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CONSERVATIONIST

Page 20

May, 1961

Number 5

SIGNS OF THE TIMES AND THERMOCLINES

FROM CREEL TO MEAL

Roger Fliger

From the time a fish is landed until it reaches the platter is a very critical period. A real fisherman would rather fish than eat, but when it comes to eating he'll have his own special way of cooking the catch. Learn a few simple rules of game care and you will be well paid with better eating. It's just as easy to do the job right as it is to spoil it.

Keep fish alive as long as possible. A boat with live box is the ideal, but that type of river boat is not as popular as it was in the past. A rope stringer works unless a snapper decides he'll eat your string of fish more than you do. A burlap sack is fine to use over the gun wales when the fish is fast and furious. The bag holds fish securely and keeps them alive.

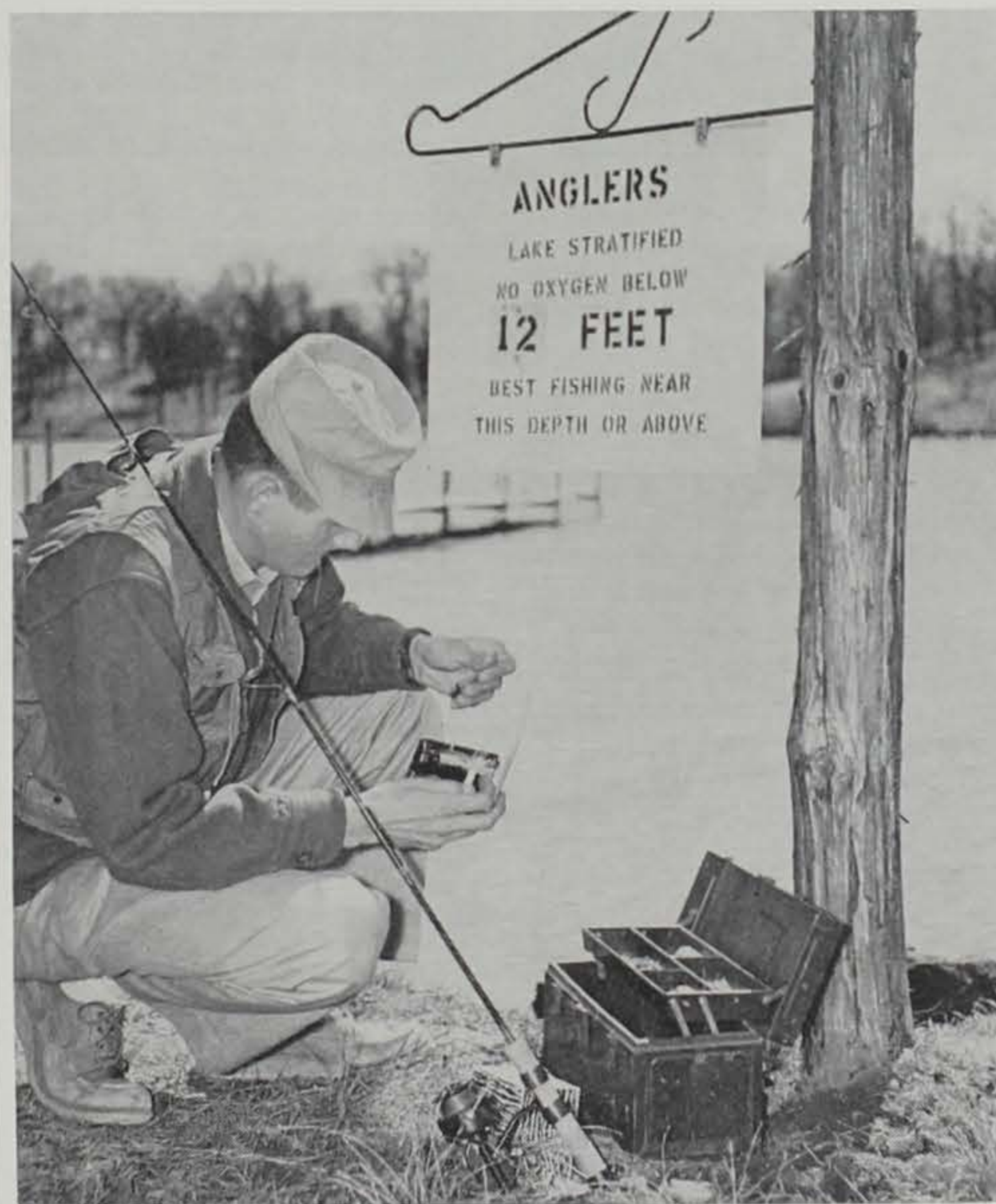
In the case of trout, kill the fish quickly by inserting your thumb in the trout's mouth and apply pressure upward. The vertebrae will snap. With one long cut from vent to gills the entrails are easily removed. Wipe the fish dry and place in a creel. This will allow air to circulate.

