

# IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

Volume 18

November, 1959

Number 11

## UPLAND GAME BIRD FORECAST

### A CLINICAL NOTE

The following is the final address given at the state-wide Conservation Clinic in September by Dr. A. N. Humiston. Dr. Humiston is a member of the commission from Cedar Rapids and has donated many years of his busy life to this special form of public service.

\* \* \*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In summarizing today's discussion it would seem that I might have a choice of two types of summarizations:

1. An attempt to summarize the excellent discussions that we have had the privilege of hearing today, or—

2. A summary of the value, as I see it, of a meeting such as this to Conservation and to the Conservation program.

To summarize all of the questions proposed to, and discussed by, the panels would be a gigantic task, also one that would be almost repetitious, for each discussion was actually a summary of the opinions and convictions of the individuals involved or of a commission or council.

However, I would be remiss in my discussion here if I did not congratulate Mr. Ernest Swift on his address this morning. The address has furnished us with a great amount of food for thought and I am sure we shall profit by it.

In a paragraph called "Perils of Conservation," found in South Carolina's official magazine *South Carolina Wild Life* and reprinted in the *Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin* we find an admonition that it would be well for us all to heed. It says, "Conservation is moving on, there is no doubt about that, but the occasional shoals that delay its progress are formed by that most important facet of human nature—self interest. We are all most lenient of our attitude towards ourselves, and in justifying our actions. If everyone were allowed to judge himself, we would have few people in our jails, and none in hell."



Jim Sherman Photo.

Mr. Ring-neck—pride of the Iowa corn field—scooting to cover. Though somewhat confused as to when he should lay low, he and his multitudinous brothers will be hard to root out of the 2,000,000 additional acres of corn put in this year.

To err is human, and admittedly we have erred, just as others have and probably as others will. But may I say that there are no bad conservationists as such. Even the smallest spark of interest in conservation is good. There may be differences of opinion. Every man has a right to his own convictions and a right to defend the same. Often this difference is merely a different path to the same destination, a different technique that produces the same result.

My own philosophy of conservation is one that can be easily subscribed to by any person. I believe that our natural resources were created by a Divine Being for our wise use not wanton waste. They reflect Divine characteristics. The quietness of a stream, the timidity of a wild creature, the songs of our birds, the beauty of the flowers and the trees and of all things He has created for our enjoyment reflect His hand. Therefore if we believe in these truths we must recognize that conservation is essential for their protection and preservation.

There is a lot of value in this meeting for all of us. In the final

paragraph of the invitation from Governor Loveless, he says, "The God-given natural beauties and recreational facilities of our state belong to all of the people of Iowa. Their preservation and improvement is likewise shared by all of us. I feel strongly that each citizen has a right to have a voice in the shaping of our Conservation policies."

This day has not only furnished us, who administer the conservation programs, with new thoughts and ideas but I hope it has given all of us a better understanding of mutual interests and problems.

I would like to see a similar meeting called again next year to keep us informed of your desires and to keep you abreast of our programs and problems.

Now we have reached the end of the day. I would like to tell you a favorite story of mine. The story of the Texan who viewed Niagara for the first time in company with his eastern friend. His companion said, "You have nothing like this in Texas." After a pause the Texan replied, "No, but we have a plumber that can fix it."

### HUNTERS AND BIRDS —1959

With the opening of the pheasant season only about a week off, Mr. Average Iowan (and approximately a quarter of a million others just like him) is busily cleaning up the ol' scattergun and wondering what Lady Luck and Farmer Brown's cornfield have in store for him this year. Last year was pretty good; exceptional for that matter. About a million and a half ring-necks were harvested and this was due primarily to the wonderful hatch which occurred the previous spring.

The picture this year is not much different although populations are down slightly in the northeast corner of the state; in southern sections, numbers are greater than ever before. Poor weather and nesting conditions account for the drop in northern Iowa—lots of snow last winter and, too, this summer the corn acreage was increased by 20 per cent (two million acres) and oats, the prime nesting cover, was reduced by 300,000 acres. If most of the corn is harvested by opening day, the pheasant yield should be excellent.

The prospects are good for this year's quail harvest also. Temperatures since July 9 have stayed almost normal and rains earlier provided heavy cover so that many broods of very small quail have been appearing since the middle of August. Fall rains may make it hard for your dog to work at peak efficiency, due to damp earth and decayed material from the heavy cover, but one good freeze should take care of that nicely. The weather, of course, will render the final decision as to whether Mr. Hunter will strike it rich again and the rest is up to the man behind the gun.

So with mutual help and understanding and with our great common interests in Conservation, I am sure that we, together, can fix any mistakes in judgment and solve our many problems, even though they may seem to be as gigantic as Niagara.

## Iowa Conservationist

Published Monthly by the  
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
East 7th and Court, Des Moines, Iowa  
(No Rights Reserved)

HERSCHEL C. LOVELESS, Governor  
GLEN G. POWERS, Acting Director  
MALCOLM K. JOHNSON, Editor  
STAN WIDNEY, Associate Editor

### MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

GEORGE V. JECK, Chairman.....Spirit Lake  
CLYDE M. FRUDDEN, Vice Chairman.....  
Greene  
MRS. JOHN CRABB.....Jamaica  
SHERRY R. FISHER.....Des Moines  
A. N. HUMISTON.....Cedar Rapids  
EARL E. JARVIS.....Wilton Junction  
GEORGE H. MEYER.....Elkader

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE.....52,000

Two Years \$1.00

Entered as second class matter at the post office in Des Moines, Iowa, September 22, 1947, under the Act of March 24, 1912. Subscriptions received at Iowa Conservation Commission, East Seventh Street and Court Avenue, Des Moines 19, Iowa. Send cash, check or money order.

## EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

Robert Barratt  
Area Game Manager

It is an American heritage to hunt and fish. Our forefathers were after food, while we seek recreation. Let us not destroy tradition by failing to realize that we are guests of the farmers upon whose land we hunt.

