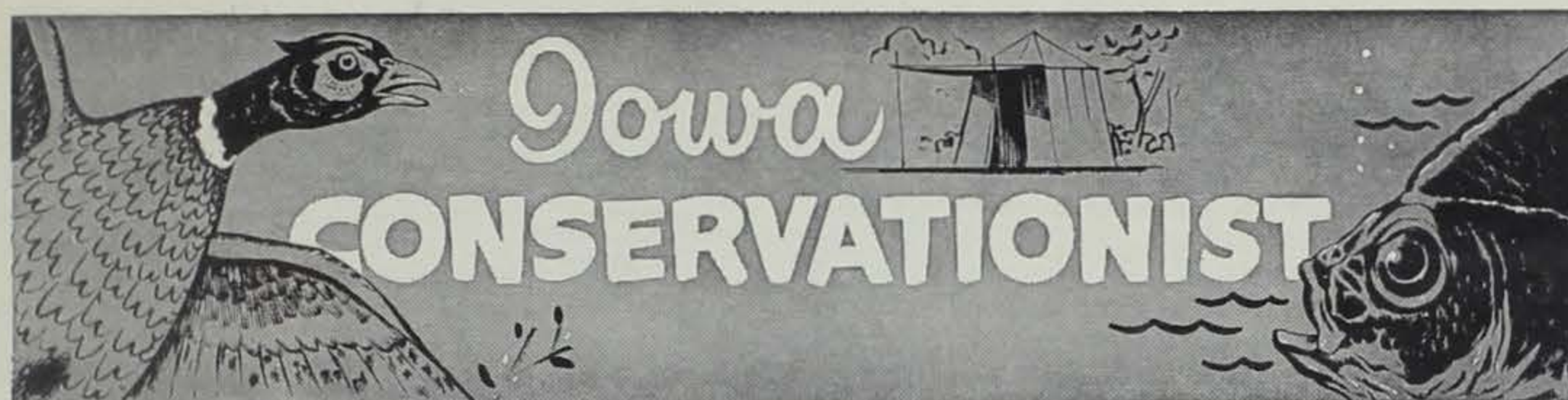


11-67  
THOMAS A. BARTON  
839 BROOKBRIDGE  
AMES IA 50010



June, 1967

Volume 26

Number 6

# COUNTIES PROVIDE PARKS



By Russ Nelson

Watch our July issue for:

information about

**IOWA'S WATER SAFETY  
PROGRAM**

with pictures of  
water sports  
activities

from various Iowa  
lakes and water  
regions.

Summer weather has finally arrived and Iowa's state parks are once again, jammed to the gills with thousands of campers who have made their annual migration out-of-doors. Chances are you also long to take your tribe afield, but don't want to fight the crowds at state park areas. You *did* have a problem.

Your problems are no more, for odds are that there is a recreation area not far from where you are right now; a county conservation board area, that is. Of Iowa's 99 counties, 91 have established county conservation boards who have in turn set aside and developed to some degree 546 county recreation areas. These areas range in size from one to 1,270 acres.

Perhaps you are not aware of, or familiar with, the fine job the county conservation boards are doing. In a nutshell, local funds are spent on local areas to provide recreational facilities for local people. Did you know that these boards have set aside and developed 178 parks, 125 river accesses, 87 wildlife areas, 54 highway rest areas, 25 forest areas, 14 historical areas, 11 fishing areas, 10 recreational areas, 6 outdoor classrooms, 2 botanical preserves, as well as 34 other areas? Over 27,357 acres have been set aside throughout Iowa by county conservation boards. This is big business—last year the total board budget was \$3,925,000.

According to law, all land acquisition, development and programs must be approved by the State Conservation Commission. The Commission's Director of the County Conservation Activities Section serves as a coordinator and works closely with each county board. He

(Continued on page 48)

Do a Friend a Favor

Remember him on his

**BIRTHDAY**

with a Gift Subscription  
to the

**IOWA CONSERVATIONIST**

Send us \$1 for 2 years.  
We'll send him a gift card  
in your name.



**Iowa Conservationist**

Vol. 26 June, 1967 No. 6

Published monthly by the Iowa Conservation Commission, East 7th Street and Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50308. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579, manuscripts, mail items) to above address.

Subscription price: two years at \$1.00

Second class postage paid at Des Moines, Iowa

(No Rights Reserved)

HAROLD E. HUGHES, Governor  
E. B. SPEAKER, Director  
JACK KIRSTEIN, Editor—Photographer  
RUSSELL NELSON, Associate Editor  
MARY STAHOWICK, Associate Editor  
GLADYS McCULLOCH and JULIUS SATRE, Circulation

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

LAURENCE N. NELSON, Chairman, Bellevue  
MIKE F. ZACK, Vice Chairman, Mason City  
ED WEINHEIMER, Greenfield  
EARL E. JARVIS, Wilton Junction  
JAMES R. HAMILTON, Storm Lake  
ROBERT E. BEEBE, Sioux City  
KEITH A. McNURLIN, Ames

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE 60,496

**COMMISSION MINUTES****State Conservation Commission Meeting Held in Sioux City, Iowa, May 2 and 3, 1967**

Mr. Beebe introduced a delegation representing the Woodbury and Plymouth County Soil Conservation Districts headed by Maurice Welte, Commissioner of Woodbury County. State Senator Alden A. Erskine accompanied the delegation. A motion was made and approved to cooperate with the Soil Conservation people in the plans and specifications for the Elliott Creek and Big Whiskey Creek Projects.

Travel was approved for the following: Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers Meeting in Chicago, Illinois; Hayward, Wisconsin to pick up muskie fry; International Wildlife Disease Association Meeting in Urbana, Illinois; Mississippi River Wood Duck Meeting, Winona, Minnesota; National Watershed Congress, Boston, Massachusetts; North Central States Boating Law Administrators Meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota; Forestry Conservation Communication Association Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina; Surplus Property Disposal Office in Manhattan, Kansas; and the Status & Management of Woodcock Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The following project proposal for future Federal Cost Sharing under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program was presented: Woodbury County Conservation Board, War Eagle Park development.

A commendation for Conservation Officer Dale Entner was recommended and approved.

A tour was made of Elliott Creek and Big Whiskey Creek Watersheds and Browns Lake.

The proposal to send the Conservation Commission Exhibit Trailer on the Iowa Publicity Tour was canceled.

A motion was made and approved to commend Mr. Robert C. Russell of the Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, Inc. for his interest, ef-

fort, and work in the spirit of Conservation.

The Commission voted to become a co-sponsor of the Turkey Creek Watershed at Lake Anita in Cass County with a sponsoring agreement with the Soil Conservation District for construction and maintenance of silt retaining structures. The agreement permits access to the structure; no Commission funds are involved.

**COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**

Approved were:

A request from the Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board to acquire 20.75 acres of land for the purpose of developing a county park adjacent to the east incorporated limits of the town of Thornton.

A request from the Henry County Conservation Board to acquire 26.59 acres of land for the purpose of developing a multiple use outdoor recreational area.

A request from the Linn County Conservation Board to acquire 52.55 acres of additional land at the Pinicon Ridge County Park.

A request from the Polk County Conservation Board to acquire 40.00 acres of additional land at their Camp Creek multiple use outdoor recreational area.

A request from the Polk County Conservation Board to acquire flowage easements on two lots straddling Yeader Creek upstream from the Yeader Creek recreational lake.

A request from the Washington County Conservation Board to acquire 310.00 acres of land to be utilized as a forest preserve and wildlife habitat area.

A request from the Linn County Conservation Board to initiate condemnation procedures to acquire 208.90 acres of additional land at their Squaw Creek Park Area.

A request from the Marion County Conservation Board to acquire 600 acres of land at no cost for the purpose of developing a wildlife and recreational area.

A request from the Washington County Conservation Board to acquire 1.00 acre of land as a gift for the purpose of establishing a wildlife habitat area.

A request from the Wright County Conservation Board to acquire a 0.50 acre parcel of land from the City of Eagle Grove by a 10-year cooperative lease for the installation of wildlife habitat plantings.