Game fish have to be transported a great distance remove the entrails, put the fish in plastic bags and cool with ice. Dry ice is preferred when available. Fish lying around in a refrigerated box half full of melted ice will become soft and become water-logged.

Put fish in plastic bags, quick freeze and packed in an insulated cooler can be transported for days without spoiling.

Fish should be eaten fresh—freezing or aging doesn't add to the flavor. The exception to this is trout, if fried sooner than four or two after catching, they break up and curl in the fryer. Also pickling, smoking or preserving requires time, but again, eat them fresh for maximum flavor.

Some of the special fish dishes might add to your regular menu are as follows:



George Tovey Photo.

At least one question—how deep to fish—has been settled for the fishermen at Red Haw State Park. To tell what they're biting on will take a little more research.

Baked Trout

Here is a trout feed that is deserving of a trophy fish. When you catch that one big trout of a lifetime or of the season clean the trout by removing entrails and washing out. Never scale or skin a trout. Stuff the cavity with regular sage dressing. If you like sauerkraut, mix one part kraut to two parts dressing. Tie the fish with a half-dozen loops of string and wrap in aluminum foil. Bake for an hour and a half and give it a good soaking in lemon butter (see last part of article) when you take it out of the foil.

Sheepshead Chowder

River people know fish and fish

cooking. The Upper Mississippi produces good numbers of freshwater drum or "sheepshead" and the people take every advantage of this fish. Skin and fillet meat off of a large sheepshead. Cut the boneless fillets into one inch cubes. Simmer potatoes, carrots, onions, celery, tomatoes and anything else handy around the kitchen until almost done (solid—not falling apart). Add milk and cubed sheepshead and simmer again until fish cubes appear dry and flaky. Don't over-heat or you'll scald the milk. Other species of fish can be substituted. Dark bread and a cold bean salad with slivers of raw

(Continued on page 131)

Jim Mayhew

Fisheries Biologist

Beginning in May of this year the depth at which most fish can be found will be predicted for anglers at Red Haw Lake near Chariton. The predictions are not based on so-called "crystal ball biologizing" or "Ouija Board" forecasting, but rather on the results of a three year study. The purpose of this service is to provide reasonably accurate information regarding depth distribution of fish to enable sport fishermen to catch more fish.

For several years it has been known that most of the artificial lakes in southern Iowa were thermally and chemically stratified during the summer. Just what the effect of this phenomenon was on the depth distribution of fish, and more important, how it directly or indirectly influenced angling success was unknown. In 1958, a study was initiated to determine these factors.

First, a thorough study of the physical and chemical characteristics of stratification was conducted. Several important features were soon discovered. Some of these were: (1) stratification started gradually in April, increased in intensity through May and June, stabilized in July and August, and finally disappeared in September; (2) temperature changes of 3° F. per foot of increased depth are common in the thermocline, and on several occasions temperature drops of more than 6° F. per foot were recorded; and (3) the lake was devoid of oxygen below a depth of eight feet for more than two months. This thermal phenomenon exerts great controlling influence on the harvest success of many fishermen. It is not uncommon to find as many as 50 per cent of the anglers fishing in the hypolimnion (too deep) completely unaware that this area is oxygenless and almost devoid of fish life. Indirectly, stratification is so profound in Red Haw that its influence forms the sub-structure upon which the whole biological framework rests.

The depth distribution of large-

(Continued on page 131)

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HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

By Stan Widney

LUCAS COUNTY MAN ASKS VERIFICATION OF FISH TALE

The year of 1949 is scarcely history but the following article from the Chariton Herald-Patriot certainly deserves a place in the archives.

The appeal appeared in the March 16, 1961 issue of the paper:

That "truth is stranger than fiction" is going to be proved once again—this time by a Naval medic and Lucas countyman who apparently needs local support to substantiate a "whopper" he had told his Navy buddies.

In a letter to the Chariton newspapers this week, Arlan Lee Risbeck, son of the Milton Risbecks of Route 2, Chariton, writes in regard to the fish story to end all fish stories—that occurred 12 years ago on the old city reservoir east of Chariton.