In recent years a great deal of publicity has been given to the antagonism between hunters and farmers. Certain articles portray the hunter as a madman who goes about the country shooting up livestock and buildings, tearing down fences, leaving gates open, and destroying everything in general. Others have portrayed the farmer as a tight-fisted old skinflint who hates people in general and hunters in particular, who refuses to allow hunting on his property simply because he is just plain nasty. We don't believe that either of these descriptions is accurate in Iowa.

Iowans are genial people. Most of our hunters conduct themselves properly and appreciate the opportunity of hunting on the farmer's land. Likewise, most farmers will readily grant permission to hunt to sportsmen. Hunting on the farmer's land is like borrowing your friend's automobile; you ask permission first, you leave it in as good condition as you found it, and you show your appreciation for the favor extended to you. Common courtesy is a necessity.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves to define "hunter" and "farmer." Often they are one and the same. A recent survey shows that hunting licenses are divided almost equally between urban and farm populations. Why not ask your farmer friend to join you in your hunting? After all, we all have the same problems and the same goals—we want a better way of life for ourselves and our families. Discussion might benefit both of us.

## WHY DO THEY DO IT?

By Eldie W. Mustard  
Biologist—Game

Why do they do it? That was the question which passed through our minds as we stood looking at the decaying animal which a few short days ago had been a high-spirited whitetail.

The incident which prompted

this question started one morning when a conservation officer in a central Iowa county received a phone call from a farmer informing him of a dead deer in one of the farmer's hayfields. The officer then called me and asked if I'd



Remember, you are a guest of the farmer in whose field you hunt. Treat him as your host and you'll be welcome to come again.

Iowa's factories and her factory payrolls are the farmer's largest markets for his produce. The farmer, in turn, uses many of the products turned out in the factories. One cannot exist without the other. Many farmers are finding it profitable to seek employment in industry during their slack months. Many townspeople are reversing this procedure by taking up residence on small farms and acreages. More and more we are coming to understand the other man's problems and to pull together for the common good.

Regrettably, there are those hunters who are the small minority depicted by the "madman" cartoons. The overwhelming majority of our hunters resent such acts of rudeness and vandalism as much as does the farmer. When the hunter observes such acts, however, resentment is not enough. This is not a time for apathy and complacency—this is the time to act. It is the duty of every hunter to make every effort to protect the property of his farmer host. Report such acts of destruction promptly.

If you do very much hunting

this season it is a pretty good bet that some of it will be on private land. Do YOU have a place where the farmer will welcome you? Often, we hear the complaint on opening day that all of the choice spots are taken. Would you expect to go to the World Series and get a box seat without making reservations? Certainly not, and neither can you expect your farmer friend to save you the best areas without "reservations." It is never too early to get acquainted and make friends with the farmer. Then you and he will both have a good time opening day. During the middle of the week it is more like a regular season ball game; you may not get the best "seat" but you should be able to find something pretty good.

When the hunting seasons come along it is a wonderful time to be out-of-doors in Iowa. Farmers are in the midst of another bountiful harvest and it is time for the hunter to reap his harvest, also, of the year's crop of game. Just remember this one thing when you go afield—you are a guest, act like one. Then this will truly be Iowa, "the beautiful land."

like to go with him to look at the animal.

In my capacity as biologist on the deer project, I was quite anxious to go and look at the deer, and try to determine what had killed it. Part of our deer research program entails the investigation of the various agents which kill deer and which, by so doing, are a constant drain on our deer population. Such investigations are just a routine part of good game management programs where all the factors which have an effect on deer population numbers must be identified, and the degree of their impact considered when setting seasons, number of permits, and the other necessary regulations governing our deer harvest.

The deer was not hard to locate for even as we drove into the hayfield we could see the legs of a deer pointing skyward. Other senses told us the deer had been lying there for at least several days.

All our external examination revealed was that the animal in question was—or had been—a fine female deer, about 15 months old, and weighing about 135 pounds. Examination of her udders indicated she had a young fawn, or fawns, someplace. (Subsequent search of the area did not turn up the young deer.)

As we began to deflect the front shoulder we noticed a blood clot under the skin, and closer examination revealed a small hole about 22 caliber size. It was then clear to us that someone had shot our doe with a rifle!

Cause of death—internal hemorrhage.

As we stood there looking at the doe, we commented strongly on the person who had, by his impulsive action, caused so much waste. One adult deer and one, or maybe two, fawns—wasted!

What did we salvage from this magnificent 135-pound animal which could have furnished sport, thrills, pride, food, and many other intangibles to the deer hunter who might have bagged her legally during our deer season? We obtained one blood sample for Dr. Haugen of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, one stomach sample so we could determine her food habits, and one deer skull for our collection.

Pitifully small return from such a fine animal.

Somewhere someone is probably wondering if he killed that deer he took a shot at, and if he reads the CONSERVATIONIST (I doubt that he does!) perhaps it will give him some warped satisfaction to know that he did. Why did he do it? Who knows? I doubt if even he does.

This same story will be repeated again and again this fall. With the advent of the small game hunting seasons, dead deer start showing up. Autopsies on

(Continued on page 180)



With their distinctive appearance, the signs identifying public hunting and fishing areas all around the state are guiding many Iowans to choice spots, which before were used primarily by only local people.



**SIGNS OF THE (GOOD) TIMES**

Whether you hunt, fish or just plain like to commune with nature, these signs and nearly 400 like them will point the way to your kind of pleasure. New this summer, they stand on main highways through the courtesy of the State Conservation Commission; an invitation to Iowans and visitors alike to see and use our fish and game areas. Hunting and fishing access areas represented by these signs are found all over the state.

For instance: the Mount Ayr Game Area consists of upland timber and prairie land and the sign means that it is open for hunting and trapping (in season) of the pheasant, quail, muskrat, duck, squirrel, rabbit, deer, raccoon, beaver and mink that are known to inhabit the area.