A request from the Monroe County Conservation Board for the proposed development plan and report for their Miami Lake Park.

A request from the Montgomery County Conservation Board for the proposed development plan and report for their Pilot Grove Park.

A request from the Sac County Conservation Board for the development plan and report for their Hagge Park Area.

**Conservation Forum**

EDITOR'S NOTE: On Arbor Day, Gov. Harold Hughes, with other state officials participated in planting a tree on the State Capitol grounds. Similar events occurred throughout the United States. We could all follow this example, and see that a tree is planted somewhere this year through our own efforts. In many foreign countries, notably Germany, trees belong to the state, and before a tree can be cut down, another must be planted. We may someday wish that this were true in our country, if too many trees succumb to diseases and whirling chain saws.

For the first time in its history, the State Conservation Commission has made an award for heroism. We hereby reprint the exact wording of this award, with no further comment necessary, except "well done."

**STATE OF IOWA**  
**State Conservation Commission**  
**Hereby Awards This**  
**Commendation for Heroism**

WHEREAS, State Conservation Officer Dale Entner of Fort Madison, did on April 14, 1967, without hesitation respond to an emergency radio call to rescue two men marooned and clinging to the radar mast of the sunken towboat Bixby. Said vessel being swamped 400 yards off shore in the Keokuk Pool of the Mississippi River by waves reported up to 10 feet in height driven by hurricane winds, and WHEREAS, under the skillful seamanship of Officer Entner, the small 16 ft. flatbottom boat designed for calm waters was successfully maneuvered to rescue Harry Rutan, the skipper of the Bixby, and crewman Charles Jakoubek and landed them unharmed on shore, and WHEREAS, Mr. John Willey of Beardstown, Illinois, did volunteer and assist Officer Entner in the perilous rescue, NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the State Conservation Commission hereby formally commends Officer Dale Entner for this act of heroism far beyond the call of duty. The Commission hereby recognizes John Willey for his courageous assistance to Officer Entner. What higher achievement can be obtained than to save the life of a fellow man?

Mike F. Zack  
Robert E. Beebe  
Earl E. Jarvis

Rev. Laurence Nelson, Chairman  
James R. Hamilton  
Dr. Keith A. McNurlen  
Edward Weinheimer

E. B. Speaker, Director  
Earl T. Rose, Chief Div. of Fish & Game  
Kenneth R. Kakac, Supt. of Law Enforcement

A request from the Wright County Conservation Board for the development plan prepared for a farm-game habitat area located at the northeast corner of the Eagle Grove municipal airport.

**FISH & GAME**

A motion to adopt the tempo-

rary rules to provide for controlled hunting on Forney Lake in Fremont County for the 1967 season was made and approved.

The Staff was authorized to advertise for bids for the construction of a headquarters at the Red Rock Game Management Unit.

(Continued on page 43)



## MINUTES—

(Continued from page 42)

Approval was given to make a recommendation to the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service that the special bonus on scaup in the Keokuk Pool of the Mississippi River be considered for this season.

A motion was made and approved to purchase one acre of land from Andrew and Thelma Siefker at the Randolph Access Area in Iowa County subject to the approval of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

A motion was made and approved to award the contract for fencing materials for game areas to J. K. McKlveen & Sons, Prairie City, Iowa.

A motion was made and approved to contribute \$500 to the continuation of the Water Quality Studies at the Coralville Reservoir.

The Commission moved to reaffirm their position taken on total firearms registration with an amendment to include the exclusion of sporting arms.

A motion was made and approved to reject options in the Lansing area and that these options be re-negotiated.

## LAND &amp; WATERS

A motion was made and approved to accept the lowest bids for the purchase of necessary tractors to be used in the Parks Section.

A discussion was held on dock problems at North Twin Lake.

A motion was made and approved that the Director be authorized to sign the agreement between the State Highway Commission and the State Conservation Commission for the relocation of the existing Lake Manawa water supply conduit.

The Commission approved entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Corps of Engineers and the U. S. Forest Service for servicing the outdoor recreational forestry research program on the Rathbun Reservoir Project.

A motion was made and approved for the appointment of 25 Water Safety Officers for the 1967 season.

The Director was authorized to endorse the twenty-five year lease agreement between the Iowa State Highway Commission and the Iowa State Conservation Commission on a 300-acre tract of land lying between Interstate Highway 29 and the confluence of the Missouri and Little Sioux Rivers.

Like the chameleon, the tree toad can change its color to blend with tree bark or the bright green of new leaves.

The albatross used to be known as "Cape Sheep" apparently because sailors sometimes used their skins as rugs.

## Hoboes, Buffaloes And Passports

Ever see a hobo? We don't mean a film version of one but an honest-to-goodness "knight-of-the-road," the kind that, especially in the thirties, was often seen treading the nation's highways or what passed for highways in that depressed era. The tramp, then, was usually dressed in tatterdemalion fashion, his life's possessions stowed in a greasy gunny sack slung carelessly over a shoulder, and by the "savoriness" of his person he advertised to the world that he belonged to the camp vehemently opposed to water, particularly bath water!

Another pet hobo aversion was work—Heaven forbid the word! His was a free spirit hankering after the open road, stooping to physical toil only when starvation appeared eminent or he found himself suddenly and forcibly enlisted as a member of the sheriff's road gang. From the jailhouse days sprang ballads which later found respectability in the mainstream of American folk music. And even the comic strips of the period took up his story chronicling hobo misadventures with such humorous offerings as "Pete the Tramp."

Today the old-time vagabond, like the buffalo of yesteryear, is pretty much a vanished breed—World War II having delivered his extinction. However, if a pollster back in depression times had posed the question to the public, "Do you think hoboes are here to stay?", probably a goodly percentage would have replied "Yes." Then, as now, people took things for granted.

Something else we Americans take for granted, which unfortunately is going the way of the buffalo and hobo, is land for outdoor recreation. Every day more and more land disappears, gobbled up by real estate, highway construction and others. In fact the rate of shrinkage of recreational land space in this country had hit such an alarming proportion by the early sixties that Congress decided it was time to act. Legislation was hurriedly pushed through which led to the creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. How this Fund operates may be explained in this manner. Approximately 60 percent of it is apportioned to the states for recreation planning and the acquisition or development of recreation lands and waters on a matching amount basis. Fund money can develop a state park or provide a local wading pool or buy a bit of woods near a city. The remaining 40 percent may be used by the Federal Government to purchase recreation lands which are set up as federally managed recreation areas such as Fire Island, New York and Point Reyes, California.

In 1955, the Fund's administrator, the Interior Department's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, in trying to figure a way to obtain more

money for the Fund to speed up the acquisition of urgently needed recreational space, came up with a novel approach. In essence it was this: Americans could become partners with government, acquiring and developing for public use our nation's recreation resources through personal financial contributions. Not only would the contributor gain the satisfaction of having saved recreation space for himself and family but he would know he had played an important part in preserving space for tomorrow's American.

So was devised Operation Golden Eagle, the eagle connoting the outdoors. The individual contribution became the purchase of a \$7 annual entrance permit—the *Golden Passport*—which enabled the buyer, regardless of his mode of transportation or if traveling by private automobile all those accompanying him, to enter more than 2,500 designated Federal recreation areas without the payment of additional entrance fees. The money from these sales went into the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The success of the Bureau's 1966 Golden Eagle program is now history. In that year, the Fund received approximately \$3.2 million through purchases of the wallet-sized passport. And this figure was in addition to revenues it derived from user fees at Federal recreation areas, the sale of surplus government property, and the Federal tax on motorboat fuels.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has said:

"I regard the Land and Water Conservation Fund . . . not only as the muscle whereby we can retain our outdoor heritage, but as a symbol of Americans' determination to save and create outdoor beauty near our homes and in wild lands. By participating as national partners in conservation, we can buy a share of the California Redwoods, a bit of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, a vista from Spruce Knob, or a quiet green spot near a great city where children can play."

