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IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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Volume 19

May, 1960

Number 5

EARLY SEASON TROUT FISHING

IT'S A CAMPER'S WORLD

M. E. Stempel

Never had the experience of heating a bottle of milk over a campfire in the rain, and at two in the morning? One enthusiastic camper grandmother and grandfather did all three in one night so that they wouldn't have to lose a day of their regular week-end because of a baby sitting job. Campings are so popular that magazines, maps and directories are published on the subject. The information presented here was gathered during more than 50 trips in the years of camping in trailers and tents, and from 15 detailed interviews at Lake Darling in August, 1959.

Iowa residents reported they drove less than 50 miles to an camp; they were family groups of two or four and had less than five years' experience. Many were trying out their gear in preparation for longer hops.

Residents of Illinois, Indiana

and Michigan were traveling to or from Yellowstone Park or the Black Hills. There were "greenies" in this bunch, too, but any camper can tell you that it doesn't take long to enumerate your needs and eliminate the rest. They came from every walk of life: profs and plumbers, ministers and millwrights, all having a fling in the open, out on the world so to speak.

While most had less than five years experience some had camped for 20 to 40 years. The commonest reason was to get out of town; one said that his wife insisted they take up the hobby while another said his neighbor had so much fun at this sport they got the habit through exposure. One of the older enthusiasts camped during annual vacations when a boy; he and an older brother took the family tent to the river where it was a base for collecting clam shells for the market. One camped when hunting deer in Montana and another simply had wanderlust. These are just

(Continued on page 36)



Jim Sherman Photo.

The last spring snows put a chill in the air that is often gone by midday. The early trout fisherman takes this in stride as part of the game, caring for naught but the brookies, browns and rainbows that make his sport and keep him in trim.

Roger R. Flieger

The time is early May, the place is along one of Iowa's 40-odd trout streams nestled in the rugged limestone valleys in northeast Iowa. The weather may vary from balmy sunshine to sleet and near freezing temperatures, but one thing is certain, those speckled brookies, browns, and rainbows will be waiting.

Severe drought conditions of the past two years were relieved by adequate moisture last fall and stream flow through the winter months was greatly increased, giving better "carrying capacity" to the trout streams. Our well stocked streams with excellent numbers of acclimated fish should tempt even the most pessimistic angler.

A wide variety of stream conditions, from muddy flood stage to normal ultra clear water, may be encountered due to our changeable weather. The trout-seeker that has driven a considerable distance cannot afford to lose a day enjoying his or her favorite sport so a general rundown on fishing methods and general trout lore

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ing offers a multitude of activities of which just plain relaxing (a high class term for loafing) seems to take first place. Fishing, hiking, nature study and photography occupy those whose temperaments won't allow inaction.

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THE REASON FOR THE WATER CONSERVATION STAMP

The fact that water is a vital and limited natural resource is dramatized by the latest in a series of conservation commemorative postage stamps—the 4-cent water conservation stamp issued in Washington, D. C., on April 18, 1960.

No other resource so directly affects the welfare, comfort, and happiness of all the people.

Without water, soil cannot produce the food and fiber needed to nourish and clothe our rapidly increasing population.

More and more people each year are turning to water and water sports for leisure-time enjoyment.

But there is just so much water. The earth's water supply remains constant. We can meet these vital and rising demands for water only by better use of what we have—by reducing needless waste and pollution—by protecting the watershed upon which our water falls as rain and snow—by finding more efficient ways for its use.

Whether or not the land in each watershed is eroded or is mantled by protective cover of grass and trees, whether there are small dams and other flood-preventing structures along the channels, whether steps have been taken to reduce pollution, these determine in large measure whether water supplies are ample and reliable.

The commemorative stamp will be a constant reminder of the need to be aware of this vital resource and in turn its dependence upon watersheds.

Editorially Speaking

A POINT OF DOLLARS AND SENSE

The financial foundation of a state fish and game department as operated today rests upon the power of the state to impose the purchase of a license on any citizen who would hunt or fish. Tradition has built a strong case for this form of financing, and it will undoubtedly continue despite academic seminars on the theory that such funds should come from the state's general fund. The belief that fish and game departments would receive equal or better consideration through general fund appropriations by abandoning licensing is simply starry-eyed dreaming.

The universal problem plaguing administrators is that finances do not keep up with demands for expansion.

Resource management becomes increasingly complicated, year by year. With greater hunting and fishing pressures, there comes a demand for more areas dedicated in whole or in part to wildlife. This in turn creates a need for fish and game managers, biologists, laboratories, and a great deal of expensive equipment. They all add up to a need for more revenue.

In debating all the fine points of managing wildlife and simplifying regulations to make the public happy, the source of funds to carry on conservation activities is often overlooked, not only by those with fuzzy cheeks just out of school, but by some of the old-timers.

The success of collecting license fees lies not so much in the requirement as in the fact there are wardens or conservation officers or game protectors to enforce the law. If it were not for the field warden constantly checking hunting and fishing licenses, revenues would shrink to a pittance.

I have heard the negative factors of law enforcement argued ad infinitum, the brush cop approach, etc., but in the field of fish and game there are a few facts of life which should be kept in mind by those who wish to see some progress as well as receive a paycheck:

1. Law enforcement, although it has negative aspects, is a part or tool of game management.
2. There would be many species of game extinct for all practical purposes if law enforcement did not constantly combat commercialization and the greed of individuals.
3. The warden, in spite of his role as an enforcement officer, still is a front man in public relations. What he says and does determines to a large degree the standing of the department in his area.
4. Regulations are a rationing device, another management tool of game management.
5. The fact that from 25 to 30 per cent of most game and fish budgets are earmarked for law enforcement clearly indicates that many so-called sportsmen are not the conservationists they pretend to be.

The need for wildlife conservation became apparent during the past century due to commercialization and ecological changes. At that time restrictive laws and their enforcement seemed the logical answer. It was a good start, but time has proved that other factors and tools must be considered and become ingredients of the total conservation effort if it is to be a success.—Ernest Swift.

TEN TIPS FOR MORE FISHIN' FUN

Fishing tackle costs! And there should be no one better acquainted with that fact than you with the skinny billfold. Take a look at your streamside tools and get them in shape so you won't lose hours or fish when time is really important. Remember, you can't do any better than your tools will allow.

1. First off, smear a little oil on the rod ferrules. In a pinch, the natural oil on your forehead or nose will do.
2. Put the rod together and whip it a bit to make sure that all fittings are tight.
3. Go over the guides and tip carefully and replace those that need it.
4. Any bare spots on the windings should be touched up with nail polish or varnish.

