



NOVEMBER 1980

conservationist



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CONTENTS

- 2 COLLECTING TIMELESS TOOLS OF THE TRAPLINE
- 4 UPLAND WILDLIFE SEASONS AND REASONS
- 6 HISTORY OF THE LYNNVILLE MILL
- 8 EMMET COUNTY PRAIRIE
- 10 CLASSROOM CORNER
- 12 WARDEN'S DIARY
- 13 LOOKIN' BACK
- 13 THE LAST DAY — ALMOST FOREVER
- 14 1980 RECORD RACKS

COVER

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IOWA CONSERVATIONIST (USPS268-780), Volume 39, Number 11, published monthly by the Iowa Conservation Commission, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579, manuscripts, mail items) to the above address. Subscription price: one year at \$2.00; two years at \$3.00; four years at \$5.00. Second class postage paid at Des Moines, Iowa and other points.

Collecting Timeless Tools of the Trapline

by Douglas Harr
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST

Photos by the Author



Trap collector Paul Biedermann displays one of his many traps, a #5 Newhouse bear trap.



A portion of the Paul Biedermann antique trap collection covers most of one basement wall.

"I'll trade you a 51 Diamond plain jaw for two number 33 Diamond coil springs. "Okay, I guess that sounds like a reasonable deal."

Overhearing the previous conversation one could assume it was one of two things. It could possibly have been two manufacturers of jewelry settings in exchange of equipment needed by each. It might also have been a couple of collectors of antique traps just partaking in a pleasant swap session. If you're placing any bets, opt for the latter.

Collecting antique traps? That's right. It's been said that almost anything ever made is collected by someone, and old traps and related paraphernalia are certainly no exception.

According to trap collector Paul Biedermann, of Rock Rapids, old steel traps are increasing in collectibility and popularity nationwide, especially among those antique collectors who specialize in sporting gear or outdoor equipment. Biedermann knows of at least 15 or 20 big collectors in Iowa, as well as some in nearby South Dakota and Minnesota, and he says there are probably many other small collections around the region. A recent interview with him provided some insights into his unusual hobby and how he came to be involved.

Paul began fur trapping at about 8 years of age and today actively continues this pastime at every spare moment during the open seasons. His job as a State Trooper with the Iowa Highway Patrol often finds him working some odd hours, but he still manages to check his traplines every day.

Biedermann began trap collecting approximately 12 years ago when he inherited some old traps, including a small bear trap, from his wife's grandfather. After that he just naturally fell into collecting antique traps, trapping magazines, supply catalogues, and many other associated items. Now he pursues trap collecting with a passion and will buy, sell or trade almost anything

otely related to trapping. Much of
 's trading or dealing is carried out at
 a gun shows, flea markets, or by
 otting directly with other collectors.
 isiting the Biedermann basement is a
 education, whether or not you might
 e any previous knowledge of trapping
 rself. When asked how many traps
 as, Paul stated, "I suppose there
 about 250, which is quite a small
 ection in comparison with some
 ers." Traps cover an entire wall, all
 tly grouped by manufacturer and
 eled as to size and make. They range
 n tiny no. 0's, used for ermine and
 r small furbearers, up to a giant no. 6
 hthouse grizzly bear trap of forged
 l with large, riveted teeth. That
 icular trap may be the pride of
 lermann's collection.

aul's main interest lies in two brands
 raps, the Triumph and Newhouse
 s. Newhouse steel traps were among
 first ever manufactured in the United
 es and are, therefore, the forerunners
 lmost all other traps made since. In
 , the invention of the steel trap is
 dited to Sewell Newhouse, an upstate
 v York gunsmith, sometime prior to
). His well-made, forged steel traps
 perhaps the most highly sought of
 old brand.

iedermann also collects a few other
 nds, plus some hand-made traps, but
 e are so many different styles and
 ces that he limits his search primarily
 ose two brands of most interest
 im.

. list of different brands manufactured
 r the last century reads like a
 ionary and contains names unfamiliar
 n to seasoned trappers. Some brand
 es describe the action of the trap
 ome special feature, while others
 named for their inventors or
 ufacturers. A few of the more
 resting names include the Aleut
 ine, Cush-In-Grip, Easy Set, Good
 k, Kangaroo, Milk Pattern, Sta-Kawt,

and Trailzend. Some of the more
 well-known varieties include the
 Newhouse, Diamond, Blake & Lamb,
 Connibear, and Victor. A few of the last
 brands are still made and widely used.
 Paul picks up some of the less common
 names when possible, but uses them
 chiefly as items to trade for those brands
 he prefers to collect.

The range of things in which a trap
 collector might specialize appears almost
 endless. As well as collecting certain
 brands, there are possibilities for
 collecting such things as all brands with
 a particular type pan (the device an
 animal steps on to trip the trap), or
 perhaps just forged steel traps, or
 something no longer manufactured, such
 as toothed-jaw traps.

Every slightest difference between
 traps, even within the same brand and
 size, makes each a collectible item. Pans
 might be cast, forged, or riveted. Trap
 jaws may be cast or forged, and come in
 single, double or webbed jaw varieties.
 Jaws can be plain, toothed, or have
 specialized gripper devices of some sort.
 Chains might be of different link sizes,
 shapes, and strengths.

Pans may be the most interesting and
 varied features of traps. Information
 about the trap, such as size, variety, or
 place of manufacture, is frequently
 stamped on the pan face, and every
 different piece of information makes a
 trap more collectible. Newhouse, for
 example, made their traps in at least two
 different locations, so each location
 stamped on an otherwise comparable
 Newhouse makes each worth acquiring.

Pans have many other unique
 identifying marks such as a cut-out
 diamond pattern on Diamond brand
 traps, or a "V" cut-out on Victors.
 Some pans are noted for their unusual
 "skull" shape.

The list of features could go on and on,
 and to the collector this makes the hobby
 as interesting as collecting old glassware,

coins, decoys, rare books, or whatever
 else fascinates antique collectors the
 world over. But as with any other antique,
 the better condition each trap is in, the
 more valuable it is.

Besides traps themselves, Paul
 Biedermann collects several other things,
 some related to trapping and some not.
 He has a nearly complete set of Iowa
 state trapping tags, required on traps in
 this state between 1929 and 1962. He also
 has collections of old trapping licenses
 and scent lure bottles. His latest
 acquisitions consist of what Paul refers to
 simply as "paper", or printed materials
 concerned with trapping. This includes
 numerous old trapping supply catalogues,
 and magazines like *Hunter Trader*
Trapper, of which he has an extensive
 collection. Many of these items, though
 dating back to the early 1900's, are in
 near-mint condition and meticulously
 stored in plastic folders to prevent
 damage.

