity

Additional revenue, in the form of increases in fishing and hunting license fees, is considered a necessity by Conservation Commission officials. While following a "hold the line" policy on license fees for a number of years, such a policy can no longer be followed if the commission is to keep pace with the growing interest of Iowans in the state's outdoor recreational opportunities.

Also effective July 4 is a new regulation concerning horsepower of motor boats operating on state-owned artificial lakes of 100 or more acres. A maximum of six horsepower will be permitted on the effective date of the new law, replacing the five horsepower maximum limit now in force.

New legislation, also taking effect July 4, authorizes for the first time in Iowa history establishment and licensing of game breeding and shooting preserve areas.

Perhaps most significant new legislation in the area of lands and waters is an amendment to the existing law popularly called the "county park bill." The new law provides voting in the primary as well as general elections of legis-

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Iowa Conservationist

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vation Commission, East Seventh Street
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WHAT NEXT IN TROUT LURES?

Something new and novel in the
way of trout lures was recently
reported to a western state game
commission by one of the state's
anglers.

Seems by the report that this
fellow discovered three cigarette
filters in the stomach of one big
old rainbow he was cleaning. Ap-
parently the big 'bow thought the
filters were bugs of some kind bob-
bing on the surface so greedily
gulped them down!

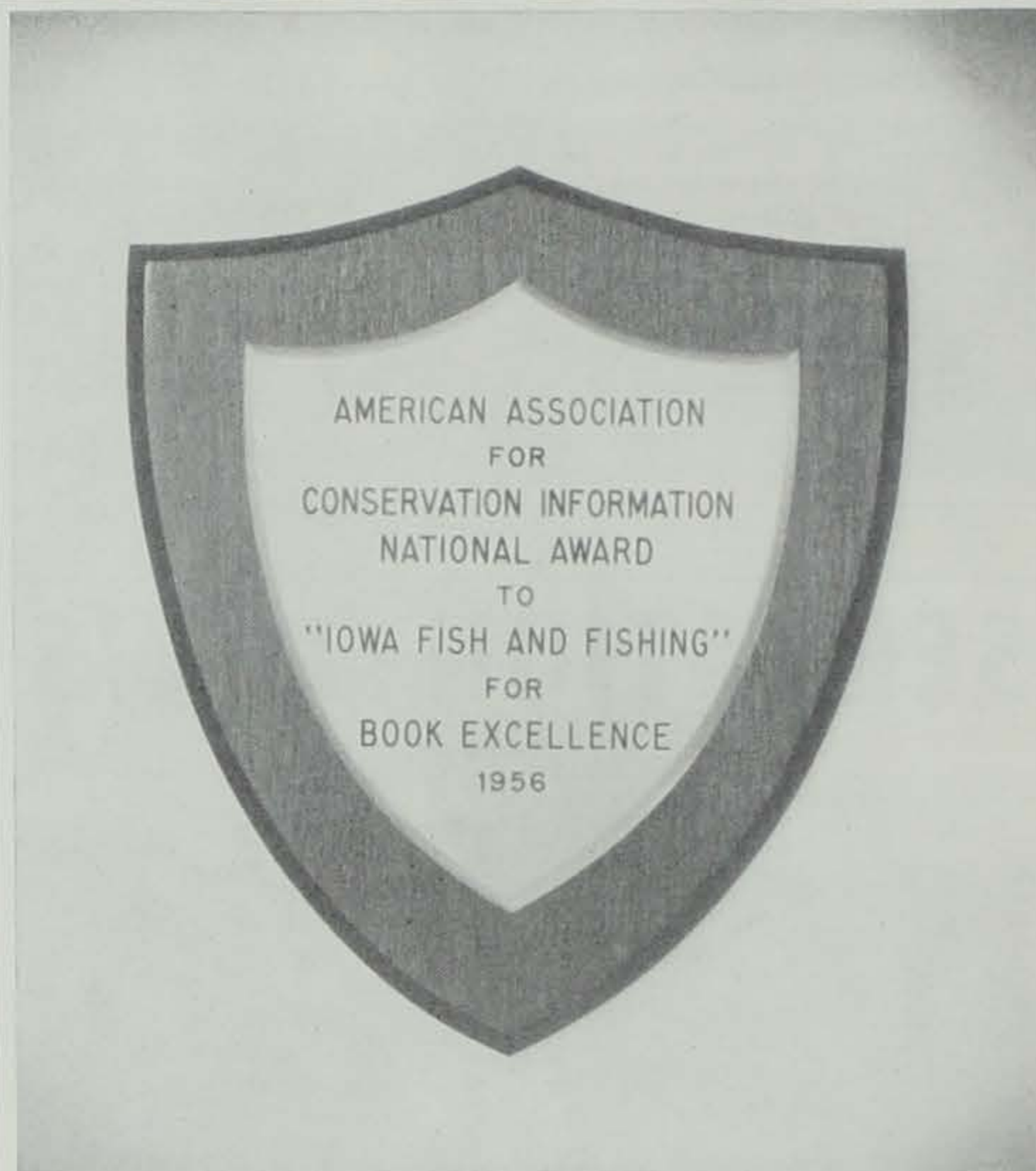
Now, it seems that several re-
actions might result from such a
discovery as this: (1) it may well
open up a brand-new technique in
taking lunker trout; (2) if filters
prove worthwhile, anglers may
have no further use for the myriad
of artificial flies and other come-on
gimmicks now sold on the market
—and what a pity not to be able
to look at and purchase some of
the "beauties"; and (3) it may
prompt the cigarette manufactur-
ers to develop a "mooching" filter.

On the credit side, one may see
a couple of advantages to such a
lure: (1) although there could still
be some perplexity over color, there
would be no streamside decision
regarding size, since filters come in
but one size; and, (2) if the filter
became lost or worn out, all the
angler would have to do would be
light up and a new "popper" would
be at his service.

Why, any day now, one might
expect to hear this conversation
along his favorite stream:

"Gotta change brands of cig-
arettes, Ed. I haven't had a trout
hit one of these filters all day!"

Brook trout are members of the
charr family; rainbow and brown
trout, the salmon family. Walleye
pike are not really pike but mem-
bers of the perch family. Large-
mouth and smallmouth black bass
are members of the sunfish family.



"Iowa Fish and Fishing" won this plaque as the outstanding book in the field of conser-
vation information in 1956 at the American Association for Conservation Information
meeting held in Biloxi, Mississippi, May 22-25.

NATIONAL AWARD TO "IOWA FISH AND FISHING"

"Iowa Fish and Fishing" was
judged the best book on conserva-
tion information for 1956 and the
film series, "Outdoor Talk" re-
ceived complimentary recognition
at the American Association for
Conservation Information annual
meeting held in Biloxi, Mississippi,
May 22-25.

The book received top honor for
general excellence over 44 states
and three Canadian provinces eligi-
ble for the national competition.
"Outdoor Talk" was entered in the
special conservation education
project or projects category of
judging. While it did not receive
an award, judges stated that "the
series should have won a national
award, but did not quite fit the
category in which it was entered."

Judges included Dr. Ira N. Ga-
brielson, president of the Wildlife
Management Institute, Washing-
ington, D. C., Michael Hudoba,
Washington editor of *Sports Afield*
magazine; and Charles H. Callison,
conservation director of the Na-
tional Wildlife Federation, also in
Washington, D. C.

Now in third edition, more than
24,000 copies of "Iowa Fish and
Fishing" have been sold. Of this
total, more than thirty per cent of
sales have been outside of the state,
proving the great popularity the
book has enjoyed beyond Iowa's
borders.

The book contains information
on Iowa's major waters and major
fish species. Special emphasis is

placed on angling species found in
Iowa waters and best techniques
for catching them. Color illustra-
tions by Maynard Reece are con-
sidered among the best fish iden-
tification portraits ever published.