5. Spin fishermen in particular should check the drag of their reel. Cleaning and oiling will show immediate results.
6. If your line saw a lot of service last year, discard it; if not, at least cut back the first few feet.
7. Monofilament has a strong tendency to corkscrew. Take the set out by stringing the line out past casting distance, attach it to something secure and give it a long, steady pull.
8. Hooks need to be sharp to take hold so hone the old ones. Polish the lures and touch up for more effectiveness.
9. Tie a few knots and get those fingers ready for fast work in the evening when light is poor, but fishing is good.
10. Get your new license and law leaflet. They're ready and you'll be, too, if you tend to these details NOW!

HOW TO GROW A DUCK BLIND

"It used to be that waterfowl were hunted over water and only over water," says Joe Linduska, director of public relations and wildlife management for Remington Arms Company, Inc. "But since the coming of mechanized farming and abundant crop residues, you're as likely to find dabbling ducks in the middle of a picked cornfield. And as for geese, that's exactly where most of 'em are shot in many places around the country. These adjustments in food habits of our webbed-foot friends open up new possibilities for the work-shy gunner.

"We got tired of manufacturing fodder blinds, then totting 'em out in the fields every fall," Linduska continues.

"One of our best goose crossing lies off a point of woods that jut into a big field. Always in past years the geese swung wide around the point. And they did again last fall. But this time they were right overhead because last spring we planted a blind thirty yards off the point.

"Three metal fence posts were driven in a row twelve feet long. Allowing a four-foot alleyway, a parallel series was set. Some worn out fencing was strung between the posts (long dimension and honeysuckle was sprigged into productive use). Elsewhere on the farm we divided fields with 30-foot strips of Soil Bank plantings. Objective number one was quail and rabbit management so we used bicolor lespedeza bordered by sericea. After two years the bicolor still has some growing to do. But the four-foot tall sericea left plenty of squatting room to hide from goose.

"But if your goose fields are small—less than 30 to 40 acres—best not experiment with a hedge planting of this type. Geese like it wide open and won't stand much crowding by woods or hedge. You could spook 'em out with cover in the wrong place.

"Given the support of a few fence posts and five-foot wove wire, there's no reason why natural vegetation can't be recruited in most places to grow a blind. And they look natural because they are natural. A high nitrogen fertilizer like 10-10-10 will hurry the growth along, but it might take less explaining if you apply it at night, because . . .

"On one of our hot days last summer I returned from the field with an empty bucket in hand, and was greeted at the roadside by a friend. 'What are you up to?' says he. 'I've been fertilizing a duck blind,' says I. With that, he took my arm and led me to the shade of the car. 'Just sit quiet and I'll bring you some water,' he called out, hurrying for his thermos jug."

METAMORPHOSIS OF A DUMPING GROUND

W A RLY TROUT—

(Continued from page 33)

help produce a few for the angler that likes his trout fried golden brown in deep fat. Iowa trout streams are characterized by small deep pools connected by shallow riffles. This pattern is broken by very large deep pools where water is backed up by beaver dams or where the stream has washed out around a fallen tree, or under a bridge abutment or limestone bluffs.

The riffles often yield interesting results by floating a worm or wet fly into the pockets along a rock weed bed, especially if the water level is slightly above normal. Great care should be taken in approaching these areas because the trout's wariness are absolutely true.

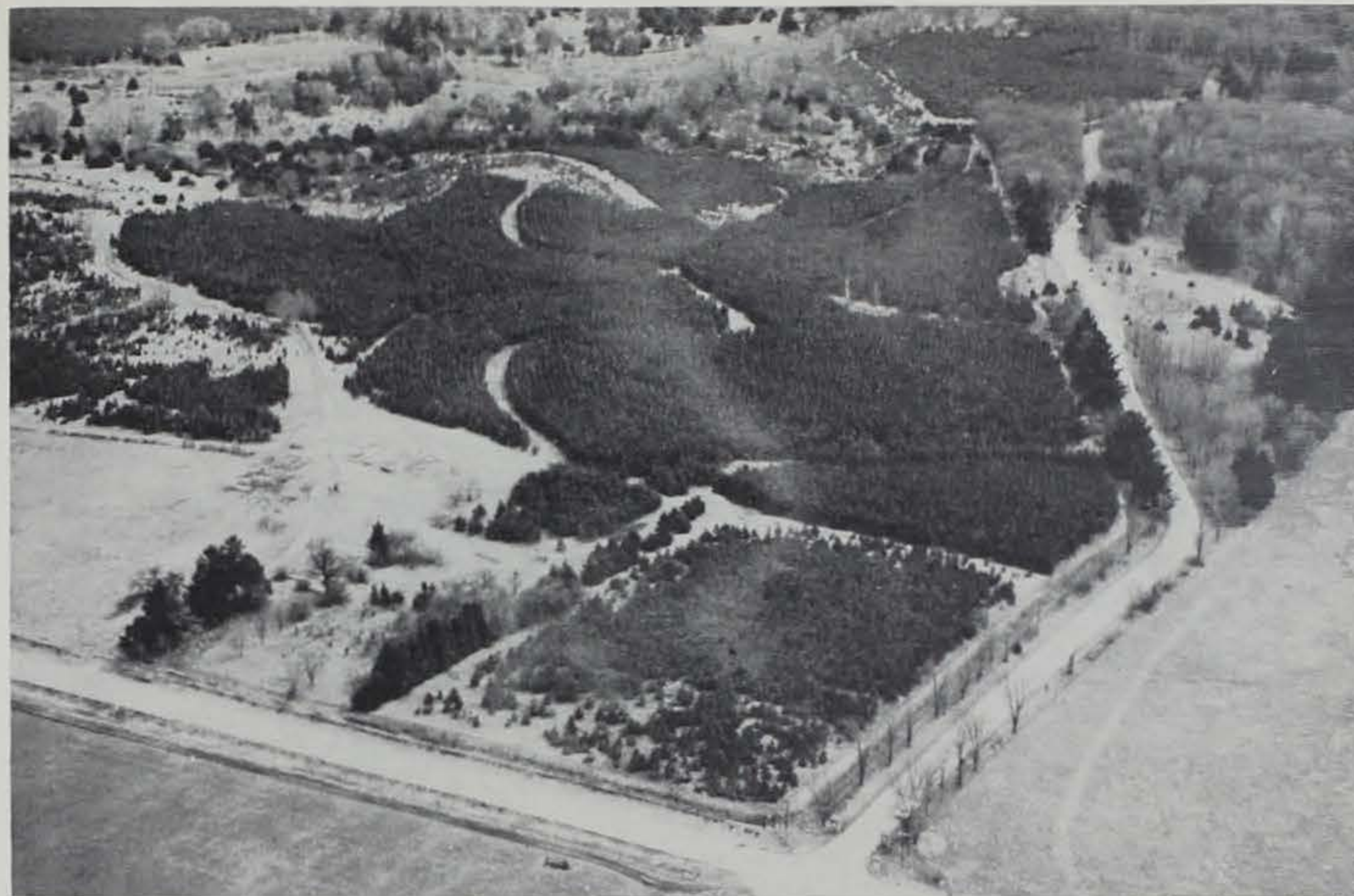
All likely spots should be fished thoroughly, but the deeper pools are usually concentrated on by fishermen, and rightly so, because they produce the greatest numbers of the largest fish. Certain "holes" have become famous for their productivity or for a single large trout that has driven out or even all of his neighbors.