The Bradgate Area points the way to the west fork of the Des Moines River (east bank) for channel cat, walleyes, bullheads or what'll you have? Bradgate is also a fine hunting area. There will be another sign nearby to tell you of that.

The State Conservation Commission will be glad to mail you, free of charge, folders describing 96 fishing access areas and 99 hunting access areas. There is also a folder describing each of Iowa's 88 parks and seven forest areas. All access areas, parks and forests are marked at the nearest highway by signs. So are the lakes and other areas under the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction.

Look for them. In most cases there will be a custodian, park officer or fish and game officer there to welcome you. If their duties have taken them elsewhere at the moment, just go on in and **MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!**

—S.A.W.

**OUR NEED FOR TREES**

**C. M. Frudden**  
Commissioner

**Manford Ellerhoff**  
Superintendent of Forestry

Forestry is important to Iowans. While Iowa will always be better known for its tall corn rather than its tall trees, our forests contain over five million feet of timber. Our annual lumber production totals 100 million board feet. We cut 300,000 cords of pulpwood each year, thousands of railroad ties and much valuable veneer stock.

A small dedicated group of technically trained men make up the Forestry Section of the State Conservation Commission. Their work covers many activities, all of which are vital to the conservation of that valuable God given natural resource—the tree. Our foresters service the 3.2 million acres of Iowa forest land, which comprises 7 per cent of our total land area. Operating on a relatively small budget, the Forestry Section was established in 1946.

A forester's job is to encourage us to protect our valuable forest trees from fire and disease; to plant our non-agricultural lands to forest crops; to assist our 3,400 farm wood lot owners in following approved forestry practices so as to keep their timberlands continuously productive. They also endeavor to set an example of good forest management on our state's 13,000 acres of forest lands.

In considering the importance of forestry in our state, we must not lose sight that forest yields do not end with wood and jobs or products and income nor do they apply only to forest owners. In addition to stabilizing our soils and conserving moisture, they produce continuous crops of wildlife and are important in assisting in flood control. And perhaps most important of all, during these

times of increased population pressures on the great out-of-doors, Iowa's forest areas provide about one acre of potential recreation space for every Iowan. All of these multiple-uses are factors in the well-being of our people, both socially and economically. Iowa without its trees would not be the Iowa we know and love so well.

With the impact of population increases and the desire of Iowans for more family outdoor recreation, the foresters are working toward more and complete multiple-use of the state-owned forests. Besides forest management demonstrations, the program includes plans for better hunting and fishing facilities, conservation camps, picnic grounds, camping areas, foot trails, and trails for horseback riding.

Plans have been made to expand the scope of the various programs by hiring more farm foresters. These men will be able to assist in the improvement of forestry practices on farm wood lots and soil bank plantings. Your Conservation Commission urges every Iowan interested in a better conservation program for our state to become aware of the important place forestry has in our over-all planning. We ask that you give our foresters the active support and cooperation they need.

Not all crows are black. The Clark's crow, named after the explorer of the Lewis and Clark expedition, is a gray and white bird, with black trimmings.

The mourning dove is the only game bird found in every state in the nation.





Jim Sherman Photo.

Whether you start from the head or tail, hot picking the feathers in the field saves a long messy job in the evening when fatigue from the hunt has really set in.

## PICK YOUR PHEASANTS THE EASY WAY

James R. Sherman  
Superintendent of Public Relations

Fall is a wonderful season of the year for many Iowans and especially for those hordes of hunters who pursue the king of the game birds, the ring-necked pheasant. But what more dismal prospect is there in the book than to remember on arriving home that there are pheasants in the bag which must be picked?

There is an easy way to avoid the dreary labor of scalding or dipping in wax or whatever messy method was recommended last. For the first few minutes after a pheasant has been shot, the feathers can be picked with ease. As soon as the bird starts to cool even slightly, the feathers seem to become an inseparable part of the skin.

Many old-timers pick their birds as soon as they pick them up. They use a rolling motion of the

hand, starting at the neck of the bird, pulling the feathers toward the head and presto-changeo a disagreeable job is done in short order.

Head and neck feathers should be left on the bird to remove any doubt as to sex in case a conservation officer wishes to check the bag.

The feathers can easily be disposed of by scuffing some loose dirt over them or the hunter can carry a paper "litter" bag in his hunting coat and take the feathers home for the garbage man.

Another advantage of this "hot picking" method is that it allows the bird to cool more quickly and thus insures fresh meat even though the day is not cold.

So ask the farmer first, look before you shoot, pick your pheasant hot and enjoy Iowa's magnificent pheasant hunting.

### WHY DO THEY DO IT?—

(Continued from page 178)

many of these animals will show that they have been illegally killed by hunters using either twenty-two rifles or birdshot.

Why do some of our hunters (I can't call them sportsmen) have to take potshots at a deer when it pops up in front of them while

they are hunting squirrels or pheasants? When we find the answer to this, perhaps we will also discover why a certain few individuals get a great thrill out of shooting up road signs, mailboxes, electrical insulators, or the farmer's livestock.

Why do they do it? We plain don't know.

## CARE FOR INJURED DOGS

By Harold Brand

If your dog is injured while hunting or otherwise, the proper first aid treatment may save your dog's life and ease its pain. Dr. Gerald Somers of Alton, Illinois, a veterinarian, offered the following pointers on how to handle some of the more common accidents which may happen to your dog:

"Wire cuts and gashes, such as caused by jumping fences, should not have iodine or mercurochrome poured into them. Strong disinfectants burn healthy tissue and delay healing. Wash the dirt out of the wound with clean, cold water.

"If long hair hangs into the cut, clip the hair away from the edges. If you think the gash is bad enough to need suturing by a 'vet,' don't think it over for a couple of days, but get it done while the wound is fresh. It usually heals quickly if closed when fresh, but a wound a few days old, with infection started, may take a long time in healing.