In addition to all these trapping-related
 things, Biedermann collects old duck
 stamps, *Iowa Conservationist* magazines,
 wooden and cardboard shot shell and
 rifle shell boxes, antique fishing plugs,
 and lately has even picked up a few old
 duck decoys. A short time in his
 basement and den is as educational as
 spending several hours in a museum.

Paul welcomes fellow trap collectors to
 stop and pay him a visit, to trade or just
 talk shop about old traps. He says he
 really isn't in the hobby to make money,
 because whenever he picks up a couple
 of unneeded items they usually end up
 being traded for something else more
 desirable for his own collection. Cash
 doesn't change hands too often.

However, it is occasionally necessary
 to make an outright purchase of a
 particularly sought-after trap. To that end
 Paul Biedermann offers one important
 piece of advice:

"You never want to tell your wife what
 this stuff costs!" □

#4½ Newhouse wolf trap with
 original drag and chain.



Several old editions of HUNTER TRADER
 TRAPPER magazine, a publication
 somewhat similar to FUR FISH & GAME.

A mild winter and an excellent nesting season have given Iowa's game bird population a giant boost. Statewide pheasant counts are up an incredible 58% over those of a year ago! Quail have recovered remarkably from the 1978-1979 winter wipeouts and gray partridge numbers have increased by 60%.

Results from extensive statewide surveys just completed were reviewed as the Conservation Commission set the seasons in late August. Pheasant, quail, and partridge seasons opened on the same day, November 1. Iowa pheasant hunters will have a 65-day season, running from November 1 through January 4. Shooting hours again this year will be from 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. daily. The daily bag limit is three cock birds and the possession limit is six. The entire state is open.

Bobwhite quail season opened November 1 and runs through January 31. Shooting hours are from 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. daily. The daily bag limit will be eight with the possession limit sixteen. The entire state is open.

The gray partridge season also opened on November 1 and runs through January 31. Shooting hours will be from 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. The daily bag limit is six and the possession limit is twelve. The area north of Interstate 80 is open to partridge hunting, as the partridge range continues to expand to the south.

The dramatic increase in statewide pheasant counts places that species at the highest estimated population since 1970. Bobwhite quail numbers are up 157% from very low counts recorded in 1979 and are now equal to the 18-year average. The quail population in extreme

Upland Wildlife Seasons & Reasons

By William B. Rybarczyk, Ronnie R. George, & James B. Wooley, Wildlife Research Biologists



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southeast Iowa is still lower than those reported in other southern counties but is recovering faster than expected.

Gray partridge are continuing to increase in numbers over their expanding range, which covers much of the northern $\frac{2}{3}$ of the state. Partridge counts jumped 60% to the highest level ever recorded in Iowa.

Commission biologists also noted a 17% increase in cottontail rabbits from the previous year.

Much of the information used to set hunting seasons on Iowa game birds is based on data taken from over 200 roadside routes run throughout the month of August. Again this year, weather during the survey period was less than ideal for conducting roadside counts, and many routes were surveyed later than normal. The pleasant details of this year's survey are listed below.

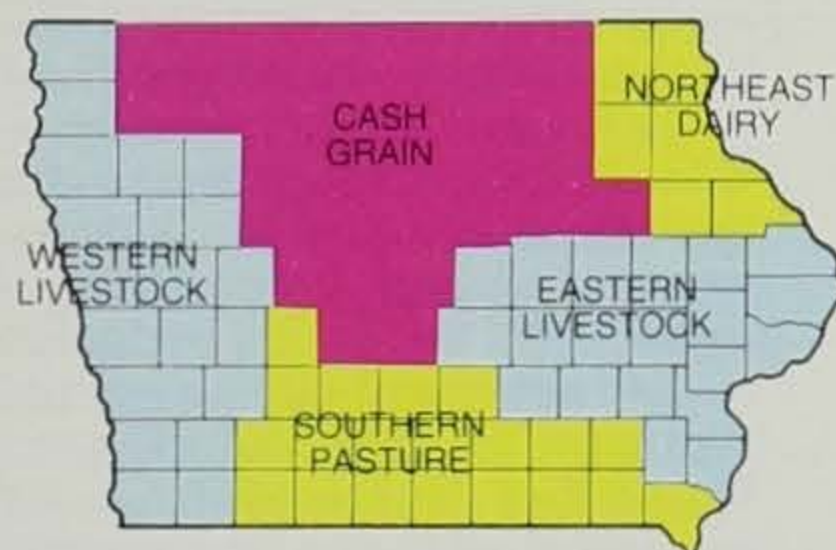
Pheasants

Cash Grain Region — (see map) Pheasant numbers are up 82% from last year with highest counts coming from Chickasaw, Greene, Floyd, and Howard counties. A mild winter coupled with good weather during the nesting and brood rearing season resulted in a dramatic increase in total birds seen per route (69.4). This is the highest index in this region since 1964 and is the largest increase in the state this year.

Western Livestock Region — Pheasant numbers are up 39% from last year with highest counts coming from Carroll, Montgomery, Sac, and Shelby counties. The index (74.3) is also the highest since 1964. Heavy rains and scattered pockets of heavy hail may have subdued the increase in this region. Some indication of this is a reduction in brood size from 5.84 chicks per brood in 1979 to 4.78 chicks per brood this year.

Eastern Livestock Region — Counts have increased 75% from last year. Highest counts came from Iowa, Jones, Marshall, and Poweshiek counties. A mild winter and good weather during the nesting season are the main causes of the increase. Populations seem to be recovering rapidly from the severe winter of 1978-79.

Regions



Northeast Dairy Region — Pheasant numbers increased 64% from last year. Pheasants per route (57.6) are at an all time high since August roadside surveys were standardized in 1962. Highest counts came from Fayette and Winneshiek counties.

Southern Pasture Region — Counts are up 28% from last year. This is the smallest increase on a regional basis within the state. However, in recent years counts in this region have continued to increase while they have declined in others. The index (66.4) is the highest since 1970. Highest counts came from Adair, Decatur, Wayne, and Union counties.

Statewide — Pheasant numbers increased 58% from 1979. A mild winter followed by generally good weather during the nesting and brood rearing season were

responsible for increases in all upland game regions. Heavy rain and hail in scattered areas during the nesting season were responsible for reduced populations in these very localized areas. However, the total area affected by the severe weather was small.

Average number of pheasants per 30 miles (66.99) was the highest since 1970. Broods per 30 miles (10.64), the most accurate predictor of harvest, increased 69% from last year and is the highest since counts were standardized in 1962.

Quail

Quail was the species showing the largest increase this year. Statewide, the population was up 157% from last year. A regional breakdown shows increases of 233%, 130%, and 111% in the Southern Pasture, Western Livestock, and Eastern Livestock Regions, respectively. Quail were sighted in the Cash Grain Region but not in the Northeast Dairy Region this year. The statewide index is equal to that observed in 1978. Quail numbers in extreme southeast Iowa are still lower than those reported in other southern counties but are recovering faster than expected.