Copies of the book, priced at
\$2.50 postpaid, may be ordered by
writing to the Iowa Conservation
Commission, East Seventh and
Court Avenue, Des Moines.

An aside to our feminine read-
ers: If you're in a quandary about
what to get that certain "man in
your life" for an approaching birth-
day or anniversary, a copy of
"Iowa Fish and Fishing" makes a
wonderful gift—one he'll enjoy for
years to come!

FEDERATION AWARDS ARE AVAILABLE

National Wildlife Federation has
announced 1958-59 Fellowships In
Conservation for qualified persons
working in the field of conserva-
tion education.

Awards are for undergraduate,
graduate and postgraduate or
special (non-academic) students,
and carry stipends of \$500 and
\$1,000.

Application blanks and further
information may be obtained from
Ernest Swift, Executive Director,
National Wildlife Federation, 232
Carroll Street, N.W., Washington
12, D. C.

"AN UNREASONED REFLEX"

There is an unfortunate reflex
action that afflicts some fishermen
and a good many of their self-
styled spokesmen and protectors.
The reflex is to immediately pro-
test anything that may diminish a
weekend's fishing and then not give
a whoop about anything else in the
way of conservation, legislation, or
social outlook.

The result of the reflex is some-
thing rather like letting the forest
burn in order to save a tree or two.
Here are some examples:

Take a dam project. Anglers
may reflexively rally to protest it.
The dam, they say, will adversely
affect the fish. Okay, the dam
builders reply, we'll fix that—we'll
arrange it so that the fish are
saved and even increase the avail-
ability of sites from which to fish.
Fine. The anglers settle back in a
satisfied glow and go fishing.

Meantime, as in the aftermath
of some river basin projects, al-
ready giant silt traps caused by
the dams begin to fill and load the
water, upstream conservation proj-
ects are neglected in order to rein-
force the dam's spreading demands
and, in short, the entire ecological
balance of the area may be shot to
blazes. But, temporarily, the fish-
ing is good, so who cares?

Or, take the case of a favorite
weekend spot that has been taken
over for some private use. Up in
arms go the anglers. The state
must buy the land back. The fish-
ermen have a "right" to use it. No
one has a right to "own" the site.
Again, okay. The state buys the
land. But it has to use real dollars
to do it. Who pays? Everybody
fishermen and non-fishermen alike
and all that has been achieved has
been to promote a **single** access
site. The general public realization
of the value of fishing has not been
enhanced—it may even have been
embittered. The stream hasn't
been improved. The fish haven't
been given a better habitat. And
when the poor old conservation de-
partment comes along and say
that it needs money to provide
those things, the angler is just a
likely to protest the tax boost at
the next man. All he wanted was
the place to fish, the weekend fun.
The year-long responsibility of
conservation got lost in the shuffle.

The conscientious angler must
then be on his guard not to let the
facts and the fun become involve
in a murderous cross-fire of cross
purposes. He must not go into
conservation fight only with the
shallow purpose of serving his own
amusement. When he battles, let
him fight not for mere privilege
but for principles. Let him not
save a stream only to let the valley
die.

—Editorial: The Fisherman.

The pintail has been timed at 6
miles an hour in flight.

LAND STILL BEING DRAINED AS CROP SURPLUSES RISE

R. G. Lynch
Milwaukee Journal

North Dakota east of the Missouri river, is dotted with clusters of grain bins and scarred by a multiplicity of drainage ditches. The same landmarks are to be seen in South Dakota and Minnesota.

The bins contain millions of bushels of price supported surplus grain. While this surplus was accumulating, the federally subsidized ditches added more than a million acres of new cropland in these three states, and they are continuing to bring more land into production each year.

The bins and the ditches are symbols of an inconsistent policy of the United States agriculture department, which recently was put squarely up to Secretary Benson. Out here, there is "cautious optimism" that Benson soon will stop subsidized drainage.

The anomaly of subsidized drainage in a farm aid program that features price supports for overproduction has existed since the mid-1940's. It has cost the nation's taxpayers, needlessly, millions of dollars. It has crowded sound long range farming practices into the background in this region. It has substituted soil utilization and water disposal for soil and water conservation, which was stated as important aims of the farm aid program.

Nature Gives Warnings
Nature has given warnings

against this interference with her management of the prairie lands. Last June, Representatives Harold O. Lovre (Rep., S. D.) urged Benson to give drought aid through the farm home administration to 26 counties in South Dakota, 23 of them in the eastern part of the state, where drainage has been running wild for a decade.

In 1955, the North Dakota water commission stopped drainage activities in three north central counties in the belief that it was aggravating high water conditions. Some 15,000 or 20,000 acres were flooded in the Nauvais coulee area, north of Devils Lake.

Representative Usher Burdick (Rep., N. D.) put a bill through congress to reimburse farmers for flood damage. The president vetoed it and the matter now is in the court of claims.

Red lake, into which that area drains, was so high last summer that adjacent highways were under water and had to be closed to traffic.

Yet the only concerted outcry against drainage of the pothole country has come from wild life conservationist. They are alarmed at the destruction of the nation's principal duck breeding grounds. The Dakotas and Minnesota normally have produced three-quarters of all wild ducklings hatched in the United States—about 9 per cent of the continent's duck population.

Million Acres Lost

In little more than a decade, more than a million acres of waterfowl habitat have been destroyed in this tristate "duck factory." Some 300,000 potholes and sloughs have gone down the drains, perhaps 25 per cent of all the breeding habitat in this region.

Wild life biologists have been crying the alarm since the late 1940's, when they realized that subsidized drainage was destroying waterfowl habitat faster than the fish and wild life service and state conservation departments were acquiring it.

Dan Janzen, Minneapolis, regional chief of the fish and wild life service, called the problem to the attention of an interagency meeting some years ago. On November 7 he brought the facts up to date at another meeting of federal agency and state representatives of the Missouri Valley region, at Dickinson, N. D.

Minnesota began a wetlands acquisition project in 1951, with fed-

eral aid. Progress was too slow, so a citizens' fund was started in 1954 and before the end of that year the legislature had appropriated \$200,000 to help the government along toward its goal of 209,000 acres.

The National Wildlife federation, which claims to represent three million citizens, pitched into the fight. Its executive director, Ernest Swift (former Wisconsin Conservation director), put on a nation-wide campaign last year with the slogan, "Save Our Wetlands." State groups sprang up under the name, "Save Our Wetlands, Inc."

Early in 1956, the North and South Dakota Emergency Conservation committee was organized and its alarms have gone in bulletin form to conservation groups and newspapers in all 48 states.

None of these people deny the right of a farmer to drain his own land. Their argument simply is that subsidization is inducing farmers to drain lands that otherwise would be left in a natural state, and at a time when production should be curtailed, rather than increased.

All that this fomenting of public opinion produced was a change in agricultural conservation program regulations in 1955, forbidding approval of drains when the primary purpose was to create new croplands. Both the letter and the intent of this policy seems to have been rather generally violated. The writer inspected several projects which quite obviously were bringing land into production.

Then Came Soil Bank

Then, last summer congress enacted the soil bank bill and with it returned to the philosophy of retiring croplands from production. The quota idea of the old agriculture adjustment administration and later efforts to retire marginal land (Bankhead-Jones act) were moves in this direction but not on the scale contemplated by the soil bank, with its acreage reserve and conservation reserve.

New hope dawned for the wetlands defenders. They arranged a meeting with Benson in September and urged him to stop subsidized drainage. They pointed out that since congress was trying to take croplands out of production under the soil bank, the agriculture department could not justify continuing drainage to put more land into production under the agricultural conservation program.

(Continued on page 144)



Jim Sherman Photo.