The way to participate is to purchase what Secretary Udall has said is "the biggest recreation bargain ever offered." The 1967 blue and gold Golden Passport went on sale in April at most entrance points to Federal recreation areas, at offices of Federal land managing agencies, and at many local offices of the American Automobile Association. It may also be obtained by mail from Operation Golden Eagle, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, 3853 Research Park Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

Remember, the purchase of a Golden Passport is a contribution to the protection of America's outdoor heritage and a symbol of the purchaser's membership in a nationwide effort to save and create outdoor beauty of many kinds.

## IOWA FISH QUIZ . . .



By Lloyd Huff

State Conservation Officer

1. Which species in the sunfish family has a strong preference for weedy mud-bottom areas and is found largely in the quiet backwater lakes of the Mississippi River?
2. Excluding the miscellaneous fishes, which fish are the sole representatives of their families?
3. How many species of the sturgeon family are found in Iowa waters?
4. Are muskellunge considered long lived fish?
5. Which species of fish spawn on the underside of flat objects?
6. Which fish in the sunfish family has the spiny portion of the dorsal fin edged with crimson, the soft portion of this fin has a wide band of orange and the black tab on the gill cover is margined with white?
7. There are 20 species of fish native to Iowa waters in the perch family. This family includes three major groups. What three groups are they?
8. This fish is called white perch, croaker, grunter, grinder, sheepshead and incorrectly silver bass. It is widely distributed throughout the state, but most abundant in the boundary waters, a few lakes, and a small number of the larger inland streams. Name the fish.
9. Do dogfish have scales?
10. Which is the largest fish in the minnow family?

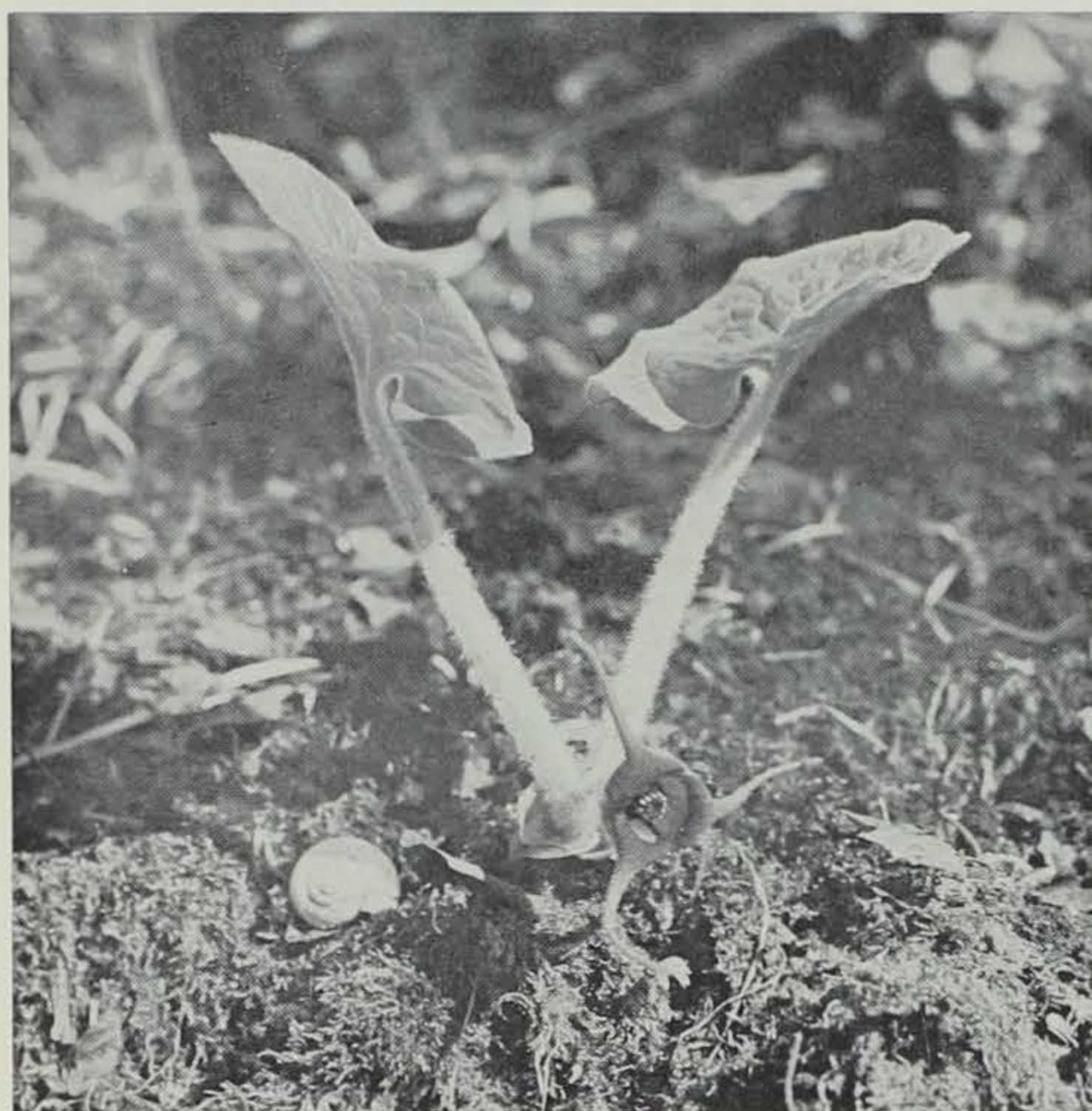
Bats are not attracted to lights because of the illumination. They catch the insects which are thus attracted.

During 1965, American hunters and fishermen spent \$4 billion on their sport.



# IOWA WILD FLOWERS

Sometimes common, other times rare, they add to Iowa's "Beautiful Land" concept.



Wild Ginger, found in deep woods.

The pleasure of finding woodland flowers lasts spring, summer and fall as new varieties unfold.

All you need for this intriguing pleasure is a flower guide and possibly a camera. As a suggestion, take this article with you and check off the woodland flowers as you find them.



Bloodroot, used by Indians as a medicine.

## LATE SPRING, MAY 15

—Wild Cherry: White flowers are in clusters. A large tree with smooth bark seen in timbered areas.

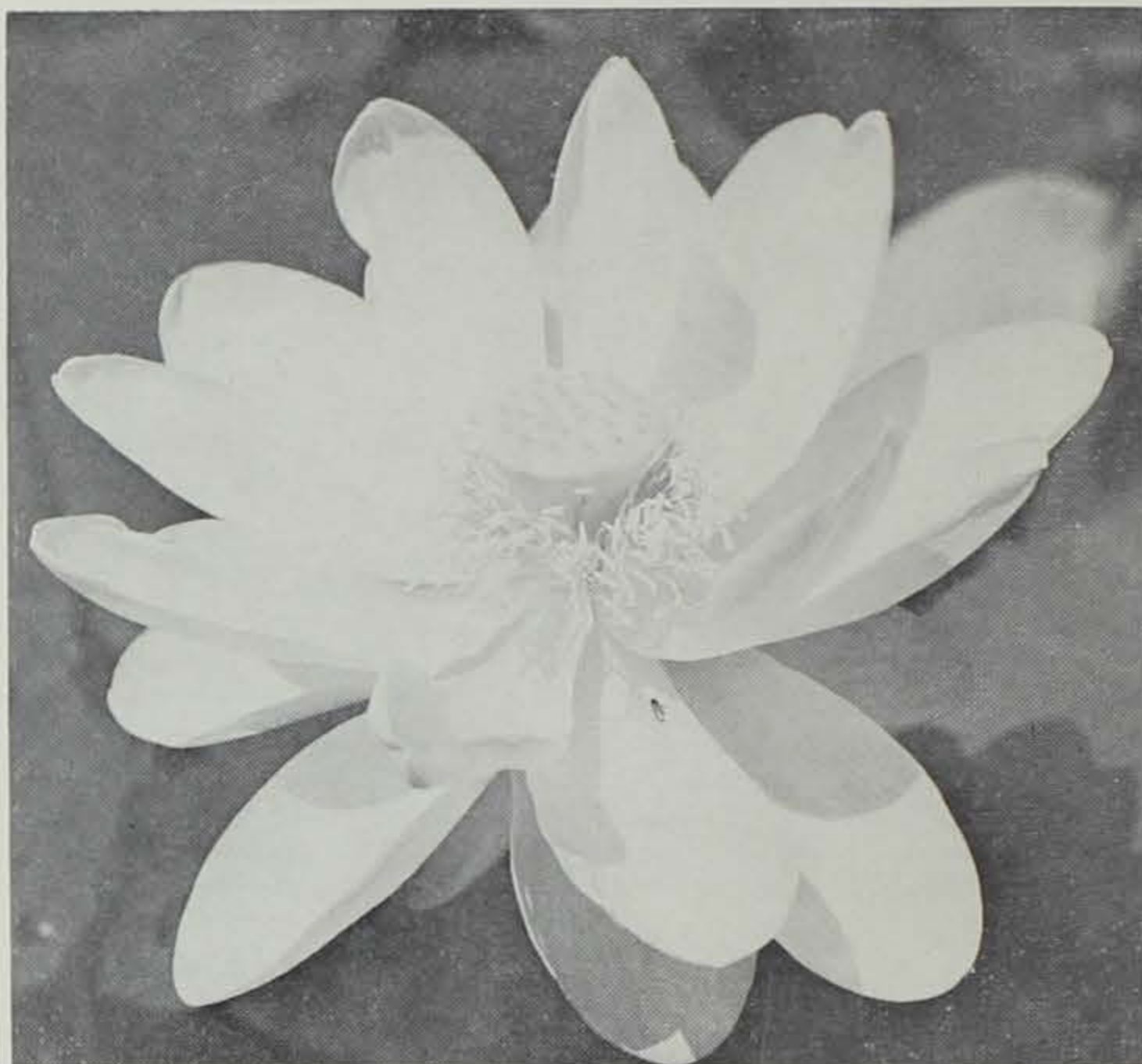
—Jack-in-the-pulpit: A deep woods favorite with inflorescence in the center of a pale green pulpit-like spathe. In the summer, the spathe withers away revealing bright red berries.