Gray Partridge

Gray partridge populations continue their upward trend. Within the traditional partridge range numbers are up 60% and on a statewide basis counts are up 58%. The statewide index (8.81) is the highest on record. Partridge continue to expand their range south and east. Partridge are continuing to be reported on routes where none had been seen in the past. Also, reports of partridge production have been received from the Winfield-Mt. Union area in Southeast Iowa where 200 partridge from the Boone Game Farm were released last October.

Cottontails

Cottontail rabbits are up 17% from last year. Populations are variable on a regional basis with a 20% decline observed in the Western Livestock Region and increases of 27%, 31%, and 66% occurring in the Southern Pasture, Cash Grain and Eastern Livestock Regions, respectively.

Jackrabbits

Jackrabbit numbers remained stable this year, though due to small sample size, it is difficult to monitor jackrabbit population trends. □



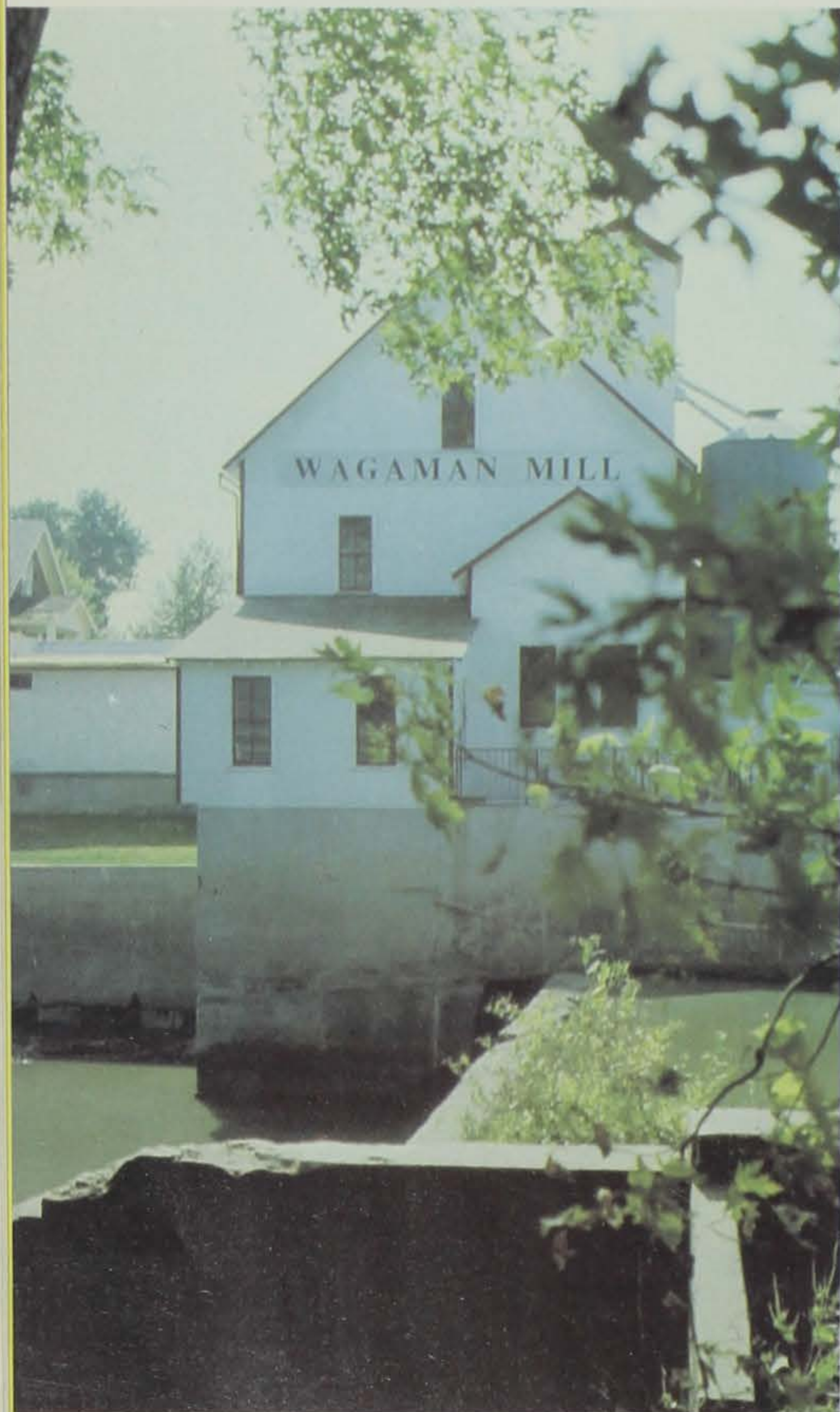
Photo by Jerry Leonard

History of the Lynnville Mill

by Dennis Black

EXECUTIVE OFFICER JASPER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Photos by Roger Sparks



Prior to the railroads advent in Iowa, small villages were established at suitable locations which would provide a natural site for a mill. Such a site was located by John R. Sparks, who with his family, migrated from Lee County to Jasper County in 1845. The family located in Section 10 of what is now Lynn Grove Township. With a cash capital of \$25.00, one span of horses, two yoke of oxen, two yoke of steers and two wagons, John, his wife Elizabeth, and their ten children built one of the first log cabins in Lynn Grove Township.

Sparks first endeavor was the construction of a small paddle-wheel saw mill, started in 1845 and completed in 1846. In 1847, Sparks commenced construction of a grist mill, completing the structure in 1848. Power for the mill originated from a mill pond, the resultant backwater of a large wooden dam constructed across the North Skunk River. According to published historical records, Spark's mill was a superior operation to that here-to-fore put up with by the pioneers. These people had previously had much trouble in obtaining good flour at the "illegally-built makeshift" of mills in this section of Iowa. The mill was greatly prized by the people of the entire county, saving as it did three days conveyance to Oskaloosa over uncertain streams and poor roads. The Buhr (grinding) stones of the Sparks Mill were said to have been of the best French make.

In 1851, John Sparks conveyed the mill and property to Ambrose Osburn, who in turn conveyed the property to Jesse Arnold in 1852. Jesse, along with his son Joseph, operated the mill until his death in 1865. Joseph Arnold then continued the business with his brother, Nathan, until April 12, 1871.