Early season fishing is often bait fishing. Worms, night crawlers, minnows, salmon eggs, and goose droppings are but a few of the favorites. By carefully stalking to the stream's edge the bait is cast upstream and allowed to drift naturally into productive areas. Low water temperatures cause trout to be less active in their feeding patterns and a split shot or small weight will help sink the bait down to their level in fast current or to holes. A small cork or bobber will keep a lively minnow from sinking up on the stream bottom. These methods are not only excellent during adverse conditions, but probably account for more trophy trout throughout the year than any other method.

To some folks, the previous paragraphs are like reciting the A, B, C's to a college freshman, this is the fly fisherman. He has molded facts of his success into knowledge and experience. He can duplicate the natural baits close enough that he is prepared to meet all occasions with an artificial lure. When the water is high and discolored he will use a large buck tail streamer fly fished slow and close to the bottom where the trout can find it, or bounce an artificial nymph or caddis fly larvae along the stream bed. Then when the stream is low and clear and trout are rising, the fly fisherman is in heaven.

Often the beginner fishing trout find them wary and refusing the most skillfully offered lure. That is because the fish are feeding on aquatic insects or terrestrial worms and bugs that fall on overhanging banks, shrubs, trees.

supply of flies in dull colors, sizes, 10-12-14 will produce when



This beautifully forested area nine years ago was a jumble of tin cans and rubbish as you can see below. The red and jack pine seedlings planted in 1952 are now eight feet high and more, enhancing the north gate of Backbone Park. What about your local garbage filled gullies; can they stand some improvement?

other methods fail. Nylon leaders 7½ to 9 feet long and tapered down to two pounds are recommended. If the fish are seen rising to the surface taking insects a dry fly should be used. When trout are "bulging" or rolling slightly under the surface of the water a wet fly retrieved in short pumping actions will produce strikes. Short jerks alternated with a pause to allow the current to carry the fly naturally will also take fish consistently.

In riffles and shallow water where the large pools drain, trout can occasionally be seen "tailing"—tipping up on end while feeding off the bottom. An imitation of a nymph or ragged old wet fly that will sink fast should be drifted down in the feeding area. Often the trout can be seen as it engulfs the lure.

A brief key to trout fishing success might be:

1. Although trout cannot hear, they are frightened by vibrations caused by footsteps, rolling stones, etc. *Approach cautiously.*
2. Fish almost always face into the current making it advisable to fish from the lower end of a pool toward its head.
3. *Keeping the sun behind your back will help*, but don't let your shadow fall on the water.
4. Always keep the body silhouette low, and avoid sudden movement.
5. Locate the trout and find out what food they are feeding on. Open one and examine its stomach.
6. Be able to use bait or flies to meet any situation encountered. Light rods, leaders and small flies



Junk heaps such as these can be transformed to beauty spots by planting a few trees that in later years may be harvested at a reasonable profit. The next time you enter Backbone Park from the north, look at the trees just outside of the park and think of this picture.

are not only sporting, but outsmart even the wariest of trout.

What more could a person ask for this spring than to spend a day along one of our many fine trout streams? Whether he is on his first trip or has many years' experience, the angler will find a challenge in outwitting the cagey brown, brook, or rainbow, while enjoying some of the most spectacular scenery in Iowa.

Trout seldom spawn successfully in still waters of a pond unless it is fed by a coldwater spring. The large mouth bass, however, does so with great success, making it ideal for farm ponds.

Though there are over 500 different species of humming birds, the only one you are likely to see east of Texas and the Rockies is the ruby-throat.



Plans and ideas for more and better recreation areas are ever present topics of conversation whenever county conservation board members get together. Even before the ice goes out the summer's work is scheduled with inclusions for future improvements.

WISE USE—COUNTY STYLE

Malcolm K. Johnson

While yet in their infancy, Iowa's county conservation boards are proving to be the brightest stars in the horizon of outdoor recreation. A few miles east of Belle Plaine in Benton County the first county lake has been constructed and filled. Even the weather seems to be on their side as the impoundment was full of water more than a year ahead of schedule.

Located in a stream valley that should never have been cropped, the brand new park will be a haven for many of the county's southern residents and probably draw lots of visitors from nearby counties, too. Wisely used would be a good term for this land now. Though not centrally located, the county board went ahead with planning and construction because no other area filled the bill as well as this. Being relatively unproductive as farmland goes in this good farming region (it flooded every year) meant that loss of tax revenue wouldn't be high. And fitting another function to it to benefit all the people shows some deep thinking and smart planning.

Surrounding the lake is a park of 135 acres where picnicking and camping are already in evidence; this summer sanitary facilities and shelter houses will be put in making the total cost thus far \$70,000. Think on that a while, you lakeless counties—45 acres of water some 28 feet deep for fishing, canoeing and swimming, plus 135 acres of wooded hills that provide almost every kind of wholesome outdoor activity—all for less than most swimming pools!

The chairman of the board says completion is a long way off because there is no end of improvements that can be made as needs

arise and funds become available. The county board of supervisors has been very cooperative (reflecting well on the conservation board) in assessing millage to make capital improvements possible. Realistic about what they asked for, the rate went from .4 mill to the present .7 mill as the conservation board proved their integrity and good sense. This year they'll have \$39,000 to apply to their well planned projects.

Fishermen will be glad to hear that the State Conservation Department has stocked bass, catfish, black crappies and bluegills which in another year should be one of the park's main attractions—excepting sun bathers, of course. Also of interest to anglers, especially those who consider motor boats their bugaboo, is the restriction of boat power to muscles only. One motor boat can fill up a lake of this size as the State Conservation Department has found, but countless rowboats and canoes can navigate freely.

Members of other county boards and prospective boards are welcome to visit the area and get some ideas. They, too, can't help but be impressed with the visible accomplishments while standing on the 600 foot long dam and viewing a sand beach ready for mid-summer crowds. More than 10,000 red and Austrian pines, plus 4,000 multiflora plants are on their way up to further beautify and protect the land and wildlife. A full time custodian has been working for a year in this park and the Milroy Access Area (three acres and more to come on the Cedar River north-east of Vinton).

Sound planning and close cooperation with the State Conservation



"You think he's just over-confident or shall we follow him?"