Natives of the community need no reminder. We're talking about the time high school janitor Bob Dale hooked THE big one. And, sat helplessly in the boat for 23½ hours while the fish proceeded to tow the boat around the 78-acre lake.

It's easy to understand why Arlan needs verification for the story. So shocked was Dale at the experience that he hasn't been back to the lake since that July day in 1949.

"I've even quit telling the story," Dale wryly admits. "Nobody believes it."

Dale still contends he's privately happy over the fact that he didn't land the "fish."

"If it was big enough to tow me

COMMISSION MEETING Held in Des Moines April 5, 1961

Authorization was given for two cars of Fish and Game Officers to attend the Midwest Law Enforcement Officers' meeting at South Dakota, May 24 and 25.

Authorization was given for five staff members to attend the AACI meeting at Sylvan Lake in South Dakota.

Authorization was also given for two people to attend the Jackson Hole Outdoor Writers' meeting.

The Commission recommended to the Executive Council that a quit claim deed be given on submerged lands near Fort Madison to the California Chemical Company.

Forestry

The Commission respectfully declined a gift of five acres of land adjacent to the Stephens State

around the lake for 23½ hours, it wouldn't be anything I'd want to bring out of the water."

The story of how Dale and his brother Walter launched their 12-foot metal boat about 8:30 a. m. on a Saturday and then stayed there until almost the same hour the next morning, was told in the March, 1957 edition of Outdoor Life—the sports magazine.

The writer called the battle a "continental record" and there's been no disputing the claim since.

Dale, in estimating the size of the fish, set some kind of a fisherman's record himself—he said it was probably eight feet long (a guess he offered by comparing the monster to the side of the boat the few times it buoyed surface-wise).

A catfish that long would weigh somewhere between three and four hundred pounds.

"And," Dale is quick to say, "everybody knows they just don't come that big in fresh water."

A second guess at the fish size indicated it might have weighed 125 pounds but even this estimate has to be told in select company.

The reservoir doesn't help the disclaimers, however. Within the past five years fishermen have pulled catfish from the water weighing up to 81 pounds. That includes a couple of 50 pounders. (There are pictures of these latter ones to confirm their size and ferocity.)

Although Dale's fish wasn't landed, some 800 to 1,000 persons who gathered around the lake to watch the 23½ hour circus are still giving the benefit of the doubt as to the size of the fish.

If sailor Risbeck needs any additional expressions of how big the fish was, he might try one of Dale's.

"Once I could look straight down his gullet, through about five feet of water. It was like looking into a coal chute."

All we can add is that it DID happen; Dale is still around to talk about it.

Forest in Lucas County due to costs of acquiring title.

The Commission recommended to the Executive Council a transfer of title of Wood Thrush Park Preserve in Jefferson County for use as a Fairfield Community School forest area subject to grantor's request concerning conservation use of the area.

Parks

Superintendent of Parks gave a report on boat dock rentals in state parks.

Approval of a development plan for Swan Lake State Park in Carroll County was given by the Commission.

A report was given on fuel vending machines in state parks.

Approval was given for a road right-of-way construction permit bordering on Margo Frankel Woods State Park in Polk County. Also a construction permit for widening of a county road in the same area.

A discussion was held concerning acquisition of land at Lizard Lake.

Don Brown of Cedar Rapids gave a report on a commercial housing development plan near Lake Macbride in Johnson County.

Waters

Permission was granted for placing of rock piles rather than a rock jetty in Bussey Lake in Clayton County.

Kemmerer Marina at Clear Lake was given approval for three foot deep dredging of an area 50 x 150 feet at Clear Lake for the purpose of boat launching.

Commissioner George Myers presented a plaque to retiring fish culturist, Earl Hubbard, who has managed the Backbone Trout Hatchery for the past 19 years.

Clark and West of Clear Lake were given permission to dredge an area for ingress and egress of boats to Venetian Village on Clear Lake.

County Conservation Activities

Hamilton County Conservation Board was given permission to use several small buildings at Little Wall Lake on the condition that these buildings be removed when they were through using them.

Cherokee County Conservation Board was given approval for acquisition of 8.75 acres on the Little Sioux River in the northeast part of the county at a cost of \$450 for use for picnicking, fishing and boat launching.

Cherokee County Conservation Board was also given approval for acquisition of 8.75 acres north of Washta at a cost of \$250 to be used for picnicking, fishing access and boat launching.