"Should your dog be accidentally shot, and it happens every day to the best of them, or should he get hit by a car or otherwise seriously hurt, just remember two things: Keep him warm and move him as little as possible. Don't let a bleeding dog hobble to your

car. Carry him there. If he is weak from shock or loss of blood, don't take him home in the trunk, put him up in front and turn up the heat.

"Tin cans and broken glass can cause some severe foot injuries. An emergency tourniquet, fashioned from a leather shoelace or tightly twisted handkerchief, applied to the leg, will usually slacken the loss of blood from a badly cut foot.

"If you think that your dog's leg is broken, remember that bending and twisting the leg to find out just how bad the fracture is can turn a simple break into a hopeless one.

"Don't forget, and a lot of hunters do forget, that a dog which is running all day and working hard needs more nourishment than one that is dozing the day away in his pen. Increase his food. And if he is really working hard, add some meat scraps or horse meat to his rations.

"And lastly, don't expect that canine backyard loafer, who has chased nothing faster than horseflies, fleas and soupbones all summer, to turn into a rough, rugged outdoor critter overnight. Break him in easily and gently, as you would yourself."

All hunters and dog owners will do well to remember Dr. Somer's suggestions. A little care at the proper time is of great importance.—Alton Illinois Telegraph.



Jim Sherman Photo.

Prompt attention and care for your dog's injuries means a lot to Rover and helps to get the both of you back in the field without losing more time than is necessary during the season. If he's badly hurt, carry him back to the car—wouldn't he do the same for you?



Jim Sherman Photo.  
Mowed strips cut at intervals across the field get old man pheasant up in the air sooner and help to prevent bunching of birds at the end.

### THE SEASONAL SEE-SAW

In the past several issues you must have noticed that much space has been devoted to the problems and practices of land management for the betterment of game birds in particular and wildlife in general. In the surrounding picture story an effort has been made to show what a managed area actually looks like. The requirements of our most sought after game bird, the pheasant, are quite simple. Just consider your own case. You want a place to have and rear your young—a home. The pheasant wants nesting cover. Your stomach provides another requirement—food. The pheasant feels likewise. Your active nature demands exercise and so does the pheasant's. He wants a covered area to run in.

With these three basic needs in mind the solution to the problem becomes easy—in theory at least. The stickler is how to combine a

high yield of agricultural crops with the maximum harvest of game birds and this too seems to be fairly well resolved. By means of mowed strips between cover and food, the hardy ring-necks flush sooner. The hunter doesn't have to walk the length of a cornfield before seeing his game. Spaced cross-strips break up the long run to the end of cover and up they go when a cleared area 30 feet wide stands between them and more cover. On warm days early in the season look for them in the feeding grounds such as cornfields, etc., and later on, with snow in the picture, try the grass cover and shrubs. More flushing means more birds harvested and thus with top production the most efficient utilization of the area is possible.

By providing for and protecting the birds until harvest time and then taking out the optimum number to maintain high repro-



Jim Sherman Photo.  
Waist high cover plus much sought after sunflower seeds and milo are planted for the game at the East Swan Lake area. Pampered birds—you bet!

ductive pressure our game bird population should no longer suffer yearly highs and lows and instead raise the low periods to be consistent with ever increasing demands of Iowa hunters.—M.K.J.

Only two types of mammals lay eggs: the duckbill and the spiny anteater.



### HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

By Stan Widney

The Gay Nineties saw some excellent leaders in the conservation of fish and game. They definitely had the "right idea," and many of our present day practices were developed from what they had to learn the hard way. Hampered by slow and often faulty legislation, our fish commissioners were forced to be lobbyists and used every form of legal persuasion a 1959 professional \$20,000 a year lobbyist uses and then some.

The two most important items put through the General Assemblies of the Nineties were: the Fish Car, and legislation which made the "Fish Commissioner" a "State Fish and Game Warden." This gave him status that compares with our present day Director of the Conservation Commission, the Chiefs of every division, Supervisors, Officers, Biologists, Game Units and their Managers, the complete Engineering Department and Public Relations—all combined. He never had over five men on his staff except for a "deputy" in each county who tried to look after the "Sooners," a name applied to poachers of that day.

Those Wardens worked seven days a week, almost around the clock, with a fierce pride and determination that would not be denied. When Warden George E. Delevan finally got the Fish Car his pride knew no bounds.

#### Hawkeye I

Delevan said of the *Hawkeye*, "... it creates a healthy sentiment in favor of law enforcement relating to the protection of fish. Whenever a load of fish is deposited, the people at once take measures to secure their protection, and either a deputy is at once appointed or a 'rod' club is organized. The people become interested in the work of preservation and greatly aid us in our efforts at enforcement. The repairs on the Fish Car, *Hawkeye*, during the three years (it was delivered in 1896) it has been in operation, have been small; \$100