—Woodland Phlox or "Sweet William": The bluish-lavendar flowers are clustered. The leaves and stems are covered with down.

—May Apple: An umbrella-like leaf protects the single, wax white flower emerging on the leaf fork.



Wild Plum, fragrant white blossoms.



American Lotus, sometimes a nuisance in ponds.

They are often in colonies. The "apple" is a large, yellow berry.

—False Solomon Seal: Found along woodland slopes and moist bluffs, it has a cluster of small white flowers each with spreading oblong segments. These become a mass of red berries in the fall.

—Hairy Solomon Seal: The drooping flowers are underneath the stem. These inconspicuous greenish flowers hang in pairs growing with trillium and bellwort.

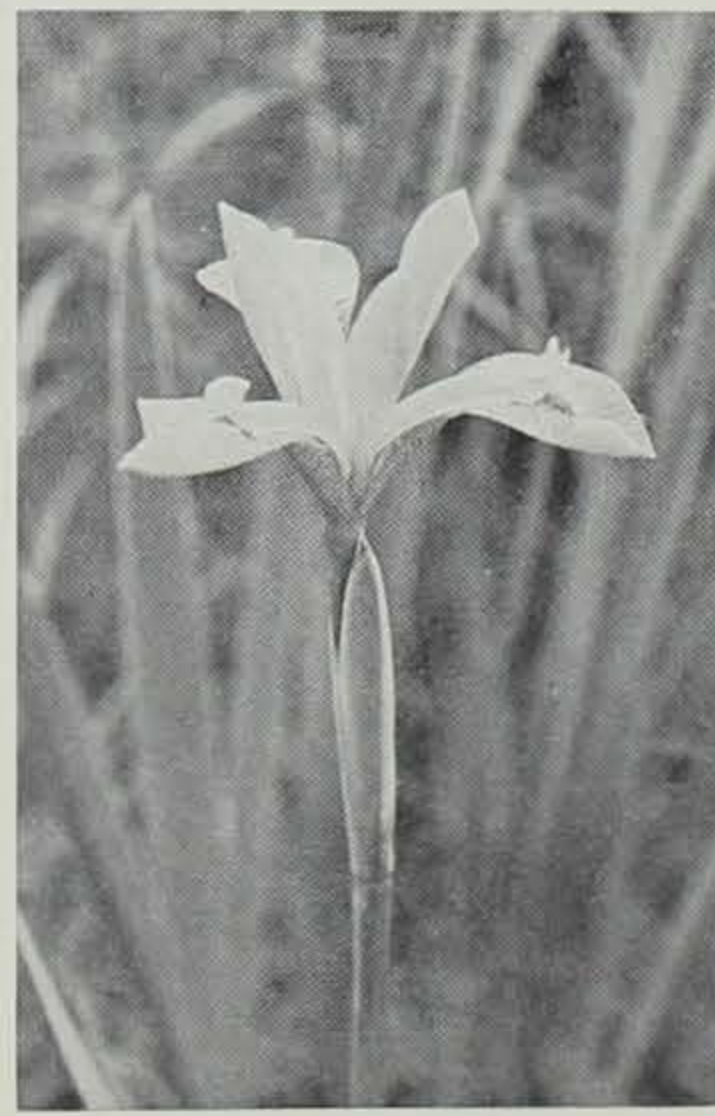
—Wild Geranium. Frail looking but sturdy plants with pale purple inflorescence appearing the last week of May. With deeply lobed leaves and hairy stems.

—Gooseberry: A brushy plant with thorns on the stems and branches. The spiral clusters of

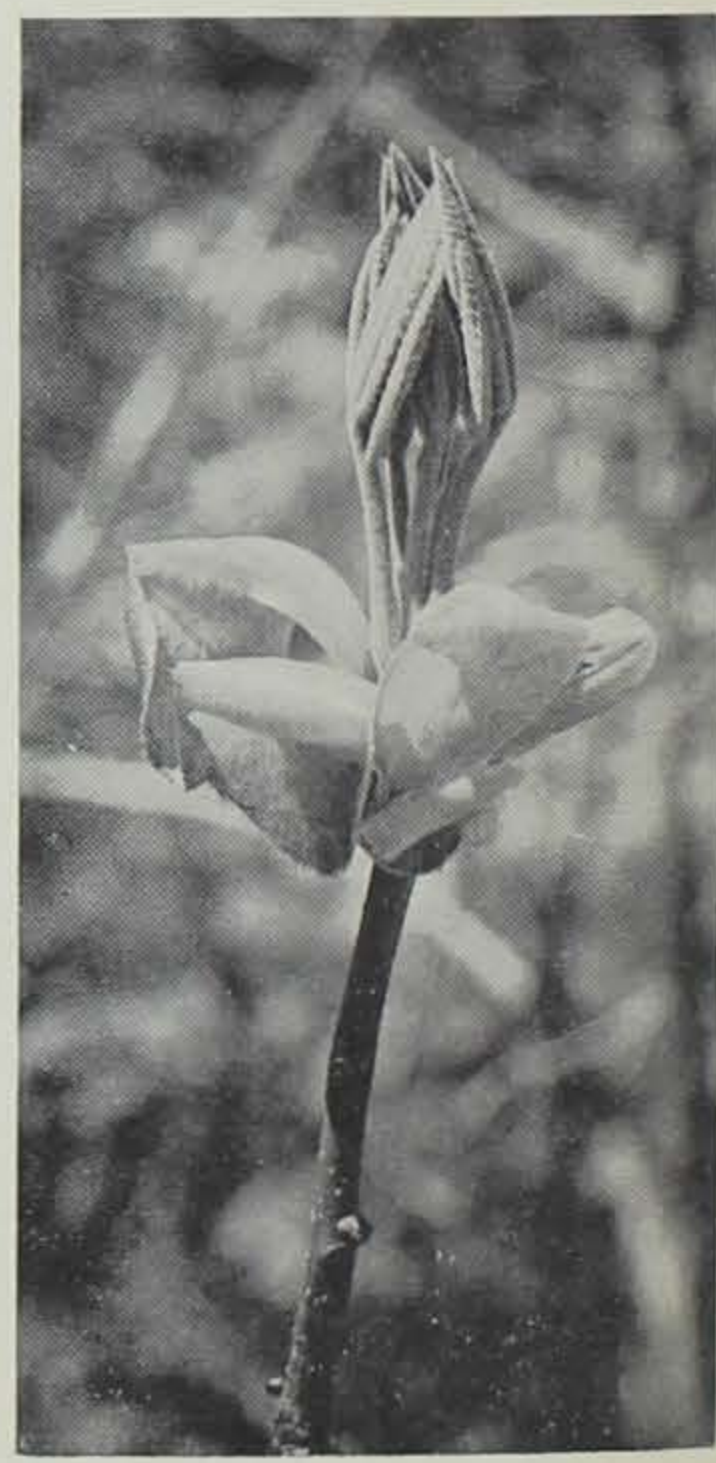
greenish-white flowers appear followed by round, sour green fruit ripening to purplish color.