The greatest single improvement in the history of the "Old Mill" was accomplished during the ownership by the Arnolds. On July 18, 1868, the Arnold Brothers ordered a vertical drive hydraulic turbine from the James Leffel and Co., of Springfield, Ohio. This piece of modern power and milling equipment was shipped on September 17, 1868, and was put in operation at the Arnold Bros. Mill soon after its receipt. This action revolutionized the milling process, eliminated the old, large paddle wheel, and allowed a continuous operation during twelve months of the year. Prior to the advent of the turbine, the mill had to close during the winter months, for the frozen river kept the old wooden paddle wheel from effectively performing its function.

During the ensuing years from 1871 to 1898, the Old Mill passed through many hands, namely J. H. Meredith, H. and J. W. Moody, B. F. Arnold, Heston Brothers (H. W. and P. H. Heston), W. W. Dryden, James Fish, David P. Clark, A. W. Lenaberry, and Ezra Craven. On November 15, 1891, Ezra Craven acquired the mill and associated property from A. W. Lenaberry. The building, dam and associated appurtenances were

in a tragic state of disrepair, the result of prior years inattention. Substantial effort was directed to upgrading the facility, and Craven managed to create an operation that provided some meager profits. However, due to a minor industrial revolution that was in the offing of a nationwide scale, it was apparent to Craven that modern machinery and equipment were essential to the milling practice. Therefore, on October 21, 1898, Ezra and Susan Craven sold their prized possession to W. K. and Lena Wagaman. With this action, a new era in the operation of the Old Mill on the North Skunk River had been initiated.

W. K. Wagaman was no newcomer to the milling trade. He had been a miller for many years in Pella, and taught his sons, Fred and P. D., the operations of this complex and demanding business. Soon after acquiring the mill, Wagaman set about to improve production and quality of the product. Modern flouring machinery was installed, and the fame of "Red Bird" and "White Lion" sifted flour spread across central Iowa. He also milled "Wheat Heart" cereal.

During periods of drouth and low water in the mill pond, it was necessary to curb operations at the mill. In order to overcome this problem, W. K. had an auxiliary steam powered engine installed in 1900. This innovation was invaluable during the 21 years it was used.

Prior to his passing in 1908, W. K. Wagaman secured the able assistance of his two sons, Fred and P. D. in the operation and management of the "Old Mill." However, in 1906, P. D. moved on. He remained in the milling business, and was killed in a mill accident at Prairie City in 1930.

Under Fred's ownership and management, the mill business prospered. Business hit an all-time peak during World War I. Then, in the spring of 1918, a devastating flood washed out the old wooden dam, decreasing the efficiency of the total operation, and requiring the uninterrupted use of the steam power machinery.

During the war years, it was necessary to acquire government approval for construction acts costing in excess of \$1,000. As a result, it was not until the winter of 1918-19 that approval was granted, and work commenced on the construction of a concrete dam, concrete flumes and wooden "Wheel House." The function of the Wheel House would be to contain the turbines, line shafts, gears, wheels and various gadgetry of the milling operation.

Concurrent with the dam construction, Fred Wagaman ordered another hydraulic metal turbine, this being a "Standard Trump Turbine" from The Trump Mfg. Co. of Springfield, Ohio. The combined efforts of the old Leffel and Trump turbines were essential to power the extensive machinery in operation at the Old Mill at this time.

During the early 1920's wheat farming in Iowa started to decline. A primary reason for this was the wheat "rust" that virtually eliminated yields of any consequence. Coupled with this was the ease by which one could acquire "factory flour" from any general store. Milling of wheat for flour in small local roller mills was rapidly passing from the scene of Americana. In 1925 Fred Wagaman altered his operations and pursued new endeavors of producing animal feed, meal and electric power from the "Old Mill" on the North Skunk.

With the acquisition of a 2300 volt generator, Fred was able to produce electricity on a commercial basis. As a substation for Iowa Southern Utilities, the Old Mill produced 5000 to 15,000 kilowatt hours of electricity each month to the surrounding local and rural population.

In 1946, Fred's son Harris (Huck) returned from World War II and assumed the responsibility of managing the mill. Huck represents the third generation of his family to operate this historic landmark.

Inevitably, electricity was to take over completely the role that for so many years had been played by water power. In 1958, all the belts, shafts, gears and miscellaneous gadgetry were removed by Huck to make way for the modern electrical contrivances. The old Leffel and Trump turbines were left in the pits, their final apparent resting place. The once deep river that swirled behind the foundation of the Wheel House has long since filled with silt.

Today, the Jasper County Conservation Board has restored the Wheel House of the Old Mill to its original operating condition. This action was empowered by means of a long term lease, and was financed with funds derived from the Jasper County Conservation Fund and the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Preservation of our heritage and a nostalgic interest of things long past directed the Board to ensure the protection and restoration of this unique historic remnant for public use and enjoyment.

As one stands in front of the Old Mill, it is easy to turn back the pages of time and visualize the scene of a century ago when this beloved landmark was in its hey-day. Right before you is the Old Mill, the dam, the pond and the race which conveys the water to the turbines. It doesn't take too vivid an imagination to mentally reconstruct the rest.

One can almost see a line of wagons drawn up in front of the mill waiting for service, the horses impatiently stomping, the farmers getting together and talking politics, some wandering off to the general store or the post office. The rumble of the mill machinery and the creaking and groaning of wagon wheels can easily be heard — if one just tries.

Although its work is done, the picturesque Old Mill lives on in legend, verse, painting, song, and now in being. A unique vestige and remnant of a bygone past, the Old Mill is a part of the lamp light era and horse and buggy days. A part of the early American scene. □



Emmet County Prairie

by Bob Moats and Barb Nelson

Photos by the Authors

On the West Fork of the Des Moines River, three miles northwest of Estherville, lies a startling reminder of Iowa's past. It is an area unique compared to most of Iowa's flora and fauna, where rolling prairie hills rise into an enchanting oak savanna, off which the rippling waters of the Des Moines River flow. This remnant of what was once Iowa's contribution to the vast tall grass prairie of the midwest has been purchased by the State and is now a designated preserve. Government ownership insures protection to at least two plants and one bird listed on federal and state endangered species lists.

From a vantage spot on one of the high bluestem knobs a visitor can see approximately 60 acres of virgin prairie composed of a large variety of plant species found in many types of soil moisture conditions. To the east lies 140 acres of recently grazed pasture bordering oak savanna that blends into the deciduous woods precipice of the river. Though insured against grazing and aided by periodic prescribed burns, it will take several years for the pasture to be invaded by prairie constituents. Some native prairie plants have survived, such as pale purple coneflower, turk's cap lily, larkspur, and the endangered kittentail; but it will take a

Upland Sandpiper.



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considerable amount of time before the integrity of the prairie is reassumed. It is quite likely that even after decades the old pasture will recover less than half of its original flora.