CAMPERS WORLD—

(Continued from page 33)

a few reasons to get out under canvas. I've got plenty more when I need them.

Summer trips were most numerous though the combined fall and spring outings equalled the summer count. A few were out only once per summer. Some went once each week, others as often as possible, and one family said they had been out 24 times so far in 1959.

Favored pastimes were boating, swimming and fishing. Another element said they simply wanted to relax. Some liked photography. Those with small children brought playthings such as toy boats, wagons or simple card games. Teen-agers, and some adults, favored badminton, handball, cards or chess. All got a kick out of swapping jokes, ideas, tips and opinions with fellow campers. Come to think about it, most campers are individualists.

The majority liked to camp in parks such as Darling which has a large open area, where there is some freedom in selecting a site. The campers wanted to be where they could see the lake and a beach within walking distance was a major attraction. All wanted ample latrine facilities; a few even preferred the flush type. Showers would have been welcome where swimming wasn't available. Laundry facilities would have been considered a luxury, not a necessity, since most went camping to relax and to leave household tasks at home. Meals tend to be quick and easy to leave time for important activities—such as washing dishes. Bacon and eggs was a favorite for breakfast, dinner and supper, most children and many adults liked hot dogs and hamburgers. The more industrious grilled chicken or fish, while barbecued steak took top billing as the feature meal. Pancakes were popular, and

Department and their own board of supervisors has netted the folks of Benton County a fun spot they can be proud of and proved that the benefits of wise use aren't always so hypothetical. The conservation board, two farmers, a school teacher, a banker and a newspaper editor seems to have found the right combination to get things done.

(There are 50 county conservation boards in the state, many doing a topnotch job, but that leaves 49 counties out in the cold.)

one individual said no camping trip would be complete without pork chops and canned potatoes. Once a day most groups prepared complete, hot, home-type meals consisting of meat, gravy, potatoes, salad, vegetables and dessert. All agreed that any food tasted good when cooked over the campfire.

The day's end came when an individual couldn't keep his eyes open; even then it was difficult to break away from the charm of a fire in an open grate, the moonlit lake, and background of hushed camp talk.

Experienced campers knew some first aid rules and provided against cold and wet weather by bringing extra jackets, sweatshirts, raincoats, overshoes and plenty of socks. They set up on a spot from which they could easily get onto a good road without getting stuck if it rained. As mentioned, it doesn't take long to pick up the fundamentals. If anything is basic it's waterproof and warm clothing.

Ultimate equipment meant a 16 foot vacation-type trailer house to some; others like a 10 x 10 tent with an awning. Air mattresses and sleeping bags were popular. Whether tenting or trailering, everyone wanted a single mantle gasoline lantern, gas stove, folding table, and plastic or paper dishes.

Experienced individuals kept a reference list that included:

- Ample clothing
- Liquid detergent
- Washline
- Good refrigerator
- Plastic for awning or tent floor
- Small tools; wrench, screwdriver, nails, screws, axe
- Canned meat and vegetables

A dry run in the backyard was recommended so that necessities could be added and non-essentials eliminated, thus each arrived at the campgrounds pretty well prepared. Even then some resourcefulness is needed because when you go camping it may be your turn to warm a bottle of milk over an open fire in a pouring rain, or you may have the experience of a camper who noticed an agitated young husband working with wet gear in a windstorm. When assistance was offered to the perturbed husband he glanced at the girl who stared petulently through the streaming car window, then said, "I can get this cockeyed tent up alone, but you might try quieting my wife."

BIOLOGIST



BULLHEADS
MILLION

Tom Mo

Fisheries Bo

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BIOLOGIST'S



CORNER

BULLHEADS BY THE MILLIONS

Tom Moen

Fisheries Biologist

Although there are several species of fish available to the angler fishing in Lost Island Lake, including those popular walleye, yellow perch, largemouth bass, northern pike and crappie, the bullhead has dominated the catch for many years. This is readily apparent when we examine the creel census data collected by the Conservation Commission biology section during the past 14 years. From 95 to 98 per cent of all the fish taken from this lake each year on hook and line were bullheads. From 1946 through 1959 a minimum of five million bullheads were caught by fishermen trying their luck in this body of water; enough fish to supply every man, woman and child in the city of Des Moines with about eight pounds of fish.

The fame of this 1,260 acre lake as a place to fish bullheads extends to the furthest corners of the state. It is a typically shallow (maximum depth 14 feet) glacial lake located in northwest Iowa near the town of Ruthven.

In the three or four years prior to 1946 fishing for bullheads was popular. Routine lake surveys with small mesh seines indicated that a large hatch of bullheads was proceeding in 1941. These fish were so numerous that they were overcrowded and failed to grow normally. Seining also showed a high carp population. Other biological findings led us to believe that these two species of fish were competing for food and space. Armed with these facts the biologists recommended that as many as possible be removed by seines and traps and that the daily catch limit of 25 bullheads be completely removed.

In the five-year period of 1946 through 1950 the rough fish crews removed over a quarter of a million pounds of carp. Fishermen also removed over a million bullheads by hook and line. Both bullheads and carp showed decided increases in growth rate soon after removal operations were in effect; in their first five years of growth the bullheads had attained a weight of only 2.5 ounces, but in succeeding two years "under management" these same bullheads doubled their weight and by 1950 they averaged 10 ounces per pound—lunkers in any bullhead fisherman's book.

Survey seining records gave evidence of another large hatch of bullheads in 1954 and by 1956 it



Dough bait caught these beauties. Some folks add things like vanilla, lemon extract, oil of cloves and the like to the dough. Ol' carpie doesn't care. It's the dough he's after, even as you and I.

CARP BILL O'FARE

Stan (the Carp) Widney

Every spring about this time a flock of telephone calls come into the State Conservation Department's office requesting recipes for making dough balls, the best known of all carp bait, and every call is answered in the same way: by mailing a copy of the CONSERVATIONIST containing an article of the subject. We're fresh out of copies of that article and anyway the boss thinks it's time for a new one, s-o-o . . .

Now everyone knows that dough baits are best. They seem to please the palates of more carp than anything that's ever been tried outside of ice cream. Now there's the best carp bait that ever was. Of course, you can't keep it on a hook very long and I'll admit that's a problem in itself. The way I found out about it was the time we were carting an ice cream freezer across a bridge on a wheelbarrow at a picnic in Shaw's woods and it slipped off, losing its lid and the ice cream, which was soft, spilled about a gallon's worth over the

edge of the bridge before us kids could lift it back up. Well, sir, one of us happened to look over the bridge to where the ice cream spilled, and would you believe it, there must have been a dozen or more carp jumping out of the water at a time, trying to gobble up that ice cream. After that, Skinny Davis, who was always trying to invent things, tried to invent a way to keep ice cream on a hook but it wasn't any use. It started to melt too fast and he had to eat it before he had a real chance to get started experimenting.