More sport and recreation for Iowa's anglers is on the way as a fisheries worker stocks largemouths from a bass hatchery.

MILLION IS GOAL OF BASS HATCHERY

With the continued cooperation from Mother Nature, the major largemouth bass hatchery in Lake Apello State Park near Drakesville may reach its coveted production goal of a million bass "fry" this season!

An abundance of rain has raised levels of the 26 rearing ponds at Apello, Lake Keomah, Chariton Waterworks area, Mount Ayr and Edford hatchery operations to their highest levels since 1955, making their use possible and a record "hatch" within reach.

Addition of six new rearing ponds and introduction of 400 brood bass are other reasons fisheries workers are optimistic about new record this season.

If a new record is reached this year it will eclipse a single season's production of 750,000 in 1955. Lakes Viking and Macbride are

scheduled for stocking with a portion of the new "fry." Others will be stocked in farm ponds. Still others are destined for the rearing ponds in northern Iowa where they will be held until they reach fingerling size.

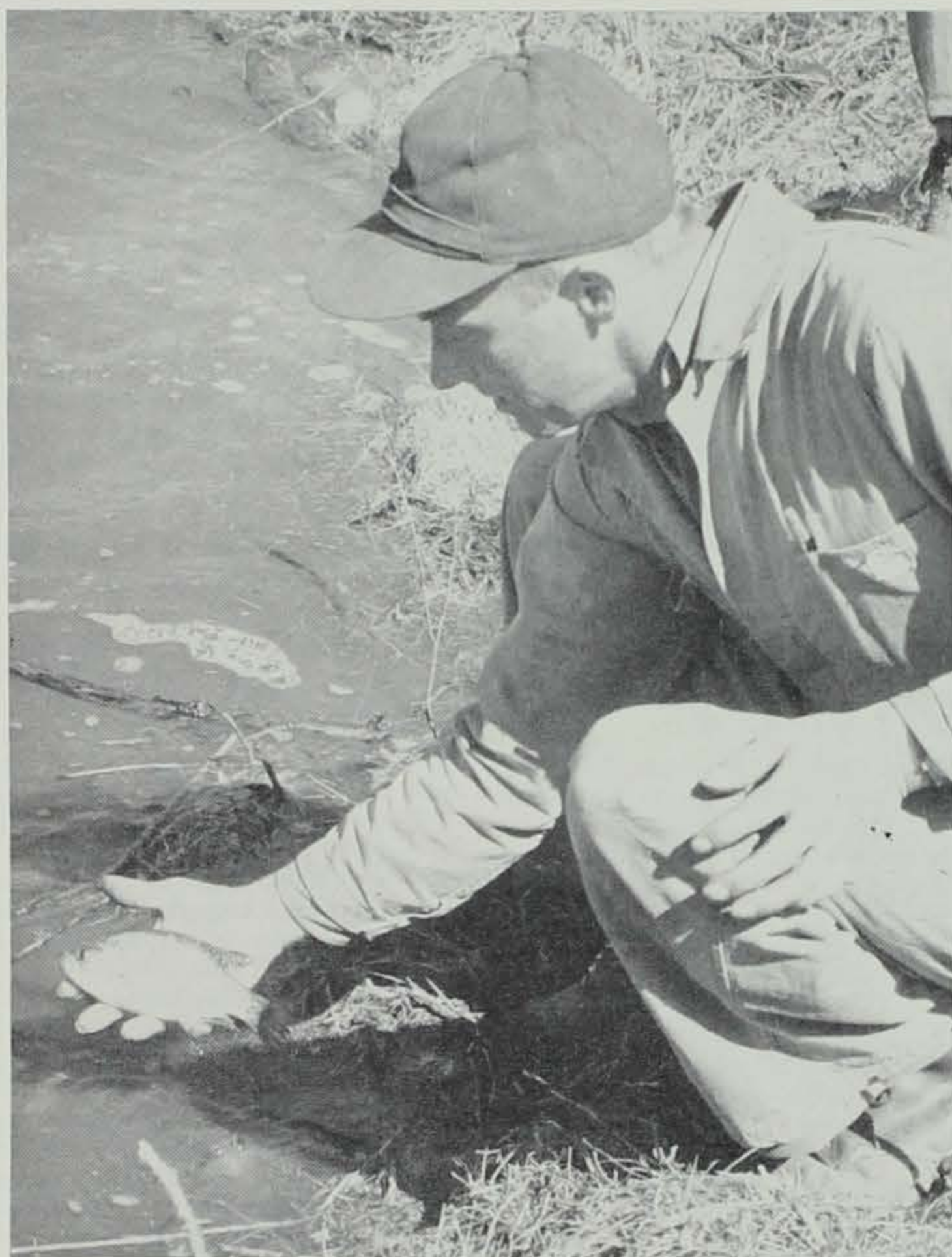
This fall, these bass, by this time 3 to 4 inches in length, will be placed in new farm ponds, city reservoirs, artificial lakes that have been designated for restocking, and other impoundments.

The Legend of The Dogwood

There is a legend, that at the time of the Crucifixion the dogwood had been the size of the oak and other forest trees. So firm and strong was the tree that it was chosen as the timber for the cross. To be used thus for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the tree, and Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed this, and in His gentle pity for all sorrow and suffering said to it:

"Because of your regret and pity for My suffering,

never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth it shall be slender and bent and twisted and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross—too long and two short petals. And in the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red, and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see it will remember. . . ."



Careful handling and release of small fish is part of good stream etiquette. This one may grow to "keeper" size to give this or another angler good sport later.

COURTESY HELPS OTHERS ENJOY BETTER ANGLING

A group of Iowa fishermen, including the writer, were assembled in the comfort of our host's living room one evening recently gassin' about fishing.

Rarely during the evening did the conversation get down to specifics about the topic, but remained pretty much of general tenor.

Questions and answers concerning baits and lures, fishing methods, fish species and their habits poured forth in their own good time and promptly got a pretty good "kicking" around by the group.

At a late hour, one question threatened to put the session into extra innings:

"What has happened to stream etiquette and why don't more sportsmen observe it?" one of the anglers wanted to know.

Spontaneity of such a question often stems from reflection upon some recent experience that is disgruntling and just naturally comes to the surface. The situation was no different with our friend on the asking end of this question. He felt he had a legitimate "gripe" and he aired it freely.

Trout Water

Seems a week or so before this gathering, our friend was working

a favorite stretch of trout water in northeast Iowa. Completely withdrawn from the outside world except for the steady babble of tumbling water racing along a nearby run, he concentrated on the delicate cast of his dry fly. With each cast, he tried to control his racing heart—anticipating at any moment a bulge on the water's surface and "gulp" of a trout rising to take his fly.

So concentrated was the fisherman's attention at this point, he gave the approach of another fisherman only fleeting regard. Only, that is, until the visitor made a splashing negotiation of the stream at the tail of the pool he was working. In an additional display of unconcern, the visitor moved closer, whipping the stream's surface to a froth with cast after cast. Finally, at scant arm's length from our friend, he laid out his final cast, retrieved it, and moved on downstream.

Now if the descent of our fisherman friend into oblivion had been complete a moment before, his return to reality at this moment was earth-shaking at the other extreme. Instinctively he watched the visiting angler move away then propped his flyrod up beside him, lit a smoke, and waited for the pool to quiet down.

Here the experience related by our friend ended and we began to talk the problem through. Since

information was not forthcoming, the group assumed our companion had no luck in the pool that day. We assumed, too, that the commotion caused by the visitor was not an absolute guarantee that his success would have been better without the intrusion. At the same time, we recognized that our friend had taken fish from this pool before. The probability existed that he might have this time without the inconsiderate visitor. Also, that our companion had sufficient faith in the pool's potential he chose to wait for it to quiet down rather than change his location.