Delaware County Conservation Board was given approval for acquisition of 22 acres located three miles northwest of Manchester at a total cost of \$2,600. The area will be used as a wildlife area.

Winnebago County Conservation

Board received approval for acquisition of 59 acres at a cost of \$3,600 to be used as marsh area and park area.

Calhoun County Conservation Board received approval for acquisition of a strip of land two four hundred feet wide extending 3,000 feet along the lakeshore North Twin Lake. Cost of the area is \$700 per acre for 20 acres. Area will be developed as a park with access to the lake.

Hardin County Conservation Board received approval for acquisition of ten acres of land along the Iowa River at a cost of \$1 per acre to be used as an addition to the shoreline acquisition project between Iowa Falls and Eldora.

Hardin County Conservation Board received approval for acquisition of ten acres at \$50 per acre to be used as fishing access on the Iowa River.

Cherokee County Conservation Board received approval for acquisition of approximately 24 acres at an approximate cost of \$1,000 on the Little Sioux River in the northeast part of the county. Area will be used for boating access, fishing access and picnicking.

Bremer County Conservation Board received approval for development plan for Alcock Park which consists of ten acres on the Wapsipipicon River near Freericksburg to be used for picnicking, camping and playground.

Marion County Conservation Board received approval for development plan for Veterans Park consisting of 120 acres to be used for group camping, overnight family camping and other public uses.

Page County Conservation Board received approval for a development plan for 65 acres which includes 25 acres for public usage and the balance will be maintained as a forest area located near Clarinda.

Story County Conservation Board received approval for a development plan for the Zearns Pond area which included improvement of existing facilities.

Linn County Conservation Board received approval for a development plan for Matsell Bridge area which will be used for fishing, boat launching and parking.

The Commission authorized the Director to sign an agreement and recommend it to the Executive Council for approval for management by Benton County of the Minne Estema area. This area 60 acres lies along the Cedar River.

Fish and Game

The Fish and Game Chief gave a report on a request for a management agreement by the city of Creston for Summit Lake. No action was taken.

The Chief of Fish and Game was authorized to spend \$100 for an labor in the James Bay area to assist in a Canadian geese banding project.



George Tovey.

ing is about the fastest way to remove the scales and make them ready for the pan. Start at the tail and saw with the knife just between the layers of skin.

MEAL—

(Continued from page 129)
that make a combination of catfish and river man. The backward hand springs all the way across pool No. 9.

Catfish Chops

Catfish are found in all of Iowa's major waters. In the early summer when catfish spawn they are in excellent condition. The chops are the large ones under the eyes on the gill covers, swollen during the spawning run. With a sharp knife slice the fleshy area and cut it away from the cheek bone. The chops resemble scallops and are more delicious. It may take a lot of fishing to get enough for a meal, but it is well worth it. Fry in flour or corn meal and deep fry until golden brown.