—Wild Strawberry, Blackberry, and Raspberry: Wild blackberry yields more fruit than any other wild berry and its dense patches serve as cover for animals.

—Wild Grape: A climbing vine with clusters of tiny yellowish flowers. In September, the fruit ripens and is picked for jelly or jam.



Blue flag, found in watery marsh areas.

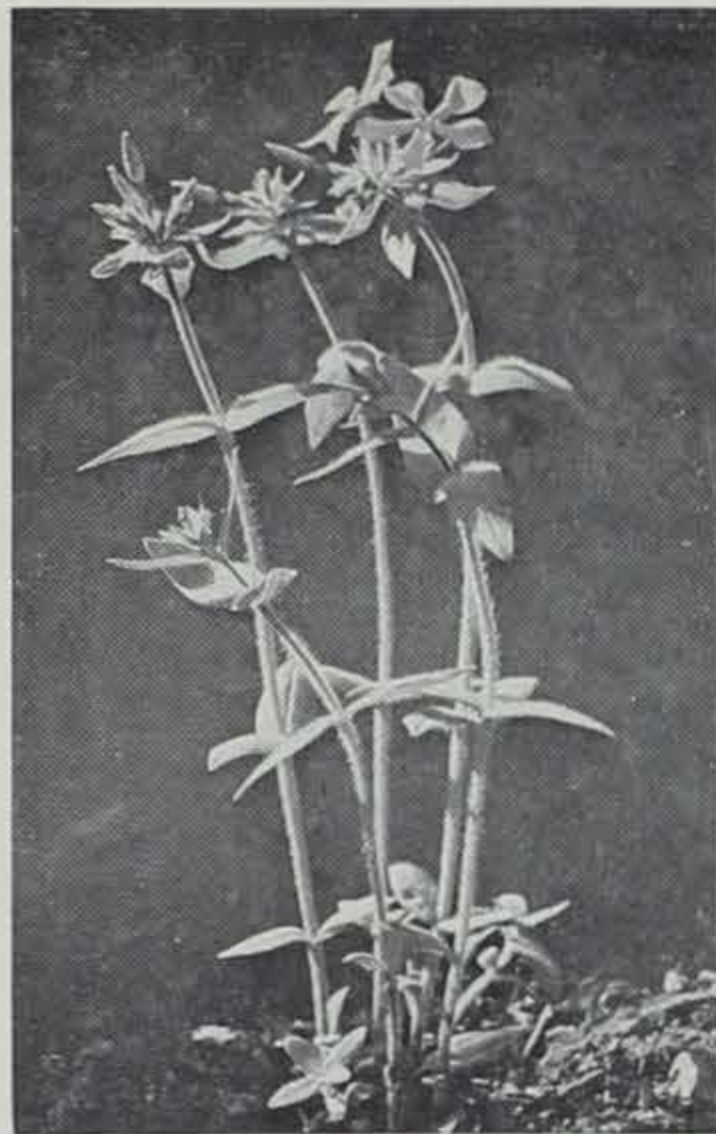


The Shagbark Hickory bud is not a flower.

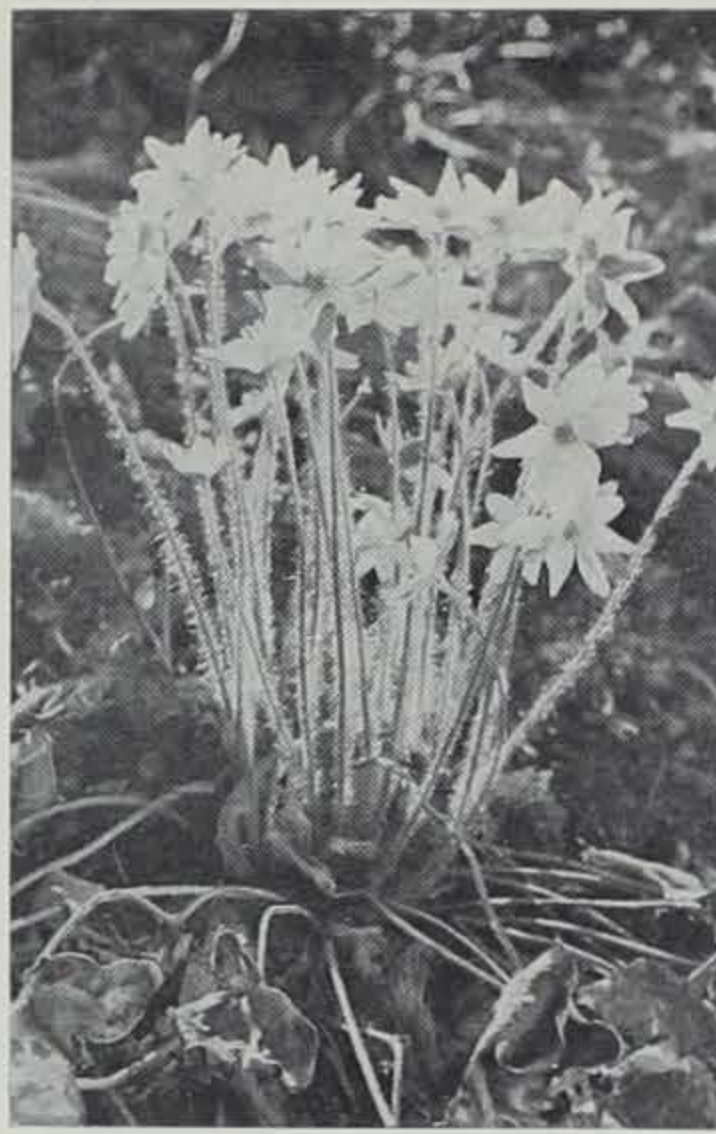




Yellow moccasin flower, rare, do not pick.



Woodland phlox, often called Sweet William.



Hepatica, or Liverleaf.



Pasquetflower, or prairie smoke. Grows in open prairie.

—Wild Ginger: The soft, heart-shaped leaves have long stems from the base of the plant. The maroon flowers are hidden beneath the broad leaf.

—Wood Sorrel or "Wood Shamrock": A creeping plant with basal compound leaves and delicately tinted blossoms with oblong, notched petals.

—Nodding Trillium: Blooms in late May, in ravines and wooded slopes where the soil is rich in humus. Larger and taller than wakerobin and dwarf trillium.

—Green Dragon: The flowers are clustered around the base of the spadix and hidden from view. A whip-like segment resembles a

dragon's tongue. The flowers become reddish-orange berries in the fall.

—Buttercups: Found in moist, damp places along river bottoms and has waxy yellow flowers.

—Bellwort: Found in rich woods and thickets, it has oval-pointed leaves and drooping bell-shaped yellow flowers.

—Columbine: Brightly colored, scarlet blossoms found on rocky slopes and shaded edges of woods. Petals form five tubes ending in red spurs with nectar within.

—Yellow Lady's Slipper, Showy Lady's Slipper and Showy Orchis are all members of the orchid family found in Iowa only rarely.

—Indian Paint Brush: A hairy plant with pale green calyx surrounding the corolla. This plus the scarlet floral leaves resemble paint brushes dipped in scarlet paint.