We reasoned that although we might cite other instances of lack of stream etiquette, this was perhaps the most common. I noted some heads nod within our circle as our friend told his experience, indicating a similar experience had happened to many in this group at one time or another. And a "ditto" could probably be added for every angler whose eyes follow these printed words!

No Claim To Pool

Certainly our companion had no official title or claim to the pool in which he chose to fish, and certainly none of his rights had been violated or threatened. His injury was mostly in wasted time and fishing effort and in wondering why the same etiquette he would observe was not reciprocal in this instance. Didn't he have a right to the same courtesy from others he would extend to them? Don't all who find recreation in the outdoors have a moral obligation to extend

the courtesies that guarantee utmost enjoyment of these pursuits by others? We agreed it was the sportsmanlike thing to do!

The problem then, resolved itself into one of personal courtesy. The same courtesy that make a sportsman feel an obligation to seek a private landowner's permission before entering his property to fish or hunt, to respect his boundaries and close all his gates; the same courtesy that makes a sportsman feel a compulsion to help another friend or stranger, through a fence with his gear; and the same courtesy that makes a sportsman want to preserve his recreation by dousing, stirring, and dousing again his campfire and tidying the area for the next camper.

Increases in the number of fishermen, species of fish sought, concentration of population near popular fishing waters, and certain characteristics of the stream itself, all contribute to the amount of fishing pressure on a particular stream, river or lake. Whatever the resultant pressure or number encountered by a fisherman on any given day, there need be no loss of pleasure because of inconsideration for the other fellow.

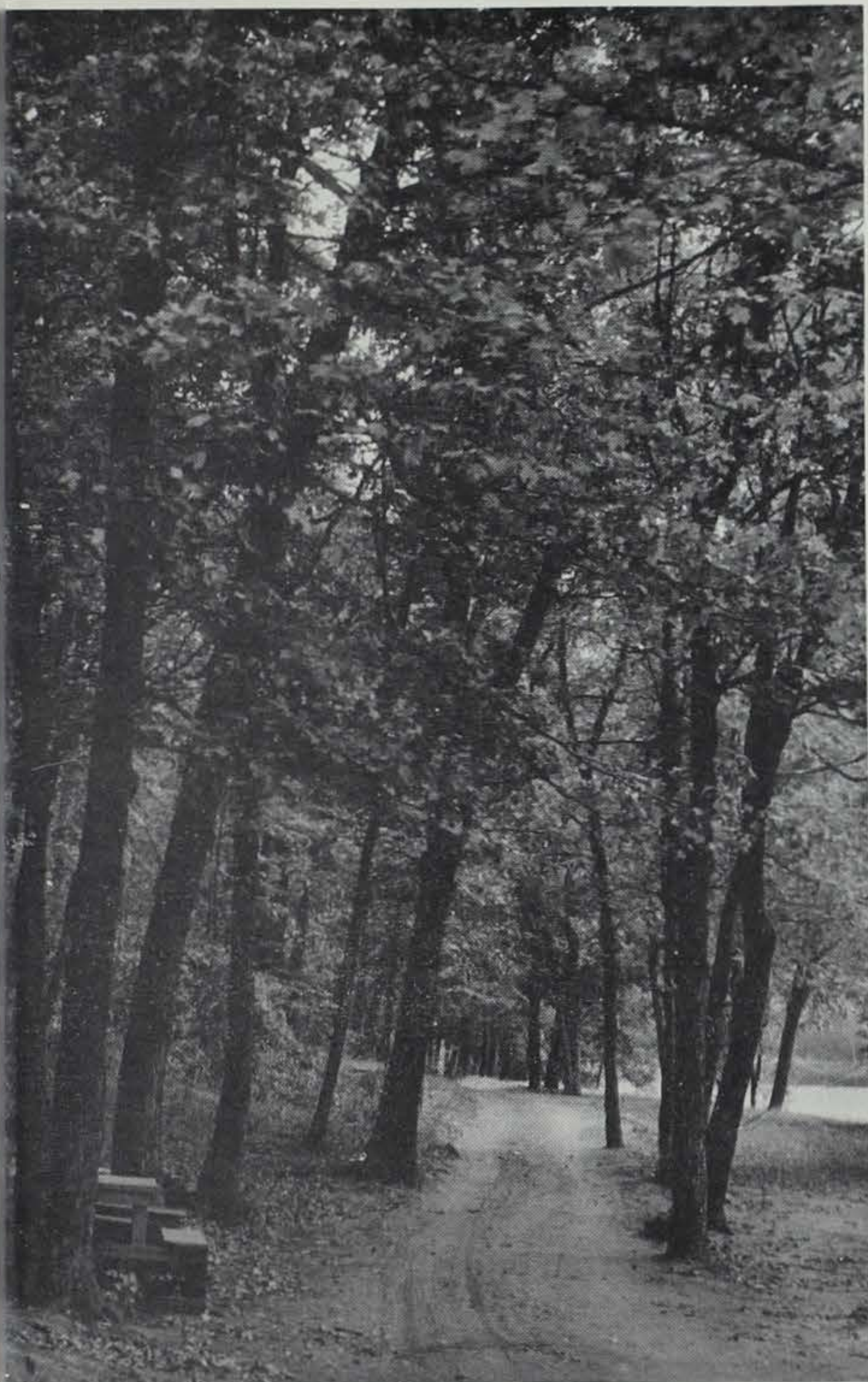
Most Etiquette-Minded

Fortunately most of us practice good stream etiquette. In fairness to those who don't, it is necessary to mention that it may lie in lack of knowledge of what "stream etiquette" entails. For all, it might be worthwhile to list what this writer believes to be some of the

(Continued on page 143)



Camping and cooking in the great out-of-doors adds to the enjoyment of fishing for many anglers. But remember the fellow who follows you. Drown your fire and tidy up before you move on.



Trees: They benefit man throughout their lifetime; reveal a different kind of beauty after death.

'SOMEONE'S MAGIC —A TREE'

Trees are living creations adding much to our physical comfort and mental health. A tree's life begins as a tiny seed and often ends as a towering giant reigning supreme over its share of the earth's surface. Man, for all his great learning, still looks up to the tree and depends on it for many of this world's needs.

Seemingly dead weeds spring to life when given a seedbed, water and sunlight. Tiny roots move downward to tap nature's store of minerals, nutrients and moisture. A transportation system develops in a stem to carry these materials to the food-manufacturing plant. Here leaves utilize sunshine to build plant food—a process man has been unable to copy or master—but manufacturing food is only the beginning.

Transport Food

Other specialized plant units transport the food downward. Growth, support, storage and protection duties are delegated to

other parts. With this coordinated plant machinery, a tree prospers day after day, year after year, some live for centuries, through the rise and fall of nations. Man's span is just a moment to such monarchs.

Man uses the lumber of forests to build his shelter, but a tree must battle nature's elements without the luxury of such protection. Winds ply and whip a tree throughout the years; driving rains, blowing snow, burdens of ice are resolutely accepted. Additional strength seems to be developed with each passing storm—strength that adds to man's security.

Trees face scalding sun and freezing cold. They are squeezed by their neighbors, wounded by falling limbs, bitten by fire, attacked by insects. But deep roots, thick bark and a large "food plant" continue to keep moving through a tree's plotted course.

Efficient Water Pumps

Day in and night out trees serve as efficient water pumps. An acre of them might take up 4,000 tons of water to make a summer's growth, with much of the water

escaping through leaves into the air. Even while this is happening, a squirrel raises young among the branches and feeds on those seeds and fruits resulting from the tree's labors. Birds nest and roost here; all the tree asks is help in combating insects. Life sustains life.