Scored Carp

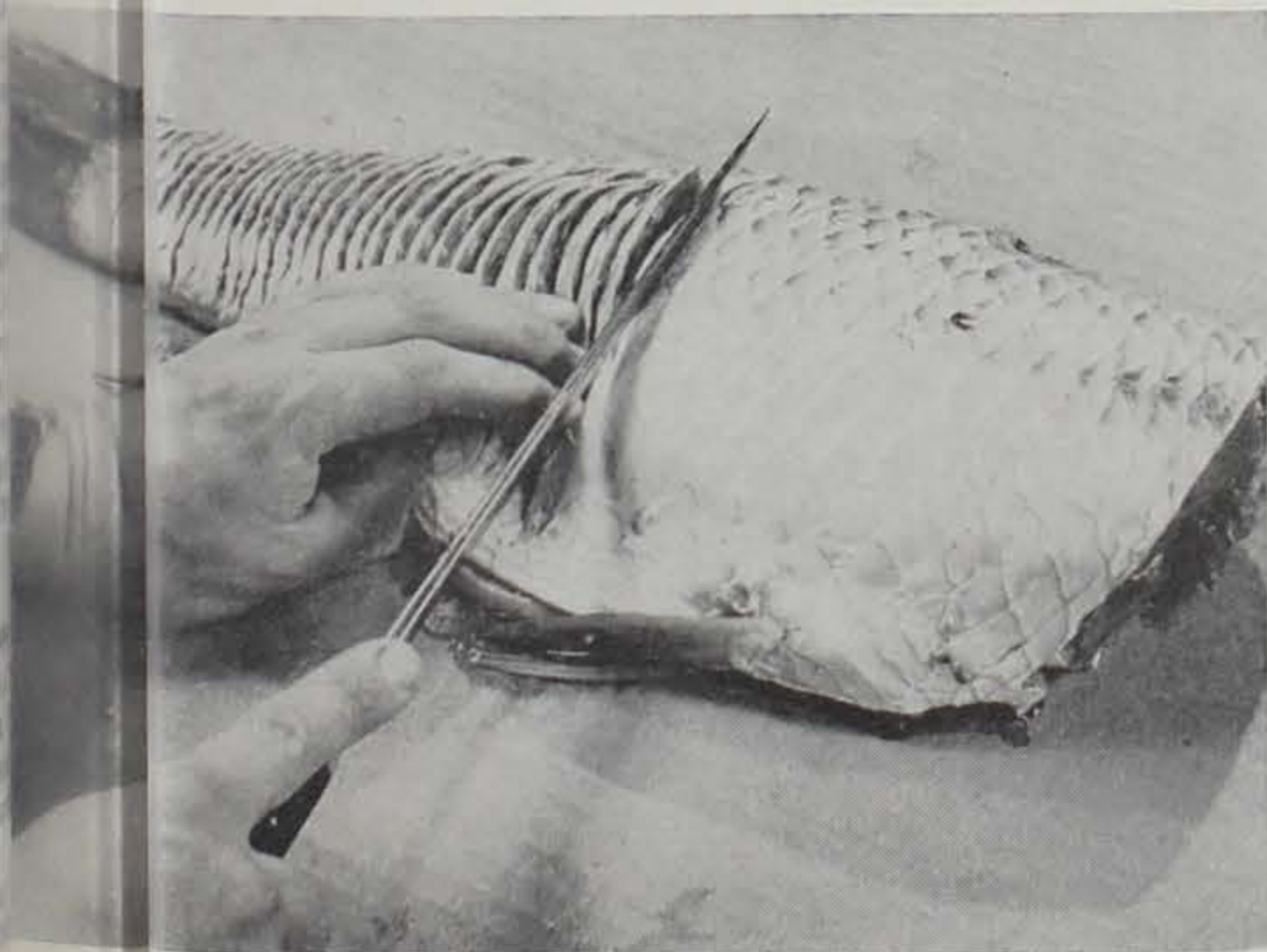
From the Missouri comes a recipe that turns the bugle-mouth bass into a mouth watering meal. Fleece off the scales from a two to four pound carp with a sharp knife after removing the head, entrails, etc. (Fleece-

ing is slicing scales off rather than the usual method of scaling.) Make vertical cuts every $\frac{1}{8}$ inch across the fish's body. Remember to make cuts vertically down through the small forked bones until you hit the main ribs and backbone.

Roll scored carp in your favorite batter and deep fat fry. The hot fat will cook and soften the small forked bones. Give the first carp you catch this spring this treatment and you may change your opinion of which fish tastes best.

An added touch to any mess of fish is a bath of lemon butter. Drop a quarter-pound of butter or oleo into a small frying pan. Melt and boil. Just when it starts turning brown, squeeze a lemon or two into it. Pour the mixture over sizzling hot trout and you'll have your friends raving for more.

Remember, keep your fish dry and cool and cook them as soon as possible after they're caught. A fine catch, whether catfish, carp or trout, deserves the best care possible. You're the one that benefits in the end.



George Tovey Photo.

scoring the carp (this one is a 5 pounder) makes it possible to cook and soften the little forked bones. Slice down to the ribs and backbone with cuts one-eighth inch apart.

FISH-O-METER—

(Continued from page 129)

mouth bass, bluegill, crappie, bullhead, and channel catfish was studied by using a depth marked experimental gill net. This net was 220 feet long and 24 feet deep. At each netting station the net extended well into the oxygenless water, and usually was within four feet of the bottom.

As expected most fish were found above the thermocline. Eighty-seven per cent of the fish were caught above the depth where oxygen contents would not support life. There was a wide variation in the frequency of different species descending into the hypolimnion. Channel catfish and largemouth bass were the least frequent visitors to this level, with 5 and 7.5 per cent of these species captured in the region. Over 30 per cent of the crappies were found in oxygenless waters. There was also a general trend of fish to follow narrow areas in the upper limits of the thermocline and lower limits of the epilimnion (top level). Eighty-five per cent of the fish were found from four to ten feet deep.