On the 60 acres of actual prairie, early spring is cheered on by the delicate pasque flower, soon followed by the lacy narrow leaved puccoon, and its bolder relative the hoary puccoon. Prairie violets and buttercups carpet the higher slopes while the May blossoms of marsh marigold grace the swales. Easily overlooked, the endangered prairie bushclover hides among the taller grasses and forbs of mid-summer. A good variety of legumes, such as lead plant, ground plum, and milk vetch nourish the already rich soil by their nitrogen fixing capabilities.

For persons interested in more than the colorful array of blossoms there is the quiet flow of the Des Moines River to retreat to for walleye and catfishing. Shaded oak timber interrupted by grassy glades covered with soft field pussytoes create for the observant visitor places to rest and watch the deer and warblers that follow the river. The birds on the prairie arrive in late April. The endangered upland sandpiper has successfully reared its young on Emmet Co. Prairie for the last 14 seasons. Some years up to 6 pair make the prairie hills their nursery. Listen in the quiet mornings and evenings of May for the high pitched whistle that rises and descends. High in the sky, sometimes not more than a speck, will be the sandpiper calling over its grasslands. Also taking advantage of the air space is the red-tailed hawk wheeling high overhead while another raptor, the marsh hawk, skims grass tops for its prey.

As if to speed up the process of growth, bobolinks, vesper sparrows, meadowlarks, and others welcome the greening spring with songs. After the young sandpipers are on their long journey to the Argentine pampas and after the tall thistle has bloomed, the goldfinch begins nesting. It will select the soft down from the thistle's flower head to line its nest. By waiting this late in the season for its specialized food and nesting material the state bird is one of the last to begin incubation.

In the past, fire and bison served to check invading trees in the prairie environment. Fires caused either by lightning or Indians kept the shrubby trees stunted or it killed them outright. The prairie plants whose biomass lay below the surface could send up new shoots shortly after the flames had passed and would rapidly crowd out the trees that may have survived. Bison would rub and trample and sometimes simply lift the young trees out of the earth with their massive heads.

Because their old enemies have vanished several green ash trees have invaded Emmet Co. Prairie. Although strangely out of place in a habitat of grasses and forbs they never-the-less serve a useful purpose. In late summer thousands of migratory monarch butterflies use the clump for a resting place. The trees are sometimes cloaked by a mass of brown and orange from the underside of the wings. At times the whole prairie gives the illusion of flowers dancing over waving tops of grasses. Monarchs, skippers, viceroys, coppers, fritillaries, and other butterflies compound the color the prairie offers. Bumble and honey bees stalk newly formed blossoms throughout the summer. Wasps scout among the stems looking for their prey. Milkweed bugs crawl among the milkweeds and dogbane. Pick one up, hold it near your ear, and listen to its protesting high pitched gibberish. Maybe its calling your attention to the large black and yellow garden spider, the walking sticks, a katydid or a hundred other types of life that make up the prairie ecosystem. All things combined it makes the prairie one of the most fascinating and interesting pieces of living Iowa to be found.

Walk through a billowing swale, climb one of the rounded hills and sit in the switch grass. Let the bluestem caress your brow. Smell the deep herbal essence of the rank vegetation. Look across the living carpet of the prairie, close your eyes, listen carefully and relax. Hear the grind and crush of the glacier as it forms and molds the ground where you are sitting. Hear the echos of the bellow of the bison and the soft swish of moccasined feet that have both passed this way before. Slip deeply into the past and be thankful that an area like this will be here in the future. □



Monarch butterflies use the prairie during late summer migration, like this one perched on Blazing Star.

Gentian (above) and Kittenails are also present.



Classroom Corner

by Bob Rye

ADMINISTRATOR, CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER

WHAT IS Iowa's state bird? Can more than one state claim the cardinal as its state bird? Does the robin belong to any state?

The Conservation Education Center by Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center has a collection of prints of state birds in its dining hall. The Nature Society of Griggsville, Illinois considers this collection one of the greatest contributions to wildlife art and natural history awareness. The Nature Society made the collection possible.

In the Nature Society News of March 1980, the statement was made that it is "an officially recognized collection of all the state birds in a series of contemporary wildlife lithographs". The State Bird Print Program officially got underway in 1969. The purpose of the program is to make a collection that would be officially recognized and therefore lend credence to the importance of wildlife not only to our heritage but to our very survival.

Collections are on display in every state — gifts to the people of every state — where one with an abiding love of wildlife may take children or grandchildren and say simply, "Look".

One of the major problems the Nature Society had was obtaining the signature and seal of the fifty governors on fifty copies. The task also was complicated by re-election defeats amidst signings. Some prints were lost during the campaigns. George Wallace decided to run for president in

the middle of signing the prints. Then he was shot which put a delay in his signing. History has already greatly affected the prints.

There are a number of famous men who participated in the project — George Wallace, Nelson Rockefeller, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter and Robert Ray.

At the Conservation Education Center the prints are used for the "Look" by many groups. Some groups run specific classes on the prints. These vary from matching states and birds to observing the state seals and who signed them.

Quiz on Local States:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ (1) Iowa | (A) Western Meadowlark |
| _____ (2) South Dakota | (B) Loon |
| _____ (3) Minnesota | (C) Ring-necked Pheasant |
| _____ (4) Wisconsin | (D) Eastern Bluebird |
| _____ (5) Illinois | (E) Western Meadowlark |
| _____ (6) Missouri | (F) American Goldfinch |
| _____ (7) Kansas | (G) Cardinal |
| _____ (8) Nebraska | (H) Robin |

A special trip for your group to tour the collection can be arranged by calling 515-747-8383. You may also come to the Center on your own Monday through Friday, 8:00-4:30.

ANSWERS:
1-F 2-C 3-B 4-H 5-G 7-A OR E 8-A OR E



John Sloan

John Sloan

Ruffed Grouse

BOIRANA CHIRILEX



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ANSWERS
7 NOVEMBER

Warden's Diary

THE PHONE RANG at 7:00 a.m. The farmer on the other end of the line said, "Someone drove through my pasture gate last night and didn't bother to open it first."

When I inspected the area it was obvious from the tracks that it had been a four wheel drive vehicle. Measurements of the tracks were taken and notes made of other clues that may lead to the apprehension yet this fall of the person or persons involved.

The game warden takes his work very seriously. He knows that without his diligent work there will be very little wildlife for his grandchildren, and yours, to enjoy when they grow up. We think sometimes in the middle of the night that the quality of the hunters is deteriorating each year. It seems more and more are out there after the fast buck they can get for some fur, or they are gut-hungry individuals after all the meat they can secure.

This, of course, is not a true picture of the majority of our Iowa hunters, or the nonresident hunters who come here. It just seems that way to the officer who has to spend so much time with the punks who would drive through a farmer's gate, or the ones hunting without permission, and those who intentionally take game in an illegal manner. They really are the minority. *But*, they are the ones you read about and remember.