Trees give back to earth more than they take. Thick foliage slows the falling raindrops; spreading roots hold the soil in place while layers of decaying leaves and other plant materials add richness each year. This spongy layer of dead vegetative growth accepts and holds quantities of rainfall that later percolates down into the underground watertable. Hardwoods present a spectacular color show each fall, the culmination of a year's work and start of another winter. People drive great distances to wonder at such beauty.

Tree lives often end to the falling of a lumberman's axe, but even dying trees assert themselves. Their beauty is revealed by the skillful sawyer and careful carpenter, for all species, each with its distinctive color and pattern, hide within themselves a loveliness revealed only at death.

—Missouri Conservationist.

ARE FISHERMEN SUCKERS?

(An Editorial reprinted from The Fisherman Magazine)

Fishermen are suckers—all of us. Perhaps that's not a diplomatic thing for a fishing editor to write, but still it's true.

How many times recently have we heard that tired old saw about baseball being the national pastime? Not even baseball's officials are convinced of that any longer. Baseball nowadays is strictly bush league compared to fishing in any sports popularity contest, but just the same, fishermen always seem to come out second best. And we're suckers because we do nothing about it.

Take a look at newspaper coverage first. A large Milwaukee daily recently conducted a reader-interest poll. Final results revealed that 2½ times as many readers considered fishing their favorite sport as considered baseball first! This was in a community, mind you, which was tops in major league baseball attendance the past two seasons—in 1954 and 1955! Still it's nothing unusual, because in a similar poll in Los Angeles, 3½ times as many people favored fishing over baseball! The point is very obvious: although newspaper readers prefer one sport over another, they get big doses—page after page, in fact—of baseball news, but little on the outdoors. The truth is that a reader is extremely lucky if his paper has a daily outdoor column. And a fisherman is a sucker if he doesn't write to his newspaper editor to complain.

Let's take a typical case history:

a minor-league Midwestern baseball team called the Jets. For weeks before they opened the season, there was a steady hammering about the new team, the players, and the coming season on television, on radio, and in all the newspapers. What space was left was filled with knothole box scores. The city's largest newspaper sent its sports editor to Florida to cover weeks of spring training. After all this, the total attendance for the first six home games was little better than 5,000.

At the same time the stands at Jet Stadium were virtually empty, almost 250,000 people purchased fishing licenses in the area covered by the same newspaper! Occasionally, in his spare time, a staffer would do a couple of columns a week on the outdoors—but he couldn't attend either the state or national outdoor writers conventions which lasted just a few days! We're suckers for not insisting on something better than this.

While thirty million Americans go fishing and spend three to four billion dollars in the process, attendance in major league baseball is falling off at an alarming pace. The minor leagues are in trouble and many of them are folding for lack of interest—but still the sports pages contain plenty of baseball. Perhaps advertisers are at fault here, too, because anglers do spend tremendous sums for everything from special clothing to tackle, to boats, motors, and long vacations. Baseball fans buy tickets.

This is not to indict baseball; we're first to admit that it is really a grand spectator game. We simply want to point out an unfortunate over-emphasis.

But baseball isn't the only sport given undue emphasis. A newspaper in perhaps the most rabid football city in the nation held a football clinic for grade school boys last summer in the college stadium. Interest in it was poor in spite of constant promotion for weeks. They might have reached far more boys at less expense—and pleased more parents—if they'd held a clinic in fishing, shooting and camping. These are healthier, lifetime activities.

At Jacksonville, Florida, taxpayers had to shell out \$400,000 for a municipal golf course and tennis courts which only 4,000 people could use. On the other hand, a pair of boat ramps which served 19,000 people in the same period only cost the taxpayers \$8,250. Quite a shocking comparison. Kid-die's fishing derbies elsewhere cost only a fraction of the tab for Little League baseball—and accommodate many more youngsters.

Even our schools across the country have overemphasized the sports in which only a few can participate. An ex-Big Ten athletic director recently caused a

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Strings of bass like this are possible for Iowa anglers who use imagination in the way they go after these battling bruisers.

Bass . . .

(Continued from page 137)

he may feel a distinct urge to deliver himself to the nearest psychiatrist's couch or "padded cell."

But for this and other fishermen who will take time to explore it, there is a valuable lesson to be learned from Mr. Largemouth's behavior. By experimenting more and being just a bit inconsistent in the way the angler fishes for him will take more bass than following a plan of "sameness" day in and day out. If inconsistency of behavior is part of the bass's life pattern—it can also be his downfall for the fisherman who will only use his imagination!



When bass hit, get set for top-water acrobatics like this!

For the purposes of this story, the writer will not enter into a comparison of artificial lures vs. natural baits and their individual merits in the taking of bass. Both are effective, and either is more productive than the other at a given time. I think most anglers will agree that more largemouths

fall victim to the artificial than any other lure. In these next paragraphs we will examine the most popular kinds and perhaps point up a "tip" or two on how their effectiveness can be improved with a little experimenting.

Floating and Sinking

Bass lures, generally speaking, are of two kinds—hair, hair-cork, wood and plastic models that float and sinking and floating-sinking models that are metal, have metal within their construction, or are equipped with a metal "lip" that scoops water upon retrieve. The "lip" gives the lure some of its action and forces it to mid-depths or to the bottom depending upon the design and rate of retrieve imparted to it by the angler. Spinner-fly, spinner-bucktail and spinner-worm or eel combinations also are effective for bass and best fit this latter category.

Spoon-type lures, used best with trailing pork-chunk or rind, also fit the latter category although some are designed for use either as top-water or under-water lures. When they are used "top-side" they may be cast directly over or into beds of lily pads. They alight and travel inverted over the pads. Because of this feature, the hook, usually protected by a guard, does not become fouled. When used in this manner, this lure is very effective and works equally well when fished underneath.

The skilled and consistently successful bass fisherman enjoys use of both types of lures and is

equipped to enjoy his sport whether bass are on top or down deep. Without fear of contradiction, however, most would agree that tops of all that is thrilling about catching bass is his "whooshing" spraying and roiling strike when he is coaxed to a surface lure.

It is here within plain sight of his adversary that the bass displays all of his "swashbuckling" personality and tenacious determination. When spurred to action by the hook, his actions are as spectacular on and above water as the rainbow and about as strong underneath as the "Red Ball" express.

Experiment With Retrieve

But back to the use of the lure. Whether the choice is underwater or surface type on bait-casting, spinning or fly rod tackle, the fisherman who is imaginative enough to experiment and try new and different things with his retrieve will take more bass in the long run.

If you go after him with underwater plugs or "hardware," try to impart more action to the lure by raising and pumping the rod tip every few feet. Speed up the pumping, slow it down. When you cast a sinking lure, give it more time to settle and rest on the bottom—then bring the rod tip up quickly to get the lure off bottom with a rapid climbing motion. Now, without reeling in line, let it sink and repeat the process. Try all of these

techniques at slow, medium and fast speeds. When you find a system that "clicks" stay with it for awhile and see if you get other "takers." It usually will. If not, go back to your experimenting with other techniques that may prove irresistible to other bass.