At first, the presence of the vast layer of oxygenless water was thought to form a chemical barrier by preventing fish from living any length of time in deeper waters. As the study progressed it became apparent that other factors were also responsible for the void of fish below the thermocline. One of these is undoubtedly a thermal barrier formed by the extreme changes of temperatures in the upper limits of the thermocline. The basal metabolism, or the rate at which the body operates, in a fish is controlled entirely by the environmental temperature. Extreme changes in temperature alter this metabolic rate making the fish very uncomfortable until conditioning is complete. Extreme changes within the thermocline form a temperature barrier in preventing the descent of fish into deeper water.

It would be virtually impossible to direct anglers to the depths at which each individual species of fish is located. Instead, the purpose of predicting the depth distribution of fish is to locate the thermocline and the depth at which oxygen is not sufficient to support life. One important observation was the frequency at which bottom feeding species, such as channel catfish and bullheads, were caught at the point where the thermocline and bottom intersect. This should be important to the anglers in increasing his catch of these fishes. The location of the thermocline will be posted weekly on specially designed directional signs at all boat access to Red Haw Lake.

This study of predicting the depth distribution of fish is based wholly on the belief that the depth at which most fish are located will produce more fish to the sport fisherman. Of course,



Dr. Hendrickson on the job.

Dr. George O. Hendrickson
1890-1961

44 YEARS A BIOLOGIST— CONSERVATIONIST

Conservationists all over the nation were saddened to learn of the death of Dr. George O. Hendrickson this spring. Like many prominent men in the field; Ira Gabrielson, Aldo Leopold, William Hornaday, J. "Ding" Darling, and Alexander Ruthven, he was born in Iowa.

Dr. Hendrickson attended public schools at Buffalo Center. From there he continued on to complete B.A., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at Iowa State University, finishing his formal education in 1929.

In 1925 he accepted an Instructor's position at ISC.

Honor society recognition has been extended to him by Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, and Gamma Sigma Delta.

Over the years the name of Dr. Hendrickson has turned up on various committees of the Wildlife Society, including the Professional Standard Committee of 1945, '47 and '53. He held additional special recognition as an honorary member of the Wildlife Society and was the recipient of a special conservation award from the Izaak Walton League of Iowa.

During his tenure as college professor he exerted much effort on behalf of his 57 graduate students in wildlife and authored many papers and notes that were published in local and national magazines and journals. Many of these concerned the cottontail, one of Iowa's favorite game animals.

the angler must take advantage of this service and try the method. The value of these predictions are difficult to measure. No check of their effectiveness has been made. The three seasons of netting at Red Haw indicate that the predictions are sound and will increase angler success. Isolated instances from friends of the author trying this method show an increase of about 100 per cent in the catch of channel catfish. More important, "Mr. Fisherman," this service is for you. Use it and the results might be pleasantly surprising.

BOATING EAST AND WEST



Jim Sherman Photo.