So we went back to dough balls.

Like pickles, some like their dough balls sweet and some like them salty. Grandpa used to make a dough ball so sweet he'd have them all eaten up before he got to

the crick so we didn't know if they were good bait or not.

Be that as it may, here are a couple of tried and true recipes that have caught over a billion pounds of carp so they can't be far from right:

Bring a pint of sweet milk to a boil and add three heaping tablespoons of salt. As soon as the milk begins to foam, add corn meal and stir until the mixture is thick and tough enough to be kneaded around a hook.

To these dough baits a good carp fisherman of the old school (who will try anything once and if they bite, try it again) may add olive oil, vanilla, cinnamon, oil of cloves, corn licker (that's what grandpa used on the bait that he never did get to the crick with) anise, lemon extract, molasses, etc., etc. It is generally believed though that a carp bait should either be salty or sweet—never neutral.

These baits will all catch carp but so many of them come to pieces in the water or come to pieces when a carp goes to work on them that most of them are just plain aggravating. That's why our family leans to "Tackle Smasher":

- 1½ cups Quaker yellow corn meal
- 2 heaping tablespoons of Quick Quaker Oats
- 1 level tablespoon of sugar
- 1 cup of cold water

Water, sugar and oatmeal are stirred together. Two-thirds of the cornmeal is then added to the mixture and stirred in. Place on a medium hot fire, stirring constantly for five to seven minutes until the dough works up to a stiff ball. Remove the pan from the fire. Sift the rest of the corn meal into the cooked dough and work it well into the mixture. The resulting dry dough is placed on paper and thoroughly kneaded. Before wrapping

(Continued on page 38)



There may be better bait for carp than dough balls, but the carp don't know it.



HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

By
Stan Widney

OUR SILVER ANNIVERSARY

In the report of the State Conservation Commission to Governor Clyde L. Herring for the biennium ending June 30, 1936, we read:

"At the beginning of the biennium the conservation work in Iowa was under two separate agencies; viz., the State Board of Conservation and the State Fish and Game Commission."

After going into the duties of both agencies, the report continues:

"The Forty-sixth General Assembly passed a law creating the present Conservation Commission. Other legislation provided for the merging of the duties of the former Board of Conservation and Fish and Game Commission, placing such duties under the Conservation Commission. This law took effect on May 17, 1935."

"The Conservation Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the Governor. After the initial appointments the terms are to be six years. The members are each allowed by law the sum of \$7.50 for each day necessarily employed in the discharge of official duties provided said compensation shall not exceed \$500.00 for each fiscal year."

The first Commission was:
Logan Blizzard, Chairman.....

..... McGregor
Mrs. Henry Frankel.....Des Moines
A. E. Rapp.....Council Bluffs
W. A. Burhans.....Burlington
F. J. Colby.....Forest City
E. W. Neenan.....Sioux City
W. C. Boone.....Ottumwa

Dr. William C. Boone of Ottumwa, who had served on the former Fish and Game Commission, died February 12, 1936, and his place on the Conservation Commission was taken by R. E. (Roscoe) Stewart, also of Ottumwa. Doctor Boone, a dentist, was a true conservationist with foresight and vision. In the first Biennial Report of the Conservation Commission, page six is titled "In Memoriam," a tribute to "Doc" Boone. It says of him, "Great men are born, not made, and in the spirit of Dr. Boone this was more than true... his early days of fishing and hunting inspired him with the thought of providing others and their posterity the same privileges and pleasures of outdoor

recreation which he considered fortunate to be his."

The same tribute might be given all Commissioners who have served so well these past 25 years.

Other Commissioners who died, "in harness" so to speak, were R. E. Garberson of Sibley, 1942, who loved to fish and did much for the fisheries and hatcheries; and A. S. Workman of Glenwood, 1944, whose greatest delight was hunting and watching waterfowl, and he worked hard to aid in their conservation.

The 25 Year Plan

The Iowa TWENTY-FIVE YEAR Conservation Plan, begun in 1933, was "a plan and a program for the wise human use of Iowa's natural resources." It was dedicated to the "men and women whose dreams and labor for true conservation in Iowa approached fulfillment." The Conservation Commission has always worked toward such a goal.

Gabrielson Report

In the Gabrielson Report of 1947, they defined their function to include the following types of activities:

1. Outlining major policies and programs.
2. Approving projects to carry out the program.
3. Adopting administrative orders.
4. Carrying out sufficient inspection to determine that its policies and programs were adequately executed.
5. Approving qualifications and salary rates for personnel.
6. Selecting a director to be held responsible for administration.
7. Approving personnel recommended by the director.

Number six, above, has produced five men in twenty-five years who have made and are making names and reputations for themselves that must be written in the archives of conservation for all time. Activity number seven has also produced some noteworthy administrators as well as other personnel who have and will make conservationists proud of them.

Directors

The five directors and their time in office follow:

Murray Lee "M. L." Hutton, 1935 to 1941.
F. T. "Fred" Schwob, 1941 to 1946.
G. L. "Lynn" Ziemer, 1946 to 1948.
Bruce F. Stiles, 1948 to 1959.
Glen G. Powers, 1959.

Two of these men have died: M. L. Hutton and Bruce Stiles. The Fourth Biennial Report has a full page likeness of Mr. Hutton and another page of tribute to this man who spent eighteen years of his life in the cause of conservation.

Hutton

He started as a Highway Commission Assistant in Administra-



M. L. Hutton.

tion and as such was placed in charge of state park roads. This enlarged his opportunity to study the state and its resources, and through this channel he became greatly interested in and well informed concerning the state's growing conservation program. In 1929 he was appointed to the position of Chief Engineer and Superintendent of State Parks with the Iowa Board of Conservation.

Mr. Hutton never avoided responsibility, always giving tirelessly of his time and effort. His high moral integrity, his unsurpassed fitness for the performance of his office, his sympathetic understanding of small problems and his undaunted courage in meeting the large ones aided and strengthened the state's program of conservation.

He was killed in an auto accident at the age of 55 and by his untimely death the state lost a valued public servant.

Stiles

The Biennial Report of 1959-60 will contain a tribute to another great State Conservation Director. Bruce Stiles served from August, 1948, till he passed away in July, 1959, at the age of 62. He was appointed a Conservation Officer in 1938, advanced to Chief of Fish and Game in 1942, Assistant Director in 1946, and Director in 1948.

Among his many honors and offices were: President of the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners, president of the Midwest Association of Game, Fish and Law Enforcement Officers, Chairman of the Mississippi Migratory Waterfowl Flyway Council, president of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and many others. He attended President Eisenhower's conference on the fitness of American youth in 1956 at the Annapolis Naval Academy.