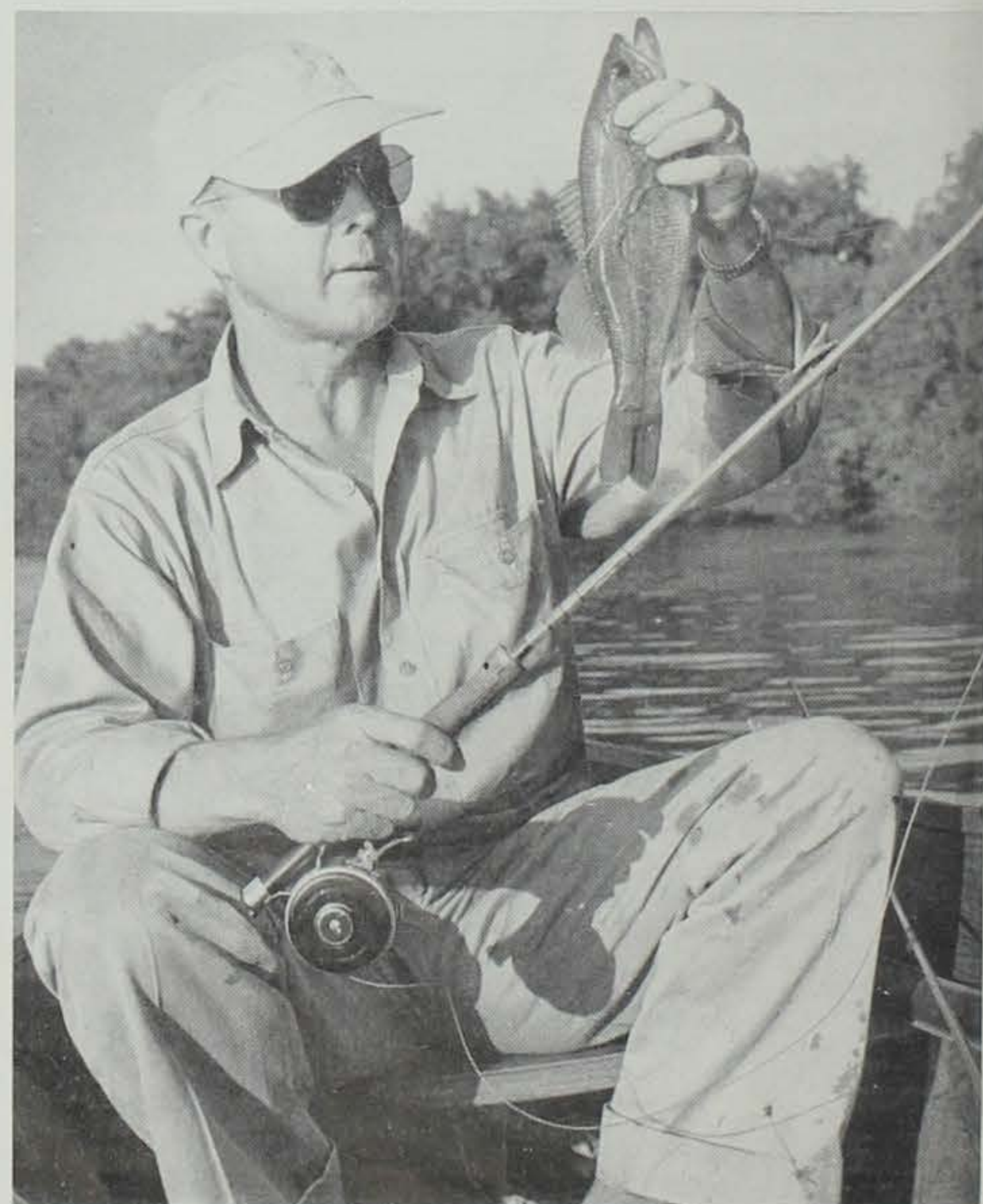
Perhaps it's because of their presence on the surface, but it always seemed to this writer that surface lures offered more opportunity for variety in the things a fisherman could do with them.

With the "noisy" types, try them at different speeds of retrieve and give them plenty of rest between times. Occasionally "jiggle" or "bob" them. Cast them to a likely spot and light a smoke or take in the scenery before giving them any action—then "jiggle" or "twitch" them slightly. This is often enough to bring Mr. Largemouth out with crushing authority. If not, "pop" or "burp" the lure loudly and let it rest with an occasional jerk or "twitch". This will call attention to your offering without scaring the bass from this resting place.

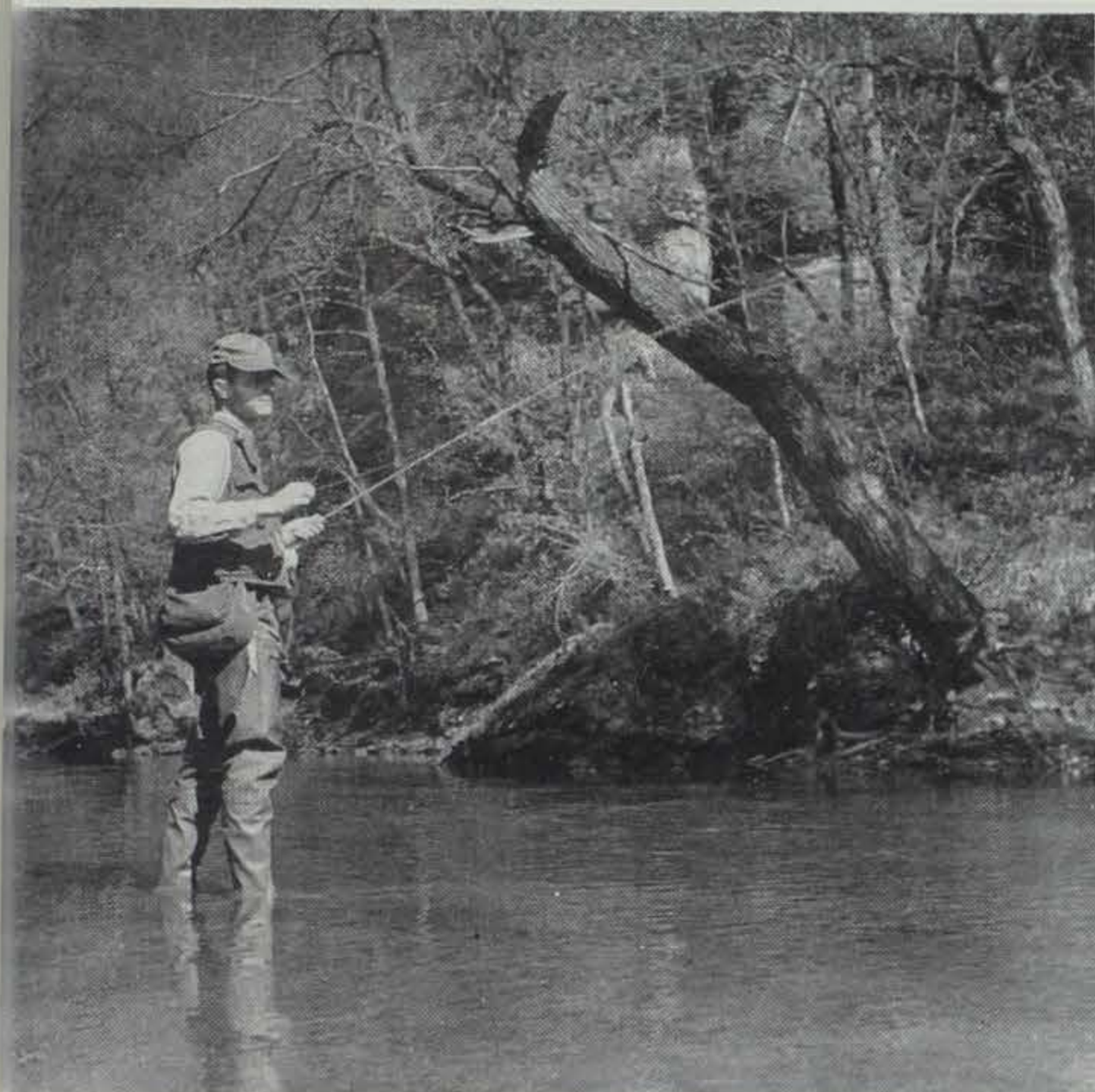
Cast Lure to Shoreline

Another effective technique is to cast your lure onto the shoreline near a "bassy" looking spot or one in which you have seen bass working. After you have placed the lure, jerk it into the water with a quick, upward sweep of the rod tip. This trick also works well with the spoon and rind or chunk lures men-

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A hefty bass has given this angler a rugged battle before calling it quits. This scene should be duplicated many times throughout Iowa in June, normally one of the best months for bass fishing.



are courtesy and the stream with other anglers. If he has already taken station, work below or well ahead of him to avoid spoiling his chances for a good catch.