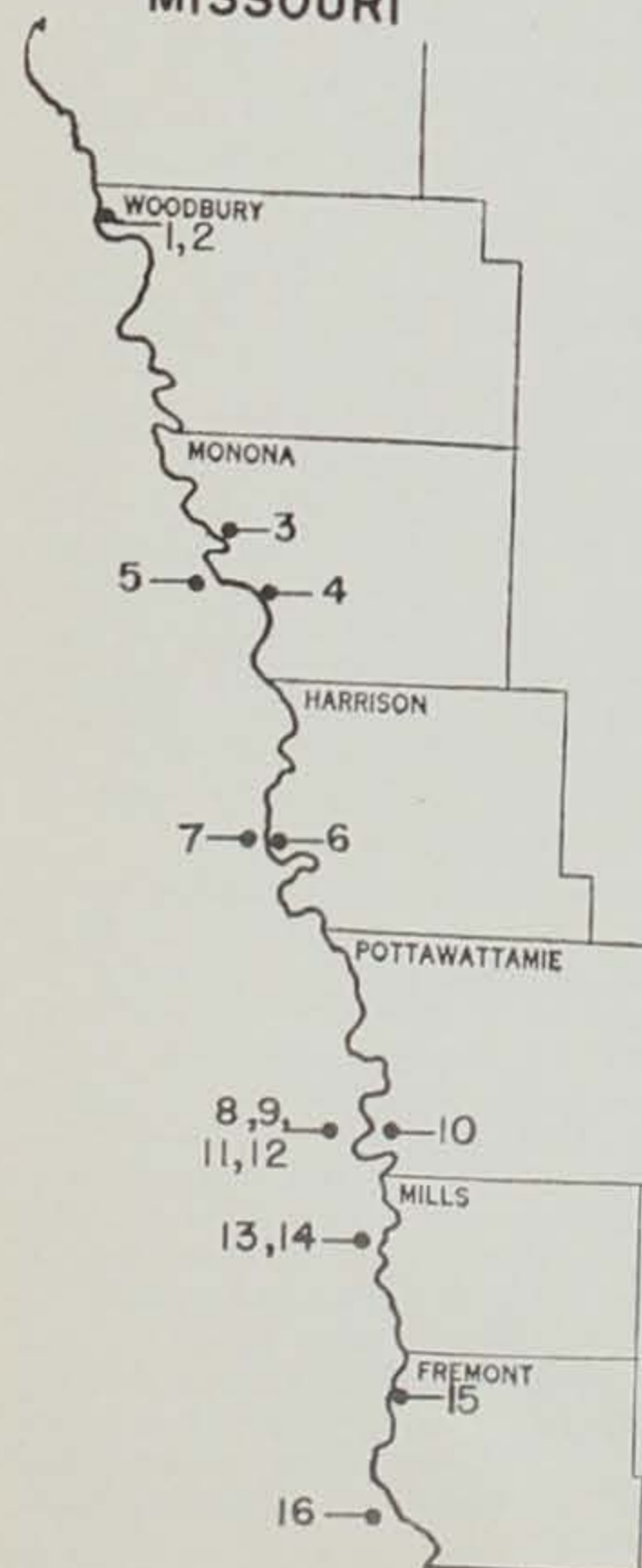
Boating down the "wide Missouri" is an appealing past-time for western Iowans. Revetments on the far shore stabilize the bank and keep the channel in bounds.



Jim Sherman Photo.

A busy day at the Decatur Boat Club marina across the Missouri from Onawa. Development of facilities there has been slower than on the Mississippi, but is increasing.

BOAT ACCESS SITES ON THE MISSOURI



Iowa's two great boundary rivers, the Mississippi and Missouri, lure increasing numbers of water recreationers annually.

Several of Iowa's population centers are located within short travel-time of the Mighty Mo and the Father of Waters. Drove of fishermen, water skiers and vagabond boaters come to the rivers, on week-ends especially, to spend as much time on the water as possible. Some go home disappointed because they wasted a lot of time and burned gallons of gasoline looking for a place to float their boat. These two pages should help the river boaters, in particular those who are new at

the game, to find fast access.

With the advent of reasonably priced boats and outboard motors that can speedily negotiate long stretches of water, a new type of afternoon drive has evolved. At times large groups of motor boaters take off for a day or a whole week end of water touring. A jaunt from Sioux City to Council Bluffs for instance, has opened the eyes of many "western slope" boat owners to the tremendous recreational possibilities available on 125 miles or so of the Missouri. With an occasional stop to stretch the legs and stock up on food, water or fuel, a day on the river goes too fast. Locking through the several Mississippi dams with side

tours on foot to historic sites absorbs many leisure bound Iowans. The 75 boat ramps readily accessible on the eastern shore of the state make river hops in different locations every week thing of ease.

And then there is the water borne angler. He makes more than all others combined of the riverside ramps. On holidays the number of fishing boats going down the ramps would seem to fill the rivers with craft rubbing gunwales, but the endless backwaters and sloughs swallow them up and leave room for more. Perhaps the two major border rivers could most appropriately be called the last frontier—for recreation.