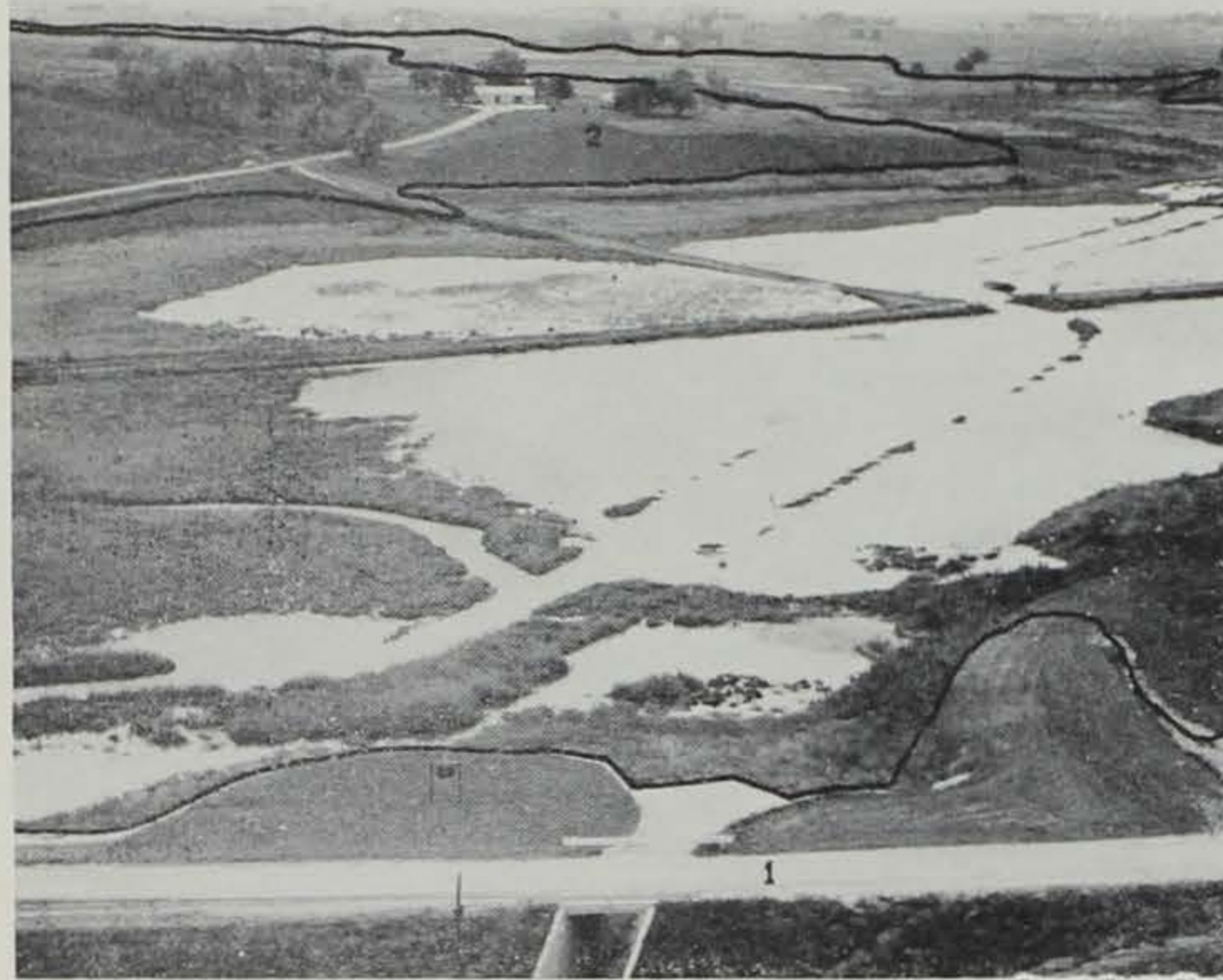
(Continued on page 184)



Jim Sherman Photo.  
Multiflora Rose and Honeysuckle plantings render a protection service between separated food and cover areas. Called travel lanes, they're busier than Grand Central Station in early morning and late afternoon and evening.



"He can't swim"



Bays Branch Lake. Three-quarters of a mile east and two miles north of Panora in Guthrie County, the bed of this lake was completed in September, this year. It will be filled to the normal level marked in black by spring or early summer. 1. Dam and spillway with the new east-west road. 2. Headquarters house and garage.

## THE BAYS BRANCH FISH AND GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT

By Lester C. Fleming  
Unit Manager

(Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles about the various departments of the State Conservation Commission, the duties of the men in those departments and something about the men themselves. The first article, in the September issue, described Iowa's Fish and Game Management Units made possible by Federal Aid Wildlife and Fish Restoration Acts. The Unit Manager's duties were covered by Jack McSweeney, Assistant Superintendent.

Lester Fleming is the Bays Branch Unit Manager. He is typical of all Unit Managers in his intense interest in his job. He is 36 years old and has been with the department since 1951 with the exception of a year with the U. S. Forest Service. Lester was with the Rice Lake Unit for five years before he moved to Bays Branch two years ago.

In this issue, Les gives an account of his unit, part of which has just completed its development in what promises to be one of the finest of the state's artificial lakes for both hunting and fishing. Here is how a dedicated man looks at his work:)

Bays Branch Fish and Game Unit consists of ten areas. Five of these are game areas composed of upland and marsh, and four are stream fishing accesses. One area, Lennon Mills, is a small, ten-acre timbered tract adjacent to the south edge of Panora in Guthrie County and is as yet unimproved.

Thousands of sportsmen are enjoying the hunting and fishing of the Bays Branch Unit annually. More ducks have been seen there this year than in any two previ-

ous years, and the lake is just starting. Perhaps the best news, to fishermen at least, is the fact that authorities say that our new lake will be stocked with northern pike, largemouth bass and cat.

A new, graveled road winds around the uplands south of the headquarters area that offers an excellent view up the valley for several miles, all the way to Lakin Slough. The hills abound with plantings to suit upland game. Immediately below, flocks of ducks take off and land or swim lazily in the small ponds and marsh land formed by the new concrete dam at the south end. A graveled parking area, still unmarked by tires, stretches across the west end from near the dam to the road leading up to headquarters.

This work was completed in September of this year. The lake will be full by next spring or early summer. The view from the southern hill road will then reveal a lake more than two and one half miles long and sometimes as much as a quarter of a mile wide. At the dam, and along the old creek channel, it will be from ten to twelve feet deep and will be ready to fish by 1961. Meantime, the entire area is open to public hunting.

The lake, which will cover 285 surface acres when full, will not come within two miles of Lakin Slough, although Lakin can be seen through binoculars as you look north up the valley over the future lake bed. The lake however should enhance the view of migrating waterfowl every fall and spring for which Lakin Slough is already famous.

Located one mile east of Yale,

## COMMISSION MINUTES

A new uniform was taken into consideration by the Commission. Modeled by Officer James Ripple, the deep olive green, whipcord uniform has both summer and winter adaptations.

Land acquisition position upgraded from supervisor to assistant superintendent and corresponding salary range is \$4,800 to \$5,580.