Stream Etiquette . . .

(Continued from page 140)

most important features of good stream etiquette:

In the stream, respect the other fellow's station, if he has already reached it. Determine his direction of travel along the stream and work behind or well ahead of him. Use your good judgment and don't get so close to him that you spoil his chance of a good catch. Make as little noise as possible while moving through his area. When passing through, "rig up" and don't fish the same pool or stream unless it is sufficiently large to permit several without sacrificing good results. If the stretch of a stream is a favorite of yours and you find others fishing it, return to it when they have departed.

In the river or lake, cut your boat's horsepower when passing anchored fishermen. Be courteous enough not to "open up" and make high-speed turns close to anchored fishermen. If you are fishing from a boat, use your good judgment about how close you should be to other anglers. When you pay out or weigh anchor, make as little noise as possible. Keep voices at normal tone while fishing. When coming to or leaving the area, avoid creating ground-swells by keeping your horsepower down until you are well clear of other boats.

In reaching any stream or pond access to which is through private property, or if the impoundment is on private property, ask for and receive the landowner's permission before entering. Ask him about his property boundaries and respect them. It will give you a good feeling to know you have permis-

sion to be where you are and the landowner a good feeling to know that you are considerate of his property and its possessions. Often, too, the landowner is able to tell you about the fish available on his property and maybe a "tip" or two on what will catch them. Close all gates behind you.

On all streams, rivers and lakes, think about the fellow that will follow you. Is your area clear of litter? Is your campsite clean and your campfire thoroughly extinguished. Did you find firewood when you arrived? Whether you did or did not, why not leave a good stack for the next camper? Chances are a little workout with the handaxe will make that outdoor appetite a shade better and the fish more delicious at mealtime.

You will add to this list from time to time as your own fishing experience dictates. But the best thing about every courtesy you and I extend at streamside is in the extra "bonus" it affords. Besides rendering unsolicited service to fellow anglers, every courtesy gives youngsters and beginning fishermen an experience that will be of value throughout their lifetime. And every courtesy someday will be returned, adding to every angler's enjoyment of his sport.

Stating it simply, practicing good stream etiquette is nothing more than practicing the Golden Rule. It might be said that good stream etiquette is the Fisherman's Golden Rule: "Doing unto other fishermen what you would have them do unto you."

Try carrying good stream etiquette—your "Fisherman's Golden Rule"—into the outdoors as faithfully as you carry your rod and reel.

—K.C.S.

SAWDUST AND CHIPS

David H. Thompson
and
Roberts Mann

One of our greatest national assets, one of our most precious natural resources is wood. It plays an important part in the daily life of every American. Each year we are finding new uses for wood and wood products, such as paper, derived from it. Trees grow slowly and there is danger that the demand for wood may exceed the supply. Fortunately, scientists and ingenious manufacturers have discovered ways to utilize even the sawdust, chips, shavings, tree tops and other wood residues formerly wasted.

At the beginning of this century our forests and woodlands were disappearing rapidly because of destruction by fires, wasteful logging and the increasing demand for lumber and wood products. We became alarmed and, since 1904, have been diligently preaching and teaching the vital need for protecting our timberlands and using them wisely. But, until recently, more than half of every tree cut was wasted.

Logging operations left the tops, branches and culls in a jackstraw jumble of "slash" which became a fire hazard. Sawmills produced large piles of sawdust, slabs, edgings and shavings—15 per cent of every log went into sawdust. Some of those residues were used for fuel to produce power to operate the mills. In large well-operated plants the rest was consumed in huge black incinerators that burned day and night. At small temporary mills the sawdust and "left-overs" were left to rot.

There used to be a few minor uses for sawdust. Meat markets—which we called "butcher shops"—and many taverns—known as "sa-

loons"—covered their floors with a fresh layer of sawdust every morning. In Chicago, big sloping-sided wagons used to rumble around town, even in the loop, delivering sawdust from the mills along the South Branch of the river, near Ashland Ave. Sawdust was packed between the double walls of ice-houses, as insulation, and between the cakes of ice stored in them. On farms we strewed sawdust in muddy barnyards; and used small amounts, sprinkled with "coal oil," to start a fire in a stove. Otherwise, except for stuffing rag dolls, it was considered useless.

Times have changed. Farmers and gardeners are being taught to use sawdust and chips—chips are odds and ends of wood ground up in a machine—as a source of humus for improving soils; as mulch in orchards, berry patches and gardens; as bedding for livestock; and as aggregate in concrete for floors and low walls. They are being molded by tremendous pressure into "logs" for fireplaces—sometimes with chemicals to produce variously colored flames.

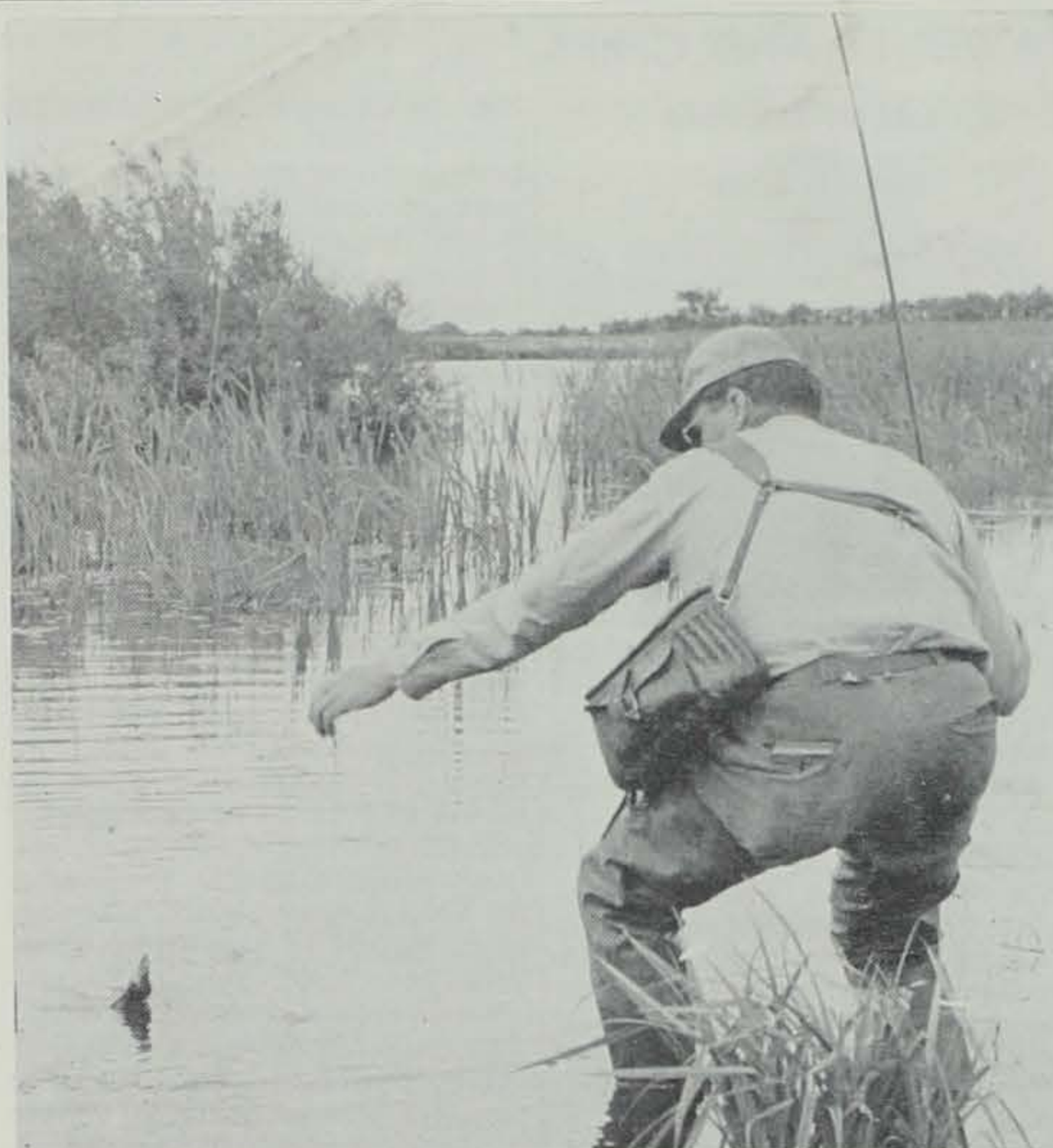
Wood residues have become so valuable that most mills dispose of them for cash and buy coal or oil for fuel! Tacoma, Washington, uses sawdust from mills around Puget Sound as fuel for its central heating plant. Sawdust and chips are being combined with phenolic resins to form cheap plastics such as those used to make fountain pens and telephone receivers; they make the "wood flour" which is the filler in linoleum; they are used to make wallboard and hardwood panels—such as Masonite—of many types for many purposes.