Bruce Stiles possessed a bril-



Bruce F. Stiles.

liant intellect, a most remarkable memory, the ability to speak extemporaneously and was so well informed on all subjects concerning conservation that he was in great demand as a speaker. His writings on conservation and ornithology were reprinted all over the country. He was a great storyteller and was a genial companion, especially on hunting or fishing trips.

In his obituary, written for the magazine, *Iowa Bird Life*, his great friends, Dr. and Mrs. Harold R. Peasley, said of him, "He has undoubtedly fulfilled well the purpose of his life, and we hope the State of Iowa will be given more men with the stature of Bruce Fleming Stiles. This great conservationist was totally honest and consequently his acts were the result of profound conviction rather than sentiment or expediency."

This Conservation Commission, and the Commissioners for a quarter of a century before them, are dedicated to the present demands and the future requirements of the people of Iowa.

CARP FARE—

(Continued from page 37)

the dough in paper for a fishing trip, allow it to cool. If you don't the dough will get too soft from sweating. If too much sugar is added the dough will get sticky. If not enough sugar, the dough won't be rubbery.

This bait, made according to recipe, is tough, waterproof, and rubbery. The carp seem to love it and it's hard to get off the hook. What they seem to do is gum for awhile until they get mad because it won't come off, or until they get so hungry for it they can wait and they take the whole thing and run with it and that's where you pour it to him.

Grandpa's gone now, but he always did say, "If you fish for fun try my bait, but if you're really out for carp, try 'tackle smash er.'"

Doughnut-hole-dough is an standing

DONUT HOLE ELIXIR OF TRO

R. W. Dauber

Having fished most trout streams from the past eight years, I know that the kind of tackle the trout's far important.

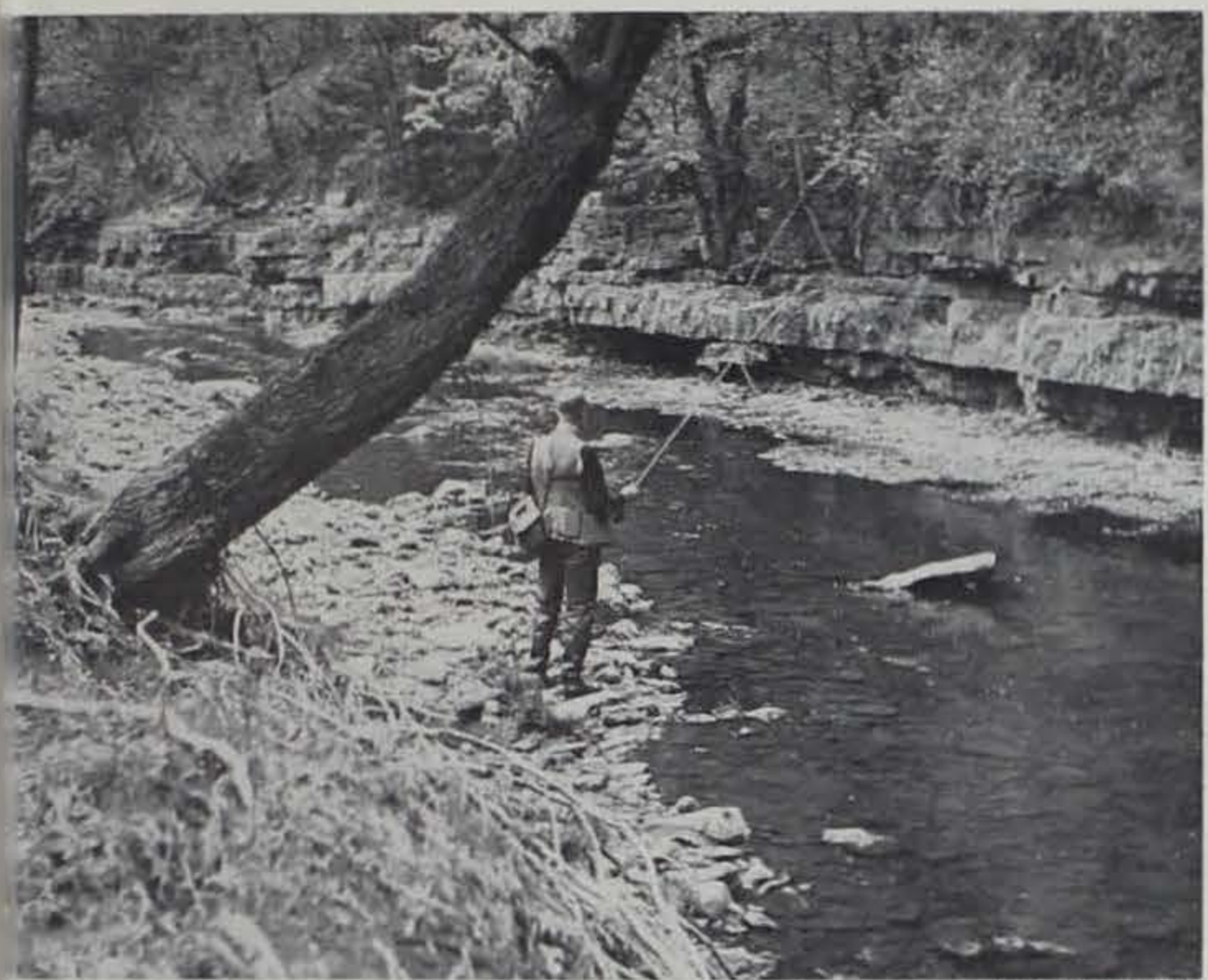
As a conservationist, after several of the live trout streams, I've "mountain cow" many streamside with the ardent angler. A good measure of success by lending a hand to make the fishery enjoyable. We talk of fish population, success, good camp sites, big Brookies are d Spring.

Along with the usual who caught what and discussion of baits and lures. Besides pointing out some of the productive natural and flies, for a laugh I tested doughnut-hole-dough with par excellence.

When I told this to a fisherman who is well up on the subject, he replied, "I can find no speak of in none of the magazines. Please, write so I can make a doughnut-hole-dough."

THE FOLLOWING ingredients, though some may prove just as good as others, must be gum combined with a see hearing ear, and a recipe. A hollow from that causes the drum of grouse on the hill spring.

A brimming cup all as he sings to his early spring morning. A measure of t



Doughnut-hole-dough is an admixture of experiences, memories and, above all, an understanding and appreciation of nature's many facets.

DONUT HOLE DOUGH ELIXIR OF TROUT BAIT

R. W. Daubendiek

Having fished most of Iowa's 46 trout streams from end to end in the past eight years, it has come to me that the kind of bait used to catch the trout's fancy isn't too important.