New position created—Superintendent of Land Management, to be filled by Paul Leaverton, presently the superintendent of game. Replacing Leaverton will be William Brabham, a federal aid assistant superintendent.

An easement resolution concerning the Coralville Reservoir and Lake Macbride in the form of a contract with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers was passed.

A delegation from West Union seeking improvement of the Echo Valley State Park in Fayette County met the Commission. Approval was given subject to a maintenance agreement from the delegation.

Delegation from Fremont County reported to the Commission that much land which should normally belong to the state has been taken over by adjacent landowners and, in one instance, a large island has been occupied by a resident of Nebraska. The delegation estimated that 43,000 acres is available to the state since the Missouri River has been brought under control.

The Winneshiek County Conservation Board asked the Commission to accept a 15 acre river access area next to a paved primary road and scenic limestone bluffs plus a ten acre area on Bohemian Creek. The Commission accepted them because of the need for access areas.

Low bid for construction of the Prairie Rose Dam, \$225,783.98, was approved.

The State Highway Commission was given permission to construct a new bridge across the Wapsipicon River at McCausland.

The State Highway Commission was given permission to dredge silt and sand in the Cedar River where it is crossed by Highway 80 in Cedar County.

Appanoose County was given permission to build a reservoir area to be turned over to the county conservation board for maintenance.

Lakin Slough contains 300 acres, of which about one-half is natural prairie marsh. The major development work was completed in 1949 and has produced a fine waterfowl area for central Iowa. It is all open for public hunting.

Other areas covered by the Bays Branch Fish and Game Management Unit contain the following:

Dunbar Slough, a 507-acre area located four miles southwest of Scranton in Greene County, con-

County Conservation Boards Wright and Humboldt Counties were granted permission to acquire three to seven acres for park.

The Carroll County Conservation Board was given permission to construct a service building at Swan Lake Park, the \$1,200 cost to be paid by them.

The State Highway Commission was given two-tenths of an acre from Red Haw State Park for right-of-way. This won't affect park use.

The Backbone State Park commission will continue under the same management under a five year contract.

In a joint meeting with the Natural Resources Council, the Commission instructed the acting director to meet with the Natural Resources Council to solve problems of mutual interest. Agreement was reached on a joint research project to establish the base flow of our streams. An agreement was made to make a joint report to the Senate Select Committee when it convened Des Moines, October 19.

A request from the city of Paullina for 27 acres in Mill Creek State Park to be purchased at \$150 per acre for use as an airstrip was rejected.

To be given further consideration is a request from Delaware County for funds for a historical site.

Black Hawk County Conservation Board was given permission to acquire an acreage adjacent to Arch MacFarland Park.

The biennial reciprocal agreement with Minnesota on border lakes was renewed without change in the regulations. The winter fishing regulations, covered in administrative order No. 280, about ice fishing shanties were renewed without change.

Official approval was given to remove Cheever Lake at Estherville from status as a refuge and make it a public shooting ground on the basis that it is too small to be effective as a refuge.

The Buchanan County Conservation Board was granted permission to purchase ten acres next to the Hazleton Area for the token sum of one dollar.

The Commission agreed to pursue an "open door" policy at subsequent meetings.

tains a natural prairie marsh of about 225 acres. Some ducks are hatched on the area each year and it is also an excellent pheasant producer. The north part of Dunbar Slough has been established as a wildlife refuge with no hunting allowed; the rest is open to public hunting.

Goose Lake is a 456-acre area about five miles north of Jefferson in Greene County. A water diver-

(Continued on page 183)

# THINK TWICE— BEFORE YOU DOITYOURSELF

By Jack Cawthon

"Let's build a boat," my cousin Winslow said to me a few months back. Little was I to know that Winslow was a victim of the infamous doityourself craze.

The missing thumb on his left hand and the sagging right shoulder, the former resulting from a misfired rocket and the latter from some overly loaded shotgun shells which Winslow had done himself, should have been ample warning against this fiendish cousin.

After swimming out of the murky depths of the river where our boat was launched and sunk in almost one easy operation, the sinking being much easier than the launching, and losing a motor in the process, I became suddenly aware of people who suffer from the incurable disease of doityourselfism.

When early man found that a round wheel would roll better than a square one—they said it couldn't be done—he opened the way for doityourselfers from there to eternity.

Such a humble beginning finally resulted in the crossbow, gun powder and, eventually, the H-bomb.

Civilization down through the ages has had many doityourselfers as leaders. The Egyptians built pyramids with doityourself slaves, the Mound Builders, oddly enough, built mounds and the Greeks utilized wood products in building horses.

I conducted a closer study of Cousin Winslow, from a distance, and found that he was afflicted with The Malady early in childhood, which almost any psychologist will tell you is an extremely formative period.

His first project was a boomerang arrow which boomeranged on Cousin Winslow, knocking out six teeth. His first classic doityourself in the sport of fishing consisted of trying to teach a live fly to swim under water, almost drowning himself in the attempt.

In later life he built walls which crumbled, an outdoor barbecue unit which burned to the ground (Don't ask me how!), a camping outfit which consisted of a sleeping bag which shrank when wet (He almost smothered in this one!) and a fishing reel using rubber line. (When a fish struck, the line was supposed to snap it out of the stream. Instead, the line broke, springing back to inflict a nasty gash on my other cousin Wendell who was fishing with Winslow. Winslow and Wendell don't speak to each other anymore.)

Don't get me wrong, there have been a lot of worthy contributions

made to society by doityourselfers. But none of the contributors have been related to me.

To overcome the strong temptation of becoming an outdoor doityourselfer, I read quite a lot. I'm reading an interesting book now titled, ANYONE CAN BE AN EDITOR.—West Virginia Conservation.