Wood residues are now used extensively in the manufacture of industrial (ethyl) alcohol, adhesives, wood molasses used in cattle feed, synthetic yeast and—believe it or not—vanilla flavoring for ice cream. Portable machines are be-

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Except in butcher shops and taverns, there were formerly few uses for sawdust. Now it's moved into your home in the form of linoleum, plastics, wallboard, and many other items.



"Buggin'" with hair or hair-cork lures is an effective method for taking bass and represents excellent sport on the light flyrod. Jim Sherman Photo.

Bass . . .

(Continued from page 142)

tioned earlier. Surface lures need not have violent action to be effective. They are working for you every minute they are on the water!

If there exists one common fault in the retrieve that is more in evidence than any other it is in the speed the angler gives to it. Slow it down until it wears on your patience—then slow it still more! Like his fighting spirit, the bass's appetite is king-size in quantity, but he likes his "three squares" with as little effort as possible.

Because we have emphasized experimentation as the rule to follow for success in catching bass, it is not tantamount to saying that other things must not be just as skillfully followed. Mechanics of the cast, the place and the choice of lure or bait, and the time of day and year, are just as important as before. What the writer has emphasized is that after the bass is located and the lure presented, the many extra things you make it do with your ingenuity many times spells the difference between success and failure.

This is patient business—this bass fishing! But there are bruising battles and fishing thrills aplenty for the Iowa fisherman who will copy Mr. Largemouth's personality and be consistently inconsistent when angling for him!

Twenty-five to 30-pound northern pike females have been known to produce from a quarter to a half million eggs. Large adult wall-eyes, 120,000; bass, 10,000; trout, 3,000.

Surplus . . .

(Continued from page 139)

One of the group that met with Benson was H. R. Morgan, North Dakota's aggressive game and fish commissioner, who also is chairman of the soil bank committees of both the international and mid-west associations of commissioners.

Calls Benson "Sincere"

"We went there as doubters, skeptical of any results," Morgan told this reporter, "but we found Mr. Benson to be a sincere individual, who listened to us with understanding, and we came away with cautious optimism."

"I think he will eliminate subsidized drainage from the agricultural program soon after election."

Some of the things touched on briefly in this article will be discussed in more detail in articles to follow: The lag in sorely needed soil conservation practices because of the overemphasis of drainage, the retarding of an inevitable return to grassland economy and what is happening to the ducks.

Sawdust and Chips . . .

(Continued from page 143)

ing used after logging operations—and even in tracts cut years ago—to convert the "slash" into chips for paper pulp.

Until some wizard like Luther Burbank produces a square tree, there will always be wood wastes but we are learning how to use them.—*Nature Bulletin*.

Rats are one of the barn owl's favorite food items. Owls are seldom seen because they hunt at night.

BOOK EXPLORES NATION'S RESOURCES

The problem of how to conserve our natural wealth in the face of rising population and per capita consumption is discussed in a new book, "America's Natural Resources", now available to interested conservationists.

Edited for the Natural Resources Council of America by a committee headed by Charles H. Callison of the National Wildlife Federation, contributing authors include 13 of the leading authorities in the field of conservation.

Copies are available from the Ronald Press Company, 15 E. 26th St., New York 10, New York.

DAY OFF

By Ray Romine

I meant to get things done—I really did—

But then that thrush would pick today to pour

His water-notes upon the air, and bid

Me follow him to where the summer's core

Lay everywhere about. We found nine-bark,

A yellow-breasted chat, and Queen Anne's lace;

Bob White, a wildly singing meadowlark,

A field of wheat with ever-changing face,

Sun through an oak; and, in the roadside dust,

A butterfly I'd never seen before.

Till back at last it ended, as days must,

And, pausing with my hand upon the door,

I add it up. Here is the sum precisely:

I lived today; the work has kept quite nicely.

—*Nature Magazine*.

Suckers . . .

(Continued from page 141)

stir when he attacked a system which allows about five per cent (or ten at most) of the males in colleges to actually participate in a sport. Why not fishing, shooting, and camping—all activities which offer a lifetime of pleasure? A man's football and basketball days are over early in life.

We're suckers because we permit a hundred other abuses to our sport. Pollution is one of the worst of these. Exploitation and grabbing of public fishing lands are others. We elect legislators who never give a thought to anti-pollution laws or to keeping public lands intact for everyone. We pay little attention to our state conservation agencies.

It's harsh language, sure enough, but fishermen are suckers. But maybe harsh language will help prod us into action when nothing else seems to do the job.

Laws . . .

(Continued from page 137)

lation that is referred to the voters by county conservation boards.

New Water Law

Another piece of legislation having direct bearing on conservation is a new water law under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Council. The new law defines underground and natural waters and provides for the establishment of a permit system for control. Other features of the law provide for the appointment of a water commissioner, a staff to administer the system and increase in the council membership from 7 to 9 members.

Other new legislation in lands and waters provides for the excluding of roads abutting or adjacent to state parks from the state park roads system and the establishment of concurrent jurisdiction of county roads or highways through state parks by the Conservation Commission, State Highway Commission and county boards of supervisors.

Another new law provides for a maximum speed limit of 35 miles per hour and gives the Conservation Commission authority to set lower speed limits in state parks when it is ascertained that the maximum speed limit is too great for reasonable or safe operation under existing conditions. Another new law makes operation of motor boats in a "careless and reckless manner" an offense subject to prosecution.

Approve Appropriation

Of appropriations asked by the Conservation Commission, approval was given for salaries, support maintenance of state parks, land purchases and general improvements and for construction and improvement of roads and highways under control of the Conservation Commission. The appropriation, providing \$550,000, includes \$75,000 for utilization of prison inmates under the Board of Control.

Conservation officers were given pay increases by new legislation which provides annual merit increases up to a maximum of \$4,200 annually.

Two pieces of legislation sought by the commission met with defeat. One was the \$1,500,000 "capital improvements" measure and the other was a proposal for establishment of a Conservation Commission counsel with headquarters maintained in the office of the commission. Both measures passed both houses of the legislature but failed to receive the Governor's signature.

The Upper Iowa River rises in Mower County, Minnesota, at an elevation of 1,315 feet above sea level. It flows in an easterly direction for 135 miles, where it joins the Mississippi below New Albin at an elevation of 615, a fall of 700 feet.