You don't read about the thousands of hunters we check each year who have their license, have asked the

farmer for permission to hunt, and don't care whether they get a full limit of game every time out. This person quite often will bring a son or daughter along to learn the fine sport of hunting as it should be. That's the whole story on this type of individual, and it wasn't a very exciting story to read, was it?

The hunters whom I make note of in my diary are more like the fellow who was out on parole from the penitentiary. He went deer hunting and when the officer approached him on a routine license check, he pointed a 12 ga. shotgun at the officer and threatened to shoot the officer. The officer did the smart thing and retreated. However, the officer knew this man and reported the incident to me. That night at 2:00 a.m. we woke him up from a sound sleep and let him spend the rest of the night in jail. The next day the judge fined him only one dollar. However, he did send him back to the penitentiary at Ft. Madison to serve out his remaining seven years.

There was the fellow who was on probation and out spotlighting deer one night. This developed into a high speed chase. Fortunately there were two officers working together, because when they finally caught him he had a pistol and a high powered rifle, and they were all rolling around on the ground before the officers could get handcuffs on him.

The attorneys agreed to reduce the charges on him because he was such a nice

man, and a concealed weapons charge might send him to the penitentiary. Where do they think we want that type of individual? Too bad they were not along that night!

We get young people out hunting on their own. Dad is probably too busy to go along. One boy by himself is seldom a problem. Two boys hunting together will sometimes get into trouble. But, three or more without proper training is chaos. What one can't think of, another one will. Road signs and public hunting area signs get shot up. Song birds are sometimes used as targets. We get trespass complaints, and complaints of livestock being shot. In some cases their dads don't care what the boys are doing, as long as they are not bothering them.

I took two brothers home one day after they had shot a pheasant out of season. Their dad was asleep on the davenport when we went in. He opened his eyes, but didn't get up.

When I told him the boys had been out hunting, and had shot a pheasant out of season, he said, "All right, just throw it on the back porch and I'll dress it after while."

More talk, with some very plain language thrown in, still didn't get through to him. With a father like that, how can you win? I followed the boys back outside and talked to them about wildlife management, including the need for seasons and limits. I can only hope it did some good.

The only chance we have

of teaching the young people who don't get the opportunity to go hunting with an interested dad is through hunter safety courses. We have the course to offer, but unless it is in the school, we can't get very many to attend this eight hour course. We not only teach gun safety in the field and in the home, but we also stress hunter ethics. You seldom find someone who has been through a hunter safety course out hunting without landowner permission, or shooting at something he is not supposed to, including himself or hunting companions. We have tried to get a mandatory hunter safety system in Iowa like all the western states have. But, the legislators so far have said, "No."

When I get to feeling depressed and feel like I'm fighting a losing battle, I stop in to see my old friend down by the river. Everyone should have a friend like him.

He said, "You know, I don't play golf with my son-in-law any more."

I knew better, but I asked why not.

He continued, "Would you play golf with someone who kicks his ball when it's in a bad spot to get out into the open? Or, if you're not watching, will pick the ball up and throw it out of a sand trap? Or, someone who shaves points off his score? Would you play with someone like that?"

I said, "No, of course not."

The old man took a long drag on his pipe and said, "Neither will my son-in-law!"

LOOKIN' BACK

Ten years ago



the Iowa Conservationist featured an article on deer management. It was pointed out that deer had all but vanished from Iowa before 1900. By 1953 deer were plentiful enough to have a hunting season and they have generally increased in numbers ever since.

A recipe for cooking dogs was included in this issue. It wasn't until the end of the paragraph that the writer assured you he really meant hot dogs.

Twenty years ago



the magazine ran a story about prison labor in the Yellow River Forest. The inmates worked on clearing Little Paint Creek, building fire trails, mounding brush piles for rabbit cover, planting food strips for turkeys, and other projects.

Iowa's first muskie stocking took place with 40, eleven inch fish placed in West Okoboji and 40 in Clear Lake. One of these may still be out there waiting for you.

Thirty years ago



the Conservationist played possum or at least had a lead article on the opossum. It was pointed out that a newborn opossum is smaller than a bee.

A special effort was made to get hunters to ask permission before entering private land and to avoid shooting hen pheasants.

The people who lived near Storm Lake were sure that the lake's name was keeping many visitors away.

The Last Day — Almost Forever!

By John Stevenson

AS WE SHUT the truck doors and checked out our guns and gear, the sun was turning the sky from navy blue to steel gray. It was the last day of the 1979 deer season. All three of us were excited about the hunt because on the previous weekend we had seen a few deer and a lot of fresh sign.

We were halfway up the hill when Ace, then Bill, peeled off to their respective stands. I continued on up to the top and stopped on the fire break at the edge of the woods. I decided to wait a few minutes and catch my breath. It was still dark and I had only a few yards to go into the woods to reach my stand. Legal shooting time was still a half-hour away.

After a five-minute break, I headed for my stand. I was wearing a fluorescent orange knit hat, fluorescent orange gloves, and a fluorescent orange vest over a black-and-red wool coat. Upon entering the woods, I aimed my flashlight ahead of me to choose a path of travel, then turned it off and put it in my pocket. It was getting a little lighter and I could see enough to keep from walking into trees.

I had moved only about 10 yards into the woods when WHAM! — a slug hit a tree about three inches off my left shoulder — and BLAM! — the noise of the rifle's blast followed instantly. I was stunned! I froze in my tracks. Fear of a second shot flashed through me and I dropped immediately to one knee. Was I hit? I remembered all the strange things I had heard in Viet Nam, about shock that for a little while prevented someone from knowing he was hit. A couple of deep breaths and a quick feel and look assured me that I was not hit.

Anger washed over me and I jumped to my feet and began

shouting at the unseen man, telling him in no uncertain terms what I thought of him and what he could do with his gun.

"How could you possibly mistake a man on two legs and wearing fluorescent orange for a four-legged deer!" I demanded. I told him to show himself, and sure enough I saw movement, then an orange hat and coat. But he didn't come my way. Instead, he turned and started to run away. I called for him to stop. He didn't. I started to run after him, but turned my ankle on some rocks and hobbled to a stop, angry and frustrated, but unable to continue.

I have read about accidental shootings with guns and bows, but don't really understand them. Does the intensity of the hunt, the desire to shoot something, cloud the mind's eye or just overcome common sense? Or is it poor training and a lack of understanding of what hunting is about? It is probably all of these, plus the need to succeed at any cost. But this is not hunting, though it is what the anti-hunting lobby loves to jump on.

I have never understood how anyone can shoot at something he cannot see clearly. I find it totally incredible.