## BAYS BRANCH—

(Continued from page 182)  
sion project completed in 1959 should help this former fine duck hunting spot regain its reputation, lost when the lake was drained 40 years ago for agricultural purposes. It has always been an excellent pheasant producer however, although the area is difficult to hunt due to its heavy cover. The use of dogs is strongly recommended. The entire area is open to public hunting.

McCord Pond is a wildlife refuge of 112 acres located three miles southwest of Bayard in Guthrie County. This is another excellent place for bird watchers to observe waterfowl during the spring and fall migrations as county roads bound the area on two sides.

Earlham Bridge Access is a nine-acre area on the South Raccoon River five miles northwest of DeSoto in Dallas County. It provides public access to approximately one-half mile of stream. Flint Access is a 59-acre area on the Des Moines River just north of



George Tovey Photo.  
Empty chambers are good insurance (and it doesn't cost a cent) for you and your friends while demonstrating how slippery your leather is.

## A HOLE IN ONE— TARGET OR TOE

With an upsurge, reminiscent of "Billy the Kid" days at the nickelodeon, six-shooters and slippery leather are again the rage. Only this time, 12 year olds and younger aren't the main contenders for the title of the fastest gun on West 8th Street, U.S.A. Nor are nickelplated cap pistols or cricket guns the arms in vogue. Much to the dismay of friends and relatives, participants have often gone beyond blank firing guns and use lethal weapons for their practice

periods. There's no question but what the resounding thunk of a slug in the target can be satisfying—if the target and not a part of man's very vulnerable anatomy takes the jolt.

There will always be accidents where firearms are concerned, just the same as with automobiles. The point is, that contrary to operating a car, a gun doesn't have to be fired—especially with live ammo—in order to see if one man can outdraw his buddy. Competition's nervous fingers shouldn't be trusted to withhold pressure from the trigger. Legs, ankles, and feet, to say nothing about bystanders, are highly susceptible to wild, unaimed projectiles.

Let's all, for mutual benefit, leave the ammo out and save it for target practice or for tummy filling game.

On the game proposition, Iowans have a pretty good hunting safety record. As a further precaution, Conservation Officer Lloyd Huff asks that a couple of the most common gun safety violations be pointed out.

1. It is illegal to carry an assembled gun in a car on a public highway—it must be contained in a case or taken down (this means barrel removed from stock, not just with the bolt out) and both barrel and magazine must be unloaded.

2. There are three areas over which a rifle may not be fired: on or over public water, a railroad right-of-way, or public highway. And highways means not just the beaten path, but between the fences on either side of the road.

It's up to you to protect and preserve (for your kids and theirs) our wholesome outdoor recreation of hunting, so here are a few POINTS TO PONDER (IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR SHOOTING):

- ASK THE FARMER FIRST
- LOOK BEFORE YOU SHOOT
- SHOOT NO HENS
- BE A GUEST—NOT A PEST



Des Moines in Polk County and provides public access to approximately one mile of stream.

Rippey Access is a 30-acre area on the North Raccoon River five miles southwest of Rippey in Greene County. It provides public access to nearly one-half mile of one of Iowa's better catfishing streams. Soper Mills is a 17-acre area on the South Skunk River three and one-half miles east of Gilbert in Story County. It pro-

vides public access to approximately one-half mile of stream. The area encompasses an old mill site but all vestiges of the mill are almost completely gone.

While these areas have been acquired and developed primarily for the use and enjoyment of the hunter and fisherman, many of them have considerable value for bird watching, nature study, picnicking and camping. Such varied use is recognized and encouraged.

**THREE ITEMS . . .**

To top your Christmas list . . .

**THE IOWA CONSERVATIONIST . . .**  
24 news-packed issues for only \$1.00.

**WATERFOWL IN IOWA . . .**  
Jack Musgrove's book—124 pages, with color plates by Maynard Reese. \$1.00 postpaid.

**IOWA FISH AND FISHING . . .**  
Latest edition, 377-pages, 63 full-color illustrations by Reese, and diagrams of dozens of things to make fishing easier and more fun for your favorite friend or relative who is lucky enough to receive it. \$2.50 postpaid.

Send cash, check or money order for ALL THREE (or any one) to the State Conservation Commission, East 7th and Court Avenue, Des Moines 8, Iowa.



**HISTORY—**

(Continued from page 181)

probably would cover all expenses. The Warden has operated the car for two years with only two assistants, a cook and one helper. Five men are usually employed on these cars. Still and all, there is no way the commission can increase the supply of fish and game in the state except by constant vigilance in detection of the lawless, . . . and the passage of stricter laws for both fish and game."