As a conservation officer looking over several of the most productive trout streams in northeastern Iowa's "mountain country" I had many streamside conversations with the ardent anglers who nearly make trout fishing a way of life. A good measure of satisfaction is gained by lending assistance to these folks to make their trip more enjoyable. We talk of stream conditions, fish populations, angling access, good camp sites and how the big Brookies are doing at Blue River.

Along with the usual topics of what caught what and where, a discussion of baits was always reached. Besides pointing out and demonstrating some of the more productive natural baits, spoons and flies, for a laugh I often suggested doughnut-hole dough as the bait par excellence.

When I told this to a friend of mine who is well up on fishing lore he replied, "I can find this formula in none of my books or magazines. Please send me the recipe so I can make some doughnut-hole dough."

THE FOLLOWING are my own ingredients, though other variations may prove just as successful, they must be gathered and combined with a seeing eye, a ringing ear, and a receptive mind: . . . A hollow from the bone that causes the drum beat of the grouse on the hill behind the singer;

. . . A brimming cup of a quail's song as he sings to his mate on an early spring morning;

. . . A measure of the whip'r-

will's call through the night while camping near the ford on French Creek;

. . . Some green of the trees planted by the million on the hills of the future and a little whiff of pine scent;

. . . Add one drink of that cold, clear water from the spring at South Bear's headwaters;

. . . Stir in the aroma of a panful of rainbows, browned to perfection over a camp fire at Elk Creek;

. . . Mix in the valley view from the high bluff including a bit of the wonder of nature's handiwork. Where came those hills that stand so proudly over the flowing waters?

. . . Blend in the innermost ring of a Brown dimpling a pool as he takes a Badger Hackle on the evening's fourth cast;

ON YOUR next trout trip try "Doughnut-Hole Dough." It will fill a heavy heart with happiness, a worried mind with contentment and, too—the frying pan.

COMMISSION MINUTES

April, 1960

Travel authorization for one person was approved to attend a coast guard meeting in Washington, D. C., concerning the new federal boating law.

Travel authorization for two people to attend the Midwest Pheasant Council at North Platte, Nebraska, was approved.

May 3, 4 and 5 were set as the dates for the next Commission meeting.

The Franklin County Engineer was given permission to widen a road next to Beeds Lake.

An option was approved for the purchase of the 437 acre Larkin farm in the Yellow River Forest area for a total cost of \$37,000.

The State Forester was instructed to work with the Federal Forest Service and Woodbury County on a land trade whereby the State Conservation Commission would acquire some federal forest lands.

Approval was given for the forestry section to provide 100 trees of five species and a packet of wildlife cover stock for demonstration plantings on any organized watershed project.

The Commission accepted an offer of 50 wild live-trapped turkeys from the state of Texas for stocking in the Yellow River Forest.

An option for the purchase of 85 acres for \$4,750 on Grannis Creek in Fayette County was approved.

An option for the purchase of 4½ acres for \$1,100 for an access road on the north side of Eagle Lake in Hancock County was approved.

Approval was given for an option to purchase a marsh area of 128 acres for \$15,258 located near Iowa Lake.

The Commission authorized the assignment of personnel to work on Canadian duck banding and a duck depredation study.

Bill Brabham gave a report on

the management of Lake Odessa.

Approval was given to the Scott County Conservation Board on an option for the purchase of 38 acres for \$8,000 as an addition to their 1,280 acre lake site.

The north central Iowa Rod and Gun Club requested that no docks be permitted on a 2,500 foot strip of fish and game shoreline on the north shore of Clear Lake. They also requested the stocking of northern pike in Clear Lake, the removal of catch limits on yellow bass in Clear Lake, and the maintenance of the present water level in Ventura Marsh. The status of the fish and game shoreline was discussed. Earl Rose reported on plans for stocking northern pike in Clear Lake and discussed catch limits on yellow bass to the satisfaction of the group and the Commission. The Commission concurred on maintaining the level of Ventura Marsh.

It was requested that the Clear Lake sanitary district be asked to bury a section of sewer line now on the lake bottom near the west end of Clear Lake. The Commission ordered an investigation of this problem.

County Conservation Boards

Approval was given to a 15 acre game planting gift to the Howard County Conservation Board.

Floyd County Conservation Board gained approval for a public park improvement project.

Approval was given to Buchanan County to buy a fishing access of 19 acres at \$35 per acre.

Black Hawk County Conservation Board was given approval for the purchase of 40 acres for \$4,500 for fishing access and park.

A roadside park area of 10 acres on highway 57 for \$1,000 was approved for Grundy County.

Carroll County Conservation Board gained approval for various improvements in Swan Lake Park.

Approval was granted Buena Vista County Board for acquisition of 83 acres for park expansion at \$65 per acre for part and \$225 per acre for the rest.

Permission was granted to the Hancock County Conservation Board to acquire the original county courthouse square for \$1.00 to be used as a historic site and park.

Calhoun County Board was given approval for a plan to develop a park area and school for retarded children.

Calhoun County Board was also granted permission for three game cover projects.

Approval was given to Linn County Board to acquire 202 acres near Central City.

Bill Brabham gave a report on duck shooting at Lake Odessa.

It was recommended that the Commission build docks at Lake Odessa. Sixteen docks to be located at nine sites, each dock to accommodate 20 boats. Rental to be \$2 per week, \$5 per month or \$20 per season.



"Better unwind 'er a few turns, Joe."

WILDLIFE BABIES BELONG IN THE WOODS LEAVE THEM THERE



BABES IN THE WOODS

COME SPRING and the babes in the woods appear. From whence that phrase came I'll never know, but I do know this—too many newly seasoned lovers of nature are overly protective of "abandoned" wildlife babies. With thought processes still creeping like molasses in January they abscond with nature's fresh born children believing that they are more capable of satisfying the needs of a fawn (or whatever the victim) than its mother standing behind some brush watching the proceedings. If they were orphaned, their chances for survival would, in most cases, be greater if allowed to fend for themselves. The law prohibits possession of protected species except during the open seasons which do not coincide with the time when the very young are about. Basements, barns, and backyard pens are no place for these creatures. Wildlife means just that. Let them be wild!

FOCUS ON WILDFLOWERS

George Tovey

Making pictures of wildflowers is an interesting and rewarding photographic hobby. Equipment can range from the elementary to the ultimate in gadgetry. Chances are, what you have already will do with perhaps a little augmenting from the local camera shop.