—Wild Rose: Our pinkish-white state flower is found in fields, and woodlands around May 30.

#### MID-SUMMER—JULY

—Turks Cap Lily: Few flowers are so delicately and strikingly colored as this lily. The orange flowers have brown "tiger" spots.

—Black-eyed Susan or "Woodland Sunflower": Rough, hairy stems and leaves support showy flower-heads two to three inches around. The yellow ray flowers surround the dark-brown center.

#### AUGUST

—Jewel Weed: The translucent flowers resemble lady's slippers.

—Great Lobelia: Found in low ground all over Iowa. The flowers are indigo.

—Indian Pipe and Broom Rape: These are saprophytes living off

decaying vegetation. They are found in the woodland in the seclusion of thick woods. These plants are white with scales instead of leaves.

—Boneset: A stout, hairy stemmed plant growing to five feet. Many small white flower heads are compactly grouped into a flat-topped cluster appearing in August or September.

Wild flowers display their true beauty only in their natural surroundings. Many can stand picking but careless flower seekers have all but destroyed many of our most beautiful varieties.



Queen Anne's Lace, or Bird's Nest.

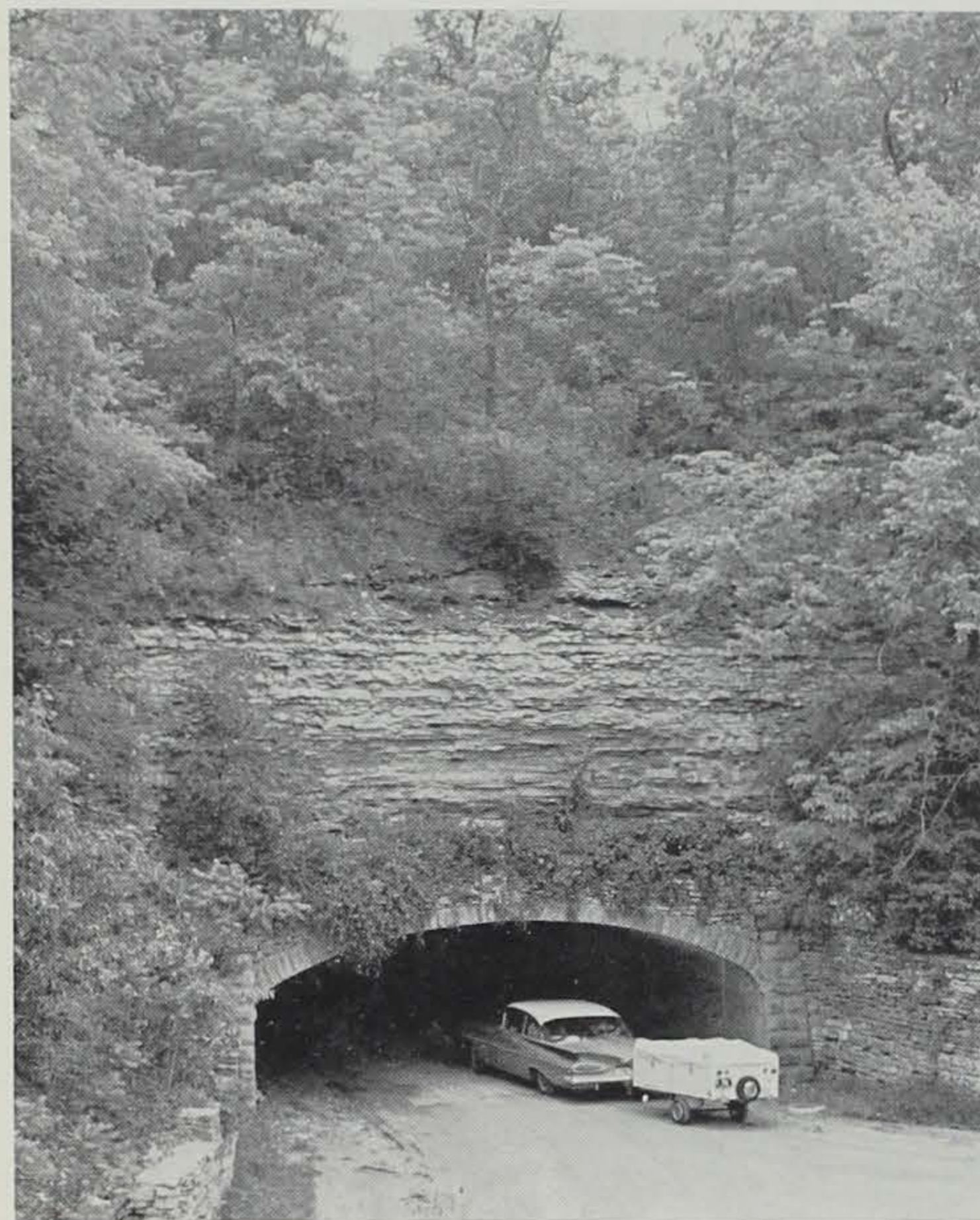


Jack-in-the-Pulpit, children's delight.



# IOWA ODDITIES

A COLLECTION OF  
"DID-YOU-KNOWS"  
ABOUT OUR STATE



Pammel State Park has Iowa's only highway tunnel.

1. In Pikes Peak State Park are sand caves where the sand is variegated in color and makes good photo subjects for the amateur photographer when the sunlight is at the right angle to illuminate the patterns.

2. Wild native cactus grows in Iowa. It is located in Gitchie Manitou State Park and the surrounding area. It is against the law to remove plants or flowers of any kind from state property.

3. The only highway tunnel in Iowa is in an Iowa state park. It is located in Pammel State Park, just 5 miles southwest of Winterset. Iowa Highway 162 passes under a stone ridge through a tunnel that was originally built to divert water on Middle River and provide power for a grist mill.

4. Unique animal shaped Indian burial mounds are found in Effigy Mounds National Monument. Indian burial mounds normally found in Iowa are either conical or linear in shape.

5. Sand used for the famous sand paintings now housed in the State Historical Museum came from caves in the McGregor area. In Pikes Peak State Park are found sand caves that the visitor may see.

6. The Loess Hills of western Iowa are of a kind found only in the midwestern part of the United States, and also in China. These are hills formed of loess or wind-blown soil that had been deposited over a period of many centuries and later acted on by glacial forces to form ridges and bluffs.

7. The Paha landform lying in roughly a northwest to southeast pattern is shown so typically in Iowa that many geologists come to study these shapes. Paha is an Indian word that means "long hill."

8. In the lime bogs at Silver Lake grows the Parnassia plant. This plant is found only in this area and in arctic regions. Also called grass of Parnassus, the family consists of only one genus and about 15 species. They exhibit a single white or pale yellow flower.

9. In Dubuque County near the town of Graf are found abundant fossils called cephalopods. These are of the straight variety, and are fossil remains of members of a high class of ancient mollusks. (Isorthoceras)

10. Near Bellevue State Park, on Mill Creek, are found another type of fossil. These are called

Depauperit, or dwarf fauna fossils. Fossils in this class average about one-twelfth normal size. A specimen that would be an inch wide and six inches long in other areas will be found to average a millimeter wide and only a centimeter long in this area. These specimens also have the shiny black phosphatic base rather than the dull gray calcium base normally found in Iowa fossils.

11. The finest crinoid fossil specimens to be found anywhere were taken from the quarries at LeGrand, Iowa. These specimens, now in the State Historical Museum, are considered priceless by collectors and students of fossils.

12. In the Pictured Rocks area along the Maquoketa River are found specimens of coral from ancient seas called Goniophyllum. These fossilized coral remains are found only in Iowa.

13. Each spring in Iowa a mass migration of blue and snow geese stops to rest and feed before continuing their northward trek to arctic breeding grounds. This is one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on the North American continent, and occurs in Iowa as a focal point of the 1,500-mile journey made by these migratory waterfowl.

14. Many years ago world-famous naturalist Louis Agassiz visited the Iowa City area and studied specimens of fossilized coral found there. He made many speeches in which he acclaimed the Iowa coral

as finest specimens to be found anywhere, of Devonian periods. The citizens of the area named their town Coralville in honor of his visit and because of a justified pride in having such a distinction.