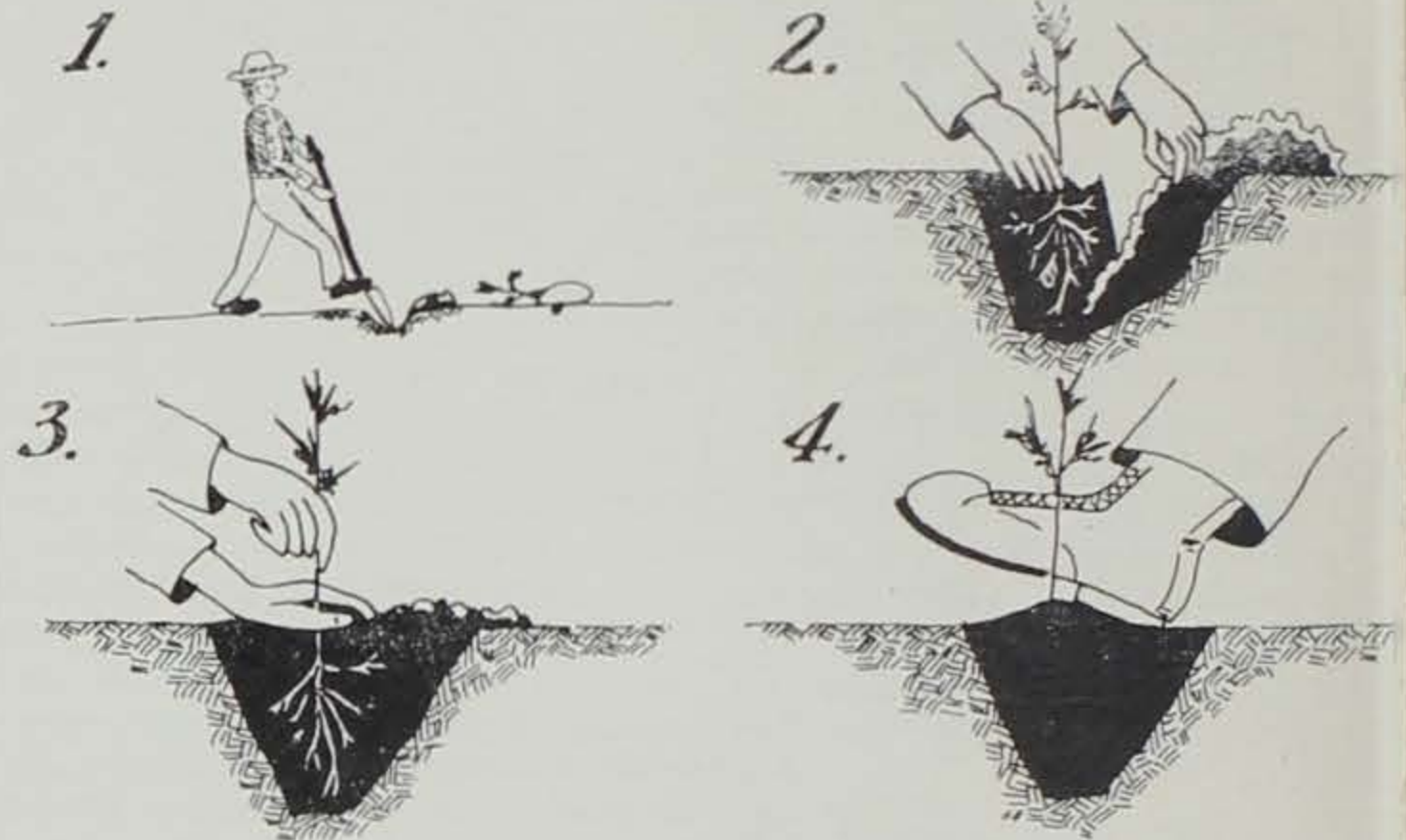
**"Sooners"**

They called them "Sooners," those selfish, unprincipled rascals who invaded farms without permission and "did untold damage to crops and livestock and left more prairie chickens to die of wounds than they took home to sell to restaurants and hotels." "Sooners," a nickname for Okla-

homa in later years, was applied to anyone hunting or fishing out of season as well as "poachers." A "Sooner" would also bribe farmers, or use blackmail or extortion, to get owners or tenants to "close their eyes" when the "Sooner" wanted game or fish out of season.

It is a matter of record that, in spite of inadequate legislation, Warden Lincoln was able to report to Governor Cummins that his deputy wardens had been vigilant, and the amount of fines and costs were double the amount of any similar period; "except for this; I regret to say that in some instances and in some counties, those who should have been punished have been discharged by friendly courts and juries. In these there seems to have been a disposition on the part of officials to serve politics first and justice last!"

**A TREE WILL GROW WITH YOU**



Many youngsters would love to know that they have a part to play in conservation. The planting of a tree, or trees, and caring for it until it is able to live by itself, could be just what they are looking for. The diagrams above illustrate the four most important steps to be taken in planting.

**Planting**

Plant in early spring, April 1 to May 10, while trees are still asleep.

1. Keep roots moist at all times. The sun and wind can kill an evergreen tree in a few minutes when the roots are left exposed and not moistened. Roots can be best protected by placing them in containers holding a little water and a wet burlap cover to help keep them from drying out.

2. Set the tree in the ground to same depth it was before it was taken from the nursery—or slightly deeper, never shallower.

Dig the hole large enough and deep enough so the roots will not need to be doubled up. Keep the roots spread out.

3. Bring in loose, moist dirt and pack it firmly about the roots.

Don't get any dry soil, grass weeds, dry leaves or other trash into the dirt.

4. Finish filling the hole and pack it well. Use your heel to press the soil down firmly. Cover the packed dirt with a layer of loose leaves or cut grass to act as a mulch.

**Care After Planting**

Trees, like any other plant or crop, have to have plenty of care if the planting is to be successful. Here's what should be done and how to do it:

Protect your newly planted trees at all times from livestock and poultry. Keep weeds and grass from growing around the trees for three or four years, until the trees become well established.

Hold moisture in by covering the ground around the tree lightly with cut grass that will act as a mulch.

Examine your trees every few days to see if they're sick, or are being damaged by bugs or rodents. If they are, call or see your local county extension director or forester. He will be glad to help you in any way.

**THE ABC'S OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**

Always practice safe gunhandling.

Be considerate of the landowner. You are his guest.

Conduct yourself as a SPORTSMAN should.

Don't be a game-hog.

Educate youth in the principles of sportsmanship.

Favor the fellow who is hunting with you.

Give wildlife a break. Work for its conservation.

Have the location of your hunting partner always in mind.

Influence others to hunt safely.

Join a sportsman's organization.

Keep a clean camp.

Leave young wildlife alone.

Make sure of your target before you shoot.

Never leave a cripple to go to waste.

Obeys the game laws to the letter.

Put yourself in the other fellow's place. Treat him accordingly.

Quit harping about good sportsmanship and do something about it.

Retrieve every piece of game you knock down.

Share your game bag with the farmer.

Take a boy, other than your own, hunting or fishing.

Unite your fellow sportsmen in a common effort to provide better hunting and fishing.

Value, and protect, your privilege to own and bear firearms.

Work for all sound game management measures.

X may mark the spot if you mix gunpowder and alcohol.

Young America's future field sport depends on YOU.

Zeal in game restoration activities will pay big dividends.