At first glance it seems like an absurdly simple thing—go to the woods and point your camera at a flower—and in attempting this simple thing one's education begins. If you are acquainted with wildflowers and know their names and locations, at least part of the battle is won. If you are starting from scratch, a book describing wildflowers is the first requisite. In the beginning you may be surprised to find that most of these flowers are particular to select the habitat which suits them best and so will be found in one area and not at all in another. Also, they bloom for only a few days and if you do not use the opportunity they will not wait and the chance is gone till next year. Don't stop and wait for a new crop to appear or you'll not bestir yourself for 50 weeks. One can start with the trillium—first flower of spring that comes up while the last snow-drift is still melting, and continue to photograph each new flower as it appears. Many of our wildflowers are not at all spectacular in their appearance. Their blossoms are small and delicate and it takes a close inspection to reveal any intricate detail. But your color slide magnified on the screen

brings out form and structure which might otherwise go unnoticed.

Once on the spot with your camera there are still choices to be made. You can make a whole series on a single type of flower or a picture of the area showing whether the flowers prefer to bloom in clumps or by the single plant. Closer now, of the single group—then the single plant (be sure to select a good one at the height of its bloom—leaves and petals looking fresh and crisp) and choose a view point that will show the shape of the leaves and how they are attached to the stem. Then a closeup of the blossom itself. Be sure it is sharp and well defined—and if a bee happens to be making a call at the moment of exposure—well?

Now if you have made a series of choices leading up to the final picture, this is the opportunity to express the way you feel about the subject; this expression is the essence of art.

There will be difficulties to overcome. Some flowers prefer to bloom in deep shade—how can you get a well lighted picture of them? Or the light is coming from the wrong direction—what are you going to do about that?

One bypath down which many a potential wildflower photographer has wandered and become lost is the maze of technology. It is so easy to lose your way in the forest of cameras, lenses, film and filters, or become tangled in the brambles of wind screens, reflectors, and flash outfits that the goal of a good picture of a wild-

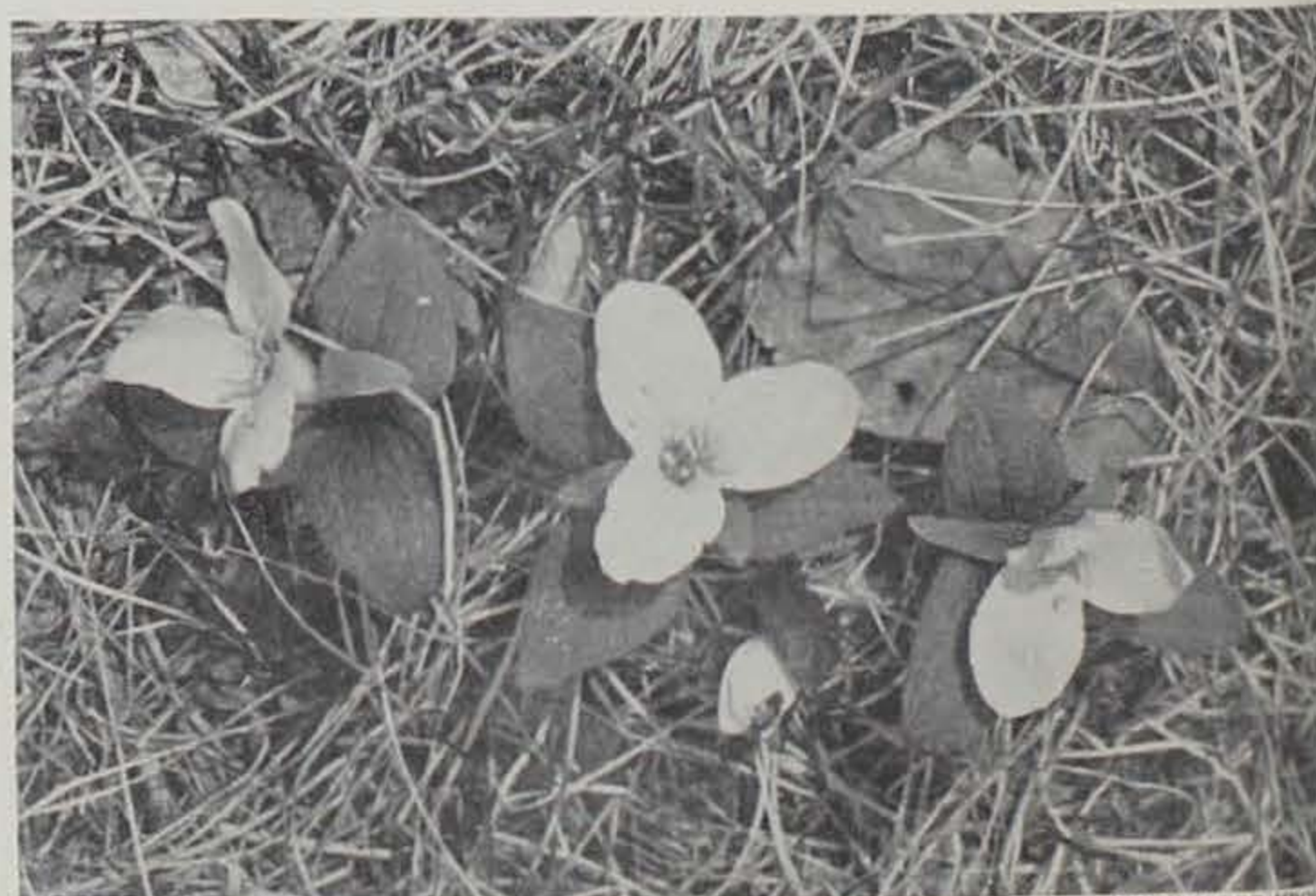
flower is forgotten. The only really necessary feature in the camera to be used in this type of work is the ability to focus close-up, i.e., within a few inches—which rules out the fixed focus box camera even with a "close-up attachment." It might be well to bear in mind that in close work the exposure is slightly longer than the camera and meter setting indicate. This sort of information is easily found in the profuse literature on photographic matters.

In these days when a good deal of the technical work such as color developing is done for us, it is difficult to avoid coming up with some sort of a result in the way of a picture and here is a chance

to exercise critical ability on your own efforts.

Wildflower photography is a challenge and a rewarding venture. It takes you out of the rut and into the outdoors. It gives exercise to the body, the mind and the eye. It teaches you to see, to notice, to call things by name. We go to the woods and fields at a time when nature is at the height of her activity, a period we might otherwise miss entirely. It gives us a chance to share the results of our work with others, to share a little more understanding of the whole picture of nature, not just at harvest time, but also when she sows.

To discover, to learn, to record to share—let's be about and doing



The early woodland wildflowers such as these trilliums don't last long; you've got to be on the spot when they bloom. Following trillium comes hepatica, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, spring beauty, anemone, pepper root, wild ginger and sorrel in the first few weeks of blooming. Later on, buttercups, marsh marigolds, columbine and lady's slipper (moccasin flowers) appear. Don't pick 'em, shoot 'em—with your camera.

Volume 19

MORE

ROADSIDE HON

Richard Nomse
Pheasant Biolog

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