15. Fossil cystoids, or saclike animal remains, called Strobilocystites are found in Iowa and are unique to Iowa areas.

16. Due to upheaval of the earth's surface, and later action by glaciers in washing away the topsoil, there is estimated to be approximately two billion years of history exposed in the rocks and their fossils found in Iowa.

17. Fossil remains have shown that Iowa was home at some periods to early Mammoths, mastodons, caribou, musk-ox, giant beaver and early bison. Elk, buffalo, ruffed grouse and turkey along with the white-tailed deer herds of Iowa were dwindled by market hunters in early years. Of these species, the white-tailed deer have made a notable comeback. Ruffed grouse still remain and stocking of wild turkey by the Conservation Commission may again populate certain regions with this majestic bird.

18. In the Pilot Knob area are found the unusual red-backed vole. This vole is a member of the mouse or rodent family and is a tiny four inch member of the burrowing species. The red-backed vole prefers damp, marshy situations and is a distant cousin of the lemmings.



Bluffs of windblown soil line Iowa's western border.



## IOWA ODDITIES (continued) . . .



Wild native cactus grows in Gitchie Manitou State Park.

19. Iowa is a transition zone between prairie areas and plains areas. For this reason, state park areas like Waubesa State Park will have both the papaw tree which is known to more temperate climates and the yucca plant which is also known as a desert plant.



N.E. Iowa hosts Pileated Woodpeckers who make nearly square holes.

20. Maquoketa Caves State Park is an unusual area visited by many Iowans each year. In Maquoketa Caves State Park is a natural bridge formed by rock and many caves some of which feature an underground stream. One giant cave at Maquoketa Caves State Park is called Dance Hall Cave and Indian artifacts found there prove that the Indians gathered in this cave for some of their ceremonies.

21. Pilot Knob State Park is a geological oddity in itself. The knob rises high above surrounding countryside and features a lake called Dead Man's Lake. Around the edges of this lake can be found the sundew plant, which is a type of venus flytrap, and unusual to the Iowa terrain.

22. The unusual menanistic or black squirrel may be found in southwestern Iowa from Council Bluffs down as far south as the town of Thurman.

23. Among the unusual trees growing in Iowa, trees that are not considered common in this area, are a juniper hill near Rockford in the northwest part of the state which is the most southerly occurrence of this type of arctic tree. An unusual stand of balsam fir grows in an area near Bluffton. One mile north of Fairfield on Highway No. 1 is an unusual

swamp type of tree, the baldcypress tree, which has been planted but is flourishing in Iowa soil. Also in southeast Iowa, in Des Moines County, pecan trees have been planted and do well. In Iowa's Yellow River State Forest may be found a prostrate or low growing type of yew that is unusual for this climate.

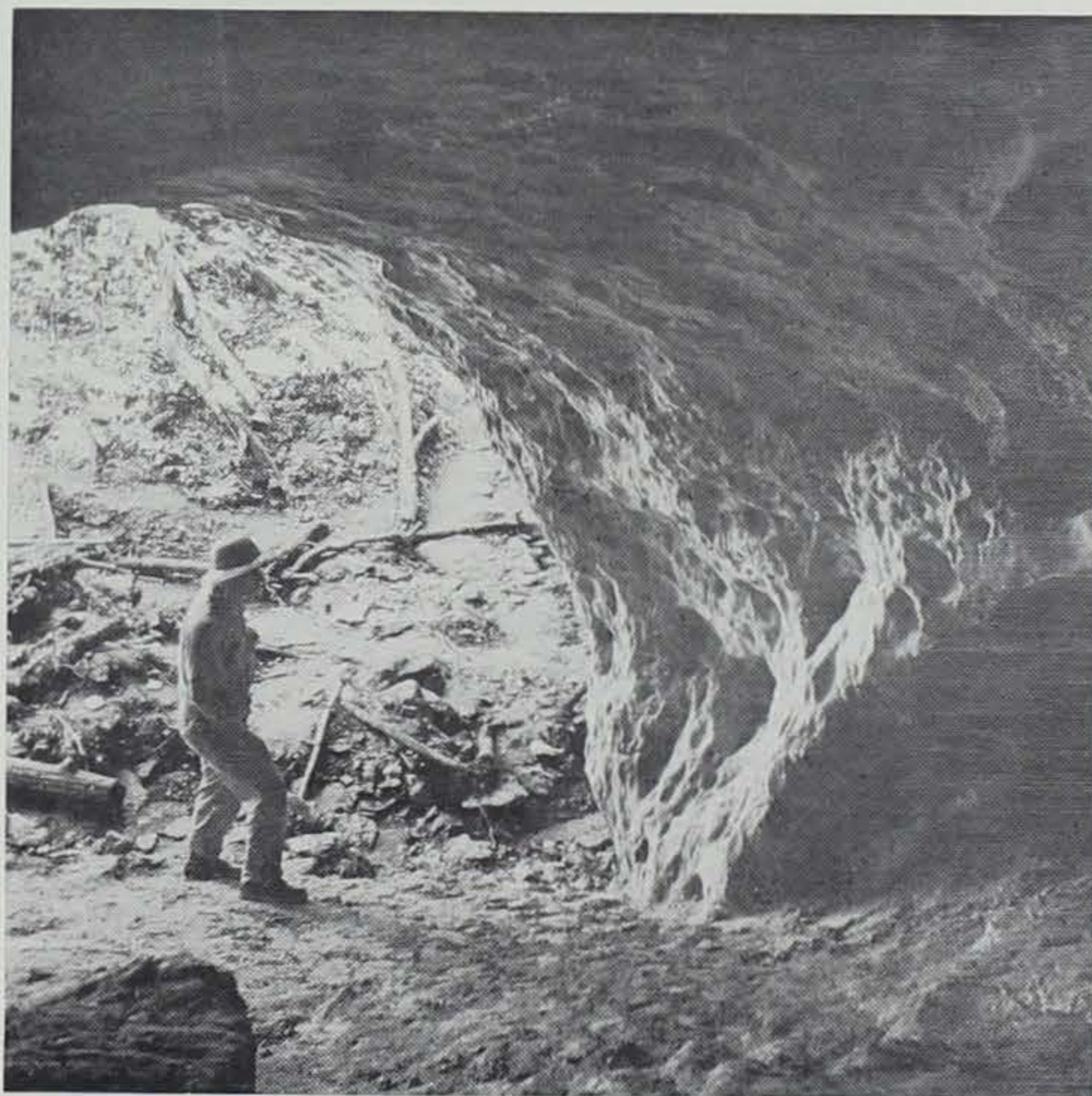
24. Near Decorah, Iowa, and also at the Bixby State Park near Edgewood are found ice caves. This is an unusual phenomenon of nature in reverse. Ice formed by the frost of winter penetrates deep into the earth coming out into the ice caves in June and July.

25. Fort Atkinson in northeast Iowa is one of the few forts ever built to protect Indians from other Indians. This fort established in 1840 was built to protect the Winnebago Indians from hostile Indian tribes.

26. In Wapsipinicon State Park is an oddity called Horse Thief Cave. Not actually a cave, but more of a box canyon used by ancient horse thieves to hide stolen horses in this area.

27. At the Wittrock Site in O'Brien County has been uncovered an ancient Indian village. This village is unusual in that it was a fortress made by the Indians complete with moat.

EDITOR'S NOTE: You may have additional oddities or corrections in your own area of Iowa. If they concern conservation, we would like to know about them.



Sand caves can be found in Pike's Peak State Park.

## FISH QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The warmouth bass.
2. The dogfish, eel and paddlefish.
3. Three species—the lake or rock sturgeon, the shovelnose and the pallid sturgeon.
4. No, even the large muskellunge rarely lives to be more than 10 to 12 years old.
5. The fathead and bluntnose minnows.
6. The orange spotted sunfish.
7. Walleye and sauger, perch, and the darters.
8. The fresh water drum.
9. Yes, although the body feels smooth and leathery, it is actually covered with scales.
10. The carp. Records have been made of carp weighing 50 pounds. Weights of 25 or 30 pounds are more common.