What happened to me was the result of several hunter safety points being overlooked and the absence of common sense. First, the man was shooting before the legal hunting time, which is not only poor safety practice but also illegal. Second, he shot at me and this is also illegal and could have been hazardous to my health. Third, although I am male, the last time I looked I was not antlered. And, finally, he did not investigate the result of his shot to see if I was okay or to apologize for his mistake.

The importance of fluorescent orange and hunter safety courses

stands out in my mind now more than ever.

After the incident, I walked out to the fire break and stayed there until full light at about 8 o'clock before reentering the woods. Not since Viet Nam have I been as scared and surprised as that day. Thank God, I am still here to write this story.

What's the Point?

So, what is the point of all this? Well, I am just an average hunter who is asking everyone who reads this account to remember it every time he goes hunting. I am asking everyone to positively identify his target before raising his gun or bow, and to remember that today's hunting should be rated more by the quality of the time spent than in the game killed.

The fellow who shot at me, if he has any morality or conscience, will remember his act for the rest of his life. Perhaps he'll read this. If he does, he'll learn that he almost shot a 34-year-old guy, father of three children, who worked his way through eight years of night school and finally became a registered architect. Wouldn't that have been a terrible waste — not only for me and my family, but think what the shooter would have had to go through.

I love hunting. I hunt all year round, as the seasons permit, with both gun and bow. And I will not allow this episode to stop me from doing what I love. But I hope it never happens again to me or anyone else.

Following is a partial list of rules which I follow to keep me out of trouble while in the woods:

1. Never shoot at anything before the legal time. There are

Continued on Page 15

1980 Record Racks

IT WAS ANOTHER great year for the trophy deer rack program with over seventy entries. Although no state records were broken, Iowa hunters entered many racks of outstanding quality.

The following hunters took the largest deer rack in their respective categories.

Shotgun typical — Cecil Sitzman of LeMars

Shotgun nontypical — Dan Thurman of Olds

Bow and Arrow typical — Mike Anderson of Blue Grass

Bow and Arrow nontypical — Marsha Fairbanks of Martelle

In order to enter your trophy it must be legally taken with bow and arrow or shotgun-muzzleloader within Iowa boundaries. If the rack meets minimum scoring standards you qualify for a certificate and a colorful shoulder patch in recognition of your feat. Unentered deer taken in past seasons as well as the present are eligible for entry. To have the rack officially measured, simply contact the Iowa Conservation Commission, Information and Education Section, Wallace State Office Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa 50319. After we receive notification, we will forward a name of an official scorer who may be contacted. Because of shrinkage in varying degrees when antlers dry out, they cannot be officially measured for at least 60 days from time taken.

Racks Measured in 1980

SHOTGUN TYPICAL

(MINIMUM QUALIFYING SCORE — 150 POINTS)

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Cecil Sitzman	LeMars	1957	Plymouth	184 3/8
Lee Allison	Sioux City	1979	Woodbury	181 3/8
Darrel Schrader	Villisca	1973	Taylor	175 3/8
Richard Hassell	Burlington	1979	Des Moines	175 3/8
Ken Souer	Delta	1979	Keokuk	173 3/8
Tom McCormick	Harpers Ferry	1979	Allamakee	171 3/8
Todd A. Moon	Elkader	1979	Clayton	169 3/8
Keith DeHeus	Pella	1979	Marion	164
Mark Boyd	Des Moines	1979	Clarke	163 3/8
Gary Griffen	Waukon	1979	Allamakee	163 3/8
Neal Van Horn	Elgin	1979	Fayette	163
Jim Poli	Des Moines	1979	Wayne	162 3/8
Jimmy Cue	Lansing	1964	Allamakee	161 3/8
Henry Hennies	Donnellson	1979	Lee	159 3/8
Rick Nebel	West Burlington	1979	Des Moines	157 3/8
Mike L. Rees	Guthrie Center	1979	Guthrie	156 3/8
Steve Rogers	Albia	1977	Monroe	156
Roger DeMoss	Pella	1978	Marion	155 3/8
Loras Wolfe	Worthington	1979	Dubuque	155 3/8
Paul Gillman	Spencer	1962	Clay	154 3/8
Larry E. Iles	Stratford	1979	Webster	154 3/8
Dennis Post	Dubuque	1979	Dubuque	154 3/8
Orville Fast	Elliot	1974	Montgomery	154 3/8
Dennis Grove	Monona	1976	Clayton	153 3/8
Orville H. Alverson	Dows	1959	Franklin	153 3/8
Dave Rugeberg	Bernard	1979	Jackson	153 3/8
August Westergard	Sloan	1953	Monona	153 3/8
Stanley Fuhr	Ainsworth	1978	Louisa	152 3/8
Ed Winker	Milford	1953	Dickinson	152 3/8
Michael Ferring	Waukon	1979	Allamakee	152 3/8
Mike Sopher	Oskaloosa	1979	Mahaska	152 3/8
Monte Hough	Underwood	1974	Pottawattamie	151 3/8
Greg Everett	Washburn	1979	Allamakee	151 3/8
Howard (Red) Marshall	Modale	1969	Harrison	151 3/8
Louis O. Kloubec	Cedar Rapids	1956	Johnson	150 3/8
Randy Branson	Dallas	1979	Marion	150 3/8
Doug Still	Mt. Ayr	1979	Ringgold	150 3/8
Paul L. Montgomery	Swisher	1979	Keokuk	150 3/8

SHOTGUN NONTYPICAL

(MINIMUM QUALIFYING SCORE — 170 POINTS)

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Dan Thurman	Olds	1979	Henry	211 3/8
Jack L. Luke	Center Point	1979	Howard	201 3/8
Glen Taylor	Elliott	1976	Montgomery	191 3/8
Leon Williams	Decorah	1979	Winneshiek	187 3/8
Larry Anderson	Des Moines	1979	Wayne	183 3/8
Norbert S. Pranger	Davenport	1979	Lee	178
Richard Boyd	Alton	1979	Ringgold	177
Randy Lanicum	Mason City	1977	Winnebago	176 3/8
Craig E. Krebill	Donnellson	1979	Lee	176 3/8
Denis Kuhens	Wadena	1979	Fayette	175 3/8



Bill Brown of Chariton.