## WHY SPORTSMEN FEAR FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND POLICE CONTROL

Chicago Police Superintendent Orlando W. Wilson, in testimony before the Illinois House May 2, admitted that the Chicago Police Department had issued a grand total of 11 gun permits in the past year under terms of a Chicago ordinance.

In New York City an applicant for a handgun permit must pay \$20. This started out as a 50-cent fee. If the application is turned down, the \$20 fee is not returned. All fees go into the police retirement fund.

(Reprinted from a National Shooting Sports Foundation Bulletin.)





County conservation boards preserve river areas.

(Continued from page 41)

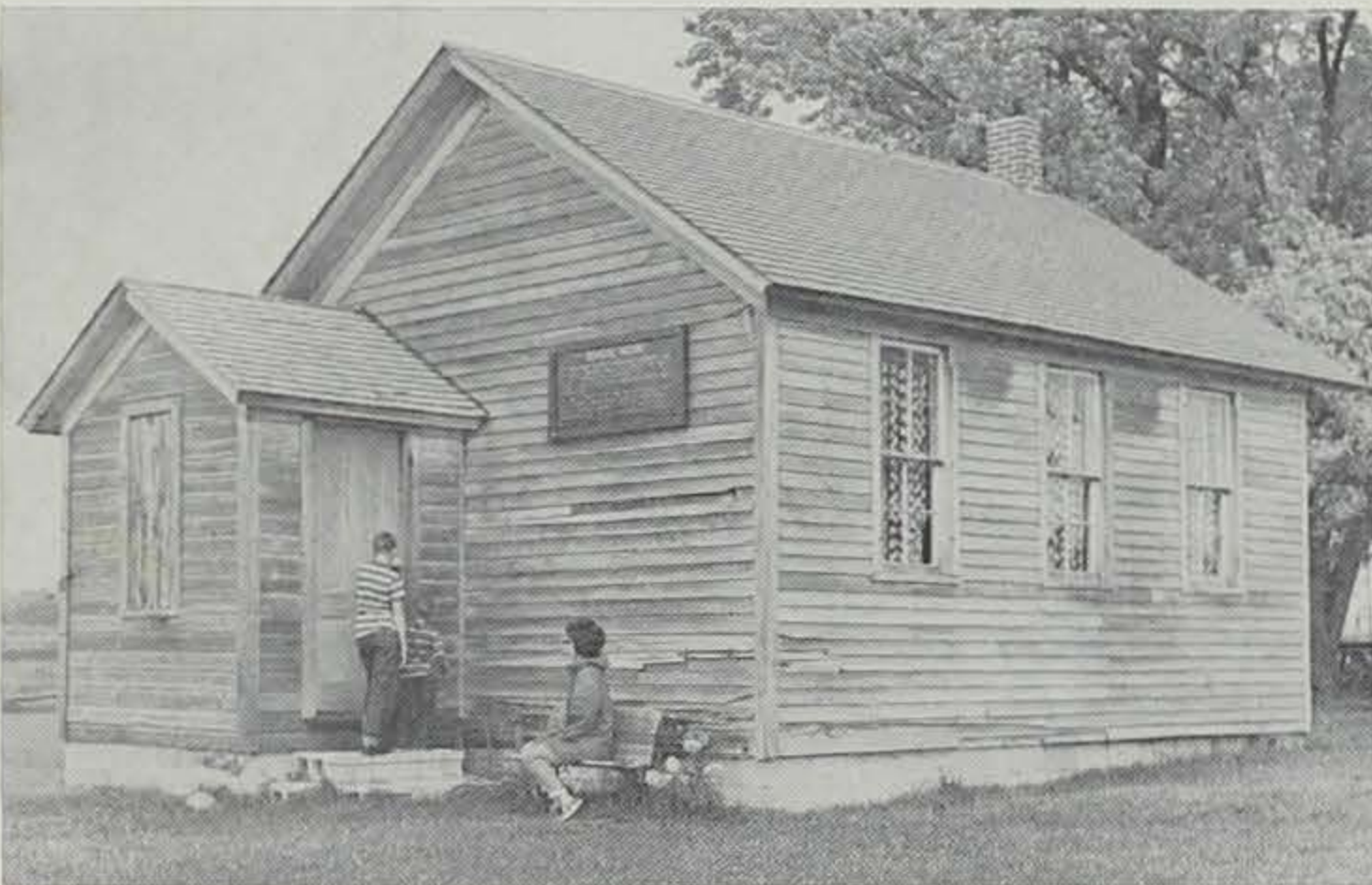
visually inspects each county area proposed for acquisition and prepares a report to be presented to the Commissioners for their consideration. County boards are also required to follow a similar procedure when they wish to develop an area they have purchased.

County conservation board areas cover the full range of developments. Everything from undeveloped areas, for those who want to rough it, to areas that offer about anything a person could ask for in the way of outdoor recreation. Take for example, the 745-acre

conservation boards to acquire, develop and administer county owned recreational areas.

Last year nearly 10 million persons visited Iowa's state parks. Over 400,000 of these were campers. This year the park and camping boom is on and our state parks expect an even higher attendance figure. To avoid the crowded state parks on weekends, why not give your local county conservation board areas a try? Chances are 91 out of 99 that there is just such a recreation area nearby in your county. Those are mighty good odds to bank on for top quality recreation!

To locate your nearest county recreation area, write to the Public Relations Section of the State Conservation Commission, East 7th & Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50308, and request an "Area Directory."



The "Little Red School Houses" of Iowa are restored also.

Black Hawk Park area, located one and a half miles north and one mile west of Cedar Falls. Available there are: Boating, bridal trails, camping, fishing, hunting, picnicking, rifle and pistol range, swimming, electricity, toilet and water facilities. Could you ask for anything more?

The goal of county conservation boards is to develop the recreational potential of a given area. They provide many forms of outdoor recreation from fishing in access areas to jungle gyms in county park playgrounds. The conservation boards are designed to "acquire, develop, maintain . . . public parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreational centers, county forests, wildlife and other conservation . . ." In short, the law gives counties authority to set up county

## STATE PARKS HAVE NEW SIGN

A new sign is appearing in Iowa's State Parks. It spells out rules for observance by visitors to the park system. The majority of the rules it carries are all variations on the one big rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

By following the rules, you as a camper, picnicker, or visitor will find more enjoyment of the real values found in Iowa's preserved beauty spots.

# PARK RULES

We request that you as one of the visitors in the Iowa State Parks observe the following rules:

### SPEED LIMIT:

Speed limit of all vehicles on state park and preserve drives, roads and highways shall not exceed the posted speed limit nor exceed a maximum speed of 35 miles per hour on unposted roads.

### VEHICLE LOADING:

Excessively loaded vehicles shall not operate over state park or preserve drives, roads or highways.

### PARKING:

All vehicles shall be parked in designated parking areas.

### FIRES:

No fire shall be built, except in a place provided therefor, and such fire shall be extinguished when site is vacated unless it is immediately used by some other party.

### TREES AND SHRUBS:

No person shall, in any manner, remove, destroy, injure or deface any tree, shrub, plant or flower, or the fruit thereof or disturb or injure any structure or natural attraction.

### FIREARMS:

The use by the public of firearms, fireworks,

explosives and weapons of all kinds is prohibited in all state parks and preserves.

### REFUSE:

No person shall place any waste, refuse, litter or foreign substance in any area or receptacle except those provided for that purpose.

### POSTED AREAS:

No person shall enter upon portions of any state park or preserve in disregard of official signs forbidding same.

### ANIMALS:

No privately owned animal shall be allowed to run at large in any state park or preserve or upon lands or in waters owned by or under the jurisdiction of the Commission except by permission of the Commission.

### CLOSING HOURS:

Except by arrangement or permission granted by the Park Officer, all persons shall vacate state parks and preserves before ten-thirty o'clock P. M. (10:30 P. M.)

### CAMPING:

No person shall camp in any portion of a state park or preserve except in portions described or designated by the Commission.

**STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**