BOW AND ARROW TYPICAL

(MINIMUM QUALIFYING SCORE — 135 POINTS)

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Michael Anderson	Blue Grass	1977	Des Moines	168 3/8
Bill Brown	Chariton	1979	Lucas	162 3/8
Kendall R. Miller	Rock Valley	1977	Sioux	159 3/8
Michael Anderson	Blue Grass	1978	Des Moines	158 3/8
David Bollei	Tiffin	1979	Des Moines	157 3/8
Kendall R. Miller	Rock Valley	1976	Sioux	153 3/8
Barry Chalfant	Guthrie Center	1979	Guthrie	152 3/8
George C. Francis	Bloomfield	1979	Davis	151 3/8
Duane O'Donnell	Columbus City	1979	Lousia	150 3/8
Larry Ford	Jefferson	1965	Keokuk	146 3/8
Dale D. Myers	Nevada	1978	Hardin	146 3/8
John Jindrich	Burlington	1979	Des Moines	145 3/8
Ron Gordon	Buffalo Center	1975	Worth	143 3/8
Don Bohiken	Marion	1978	Jones	142 3/8
Larry M. Johnson	Burt	1979	Kossuth	141 3/8
Mike Lauzon	Huxley	1978	Greene	141 3/8
Ron Gordon	Buffalo Center	1958	Wright	140 3/8
Larry L. Cavanaugh	Perry	1979	Guthrie	140 3/8
Tom Maas	Dubuque	1979	Jackson	140
Marvin Mauch	Mapleton	1979	Monona	139 3/8
Tony Pitzen	Hamburg	1979	Fremont	139 3/8
Gary Dickerson	Story City	1979	Story	138 3/8
Joe Huck	Quimby	1979	Cherokee	138 3/8
Cole W. Custer	Harlan	1978	Shelby	137 3/8
Bill Selzer	Everly	1974	Clay	137 3/8
Don G. Phipps	Long Grove	1979	Scott	136 3/8
Ronald W. Hamlin	Centerville	1979	Appanoose	136

BOW AND ARROW NONTYPICAL

(MINIMUM QUALIFYING SCORE — 155 POINTS)

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Marsha Fairbanks	Martelle	1974	Jones	197 3/8
Paul Little	Des Moines	1979	Polk	176 3/8
Richard Riese	Villisca	1974	Montgomery	170 3/8



This 12 point buck was shot by Norb Pranger of Davenport.

New All-Time Top Ten Racks

SHOTGUN TYPICAL

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Gene A. Bills	Des Moines	1974	Hamilton	199 1/2
George L. Ross	Ottumwa	1969	Wapello	195 1/2
Gene Vaudt	Storm Lake	1974	Cherokee	187 1/2
Walter Forney	Glenwood	1971	Fremont	186 1/2
W. Chidester, Jr.	Albia	1976	Monroe	186 1/2
Walter Taylor	Blencoe	1976	Monona	185 1/2
Walter Tippery	Council Bluffs	1971	Harrison	185 1/2
Walter Sitzman	LeMars	1957	Plymouth	184 1/2
Gene Swartz	Bedford	1967	Taylor	183 1/2
Walter Watters	Ottumwa	1974	Van Buren	183 1/2

SHOTGUN NONTYPICAL

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Walter Raveling	Emmetsburg	1973	Clay	282 1/2
Walter Johnson	Moorhead	1968	Monona	256 1/2
Walter Mandersheid	Welton	1977	Jackson	253 1/2
Walter Fick	Des Moines	1972	Madison	228 1/2
Walter Everhart	Sumner	1969	Van Buren	224 1/2
Walter Crossley	Hardy	1971	Humboldt	221 1/2
Walter Pies	Ackley	1977	Hardin	221 1/2
Walter Meyers	Council Bluffs	1969	Pottawattamie	218 1/2
Walter McCormick	Harpers Ferry	1977	Allamakee	215 1/2
Walter Bruening	Hawkeye	1954	Allamakee	215

BOW AND ARROW TYPICAL

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Walter Miller	Wyoming	1977	Jones	198 1/2
Walter Goad	Knoxville	1962	Monroe	197 1/2
Walter Wilson	Cherokee	1974	Cherokee	175 1/2
Walter Hayes	Knoxville	1973	Marion	175 1/2
Walter Douglas	Creston	1974	Union	173 1/2
Walter Lockridge	Amana	1965	Iowa	172 1/2
Walter Fudge	Burlington	1966	Des Moines	170 1/2
Walter Anderson	Blue Grass	1977	Des Moines	168 1/2
Walter Vonk	Des Moines	1974	Warren	168 1/2
Walter J. Brooker	Clinton	1963	Clinton	166

BOW AND ARROW NONTYPICAL

Name	Address	Year	County Taken	Total Score
Walter Monson	Clear Lake	1977	Cerro Gordo	220 1/2
Walter Salzkorn	Sutherland	1970	Clay	218 1/2
Walter M. Collier	Burlington	1978	Des Moines	203 1/2
Walter Erwin	Sioux City	1966	Woodbury	202 1/2
Walter Arnold	Oelwein	1977	Clayton	200 1/2
Walter Ballard	Iowa City	1971	Johnson	197 1/2
Walter Fairbanks	Martelle	1974	Jones	197 1/2
Walter Miller	Vinton	1977	Benton	188 1/2
Walter Rekemeyer	Maquoketa	1974	Jackson	186 1/2
Walter Spiker	Harpers Ferry	1968	Allamakee	185 1/2

Wildlife Field Notes

...from a wildlife biologist's notebook



DEN BOXES FOR SQUIRRELS

Throughout the Midwest, where natural nesting cavities for squirrels are absent, the installation of den boxes may improve conditions in woodlots and neighborhoods for these animals. For plans and instructions on the construction of den boxes, write to Mailing Room, Agricultural Administration Building, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907 and request the publication entitled, "FNR-95, Den Boxes for Squirrels."

Prepared by F. H. Montague, Jr.
Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University

Cooperative Extension Service • Purdue University • West Lafayette IN 47907

THE LAST DAY (Continued from Page 13)

good reasons for establishing these times, the most important of which is that you cannot see clearly much before this time.

2. Never shoot at anything you cannot clearly see. Wait until you are sure of your target and shoot for a clean and sportsmanlike kill.

3. Never shoot at moving brush or sounds. They may be caused by another hunter, a doe in buck season, valuable livestock, a family pet of the owner on whose land you are hunting, or even a child.

4. Always wear fluorescent orange to identify yourself to other hunters.

5. Always check the line of fire between you and your target, and check beyond your target before shooting.

6. If you are not completely sure of your target, wait. The shooting of game takes a long back seat to hunter safety.

These and many other safe hunting tips were taught to me by my father, and I am teaching them to my children. These rules will help them have a safe time in the woods. My children will be attending the hunter safety courses as well. All hunters and outdoors people, both young and old, should attend these courses. It can't hurt, and who knows — you might learn something and have a good time as well.

Sure, waiting, checking, and being positive of everything that is going on around you might cost you a trophy. But it could also spare you one of the saddest days of your life. It could also help you see and bag that 8-point buck standing in the brush just behind that spike you were willing to settle for.

Have a good hunt. Be safe and enjoy your sport. Protect hunting and yourself. □

Milkweed by Ken Formanek