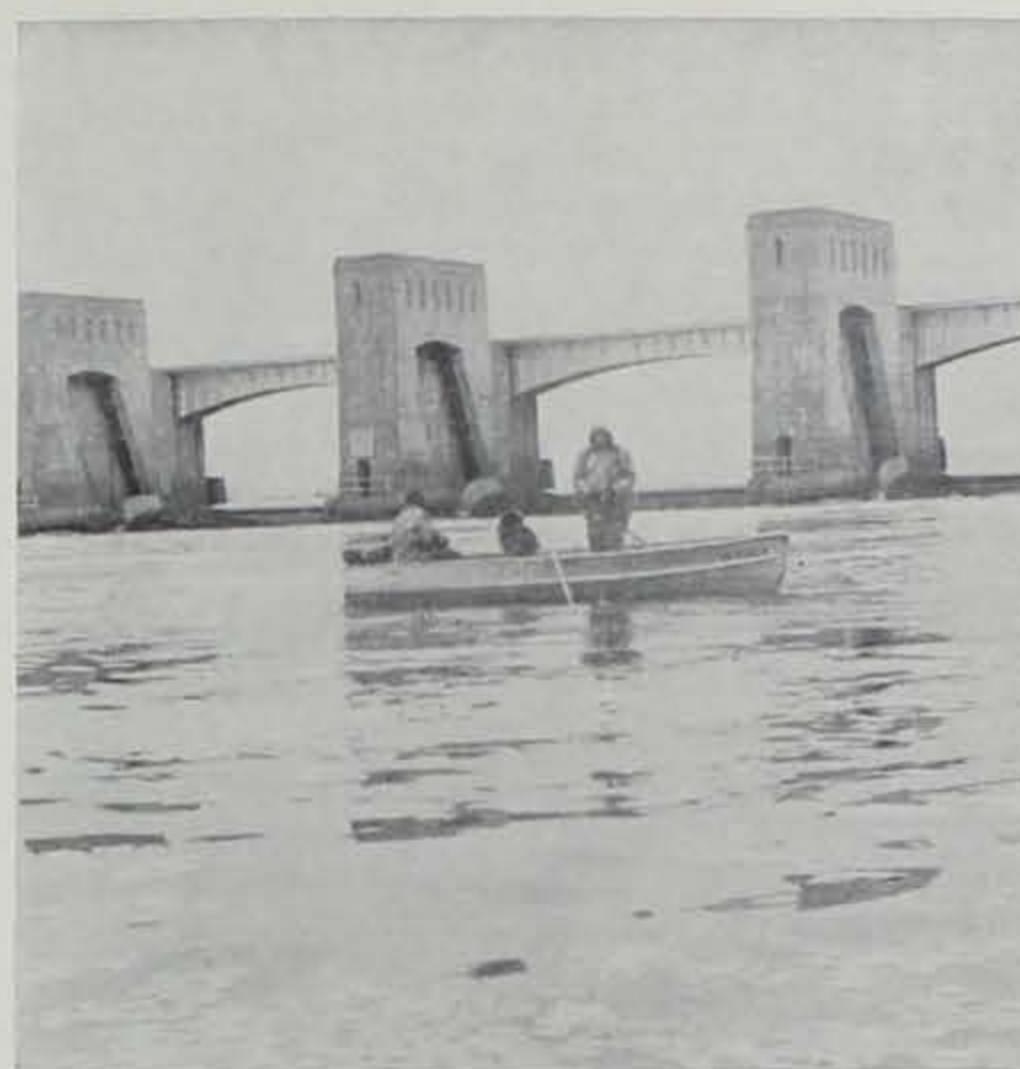
County	Name	Vicinity	Boat Ramp	Gas Oil	Fees
1 Woodbury	Missouri River Boat Club	Sioux City	C. or C.	Yes	No
2 Woodbury	Sioux City Municipal Dock	Sioux City	Public	No	No
3 Monona	Tieville Bend	Onawa	Public	No	No
4 Monona	Middle Decatur	Onawa	Public	No	No
5 Bent (Neb.)	Decatur Boat Club	Decatur (Neb.)	C. or C.	Yes	No
6 Harrison	Missouri Valley Club	Missouri Valley	C. or C.	Yes	Y
7 Washington (Neb.)	Blair Marina	Blair (Neb.)	C. or C.	Yes	Y
8 Washington (Neb.)	North Omaha Marina	Omaha (Neb.)	C. or C.	Yes	Y
9 Douglas (Neb.)	Omaha Boat Club	Omaha (Neb.)	Public	No	No
10 Pottawattamie	Bittnor Marina	Council Bluffs	C. or C.	Yes	No
11 Douglas (Neb.)	Riverside Marina	Omaha (Neb.)	C. or C.	No	No
12 Douglas (Neb.)	Midwest Wonderland	Omaha (Neb.)	C. or C.	Yes	Y
13 Sarpy (Neb.)	Bellevue Boat Club	Bellevue (Neb.)	C. or C.	No	No
14 Sarpy (Neb.)	South Omaha Marina	Bellevue (Neb.)	C. or C.	Yes	Y
15 Fremont	Bartlett Boat Club	Bartlett	C. or C.	No	No
16 Cass (Neb.)	Nebraska City Boat Club	Nebraska City (Neb.)	C. or C.	Yes	No

Public Boat Ramps are state or municipally owned. No charge for use.

C. or C. Boat Ramps are commercial or club owned. Most charge 50c to \$1.00 for use, some are free.

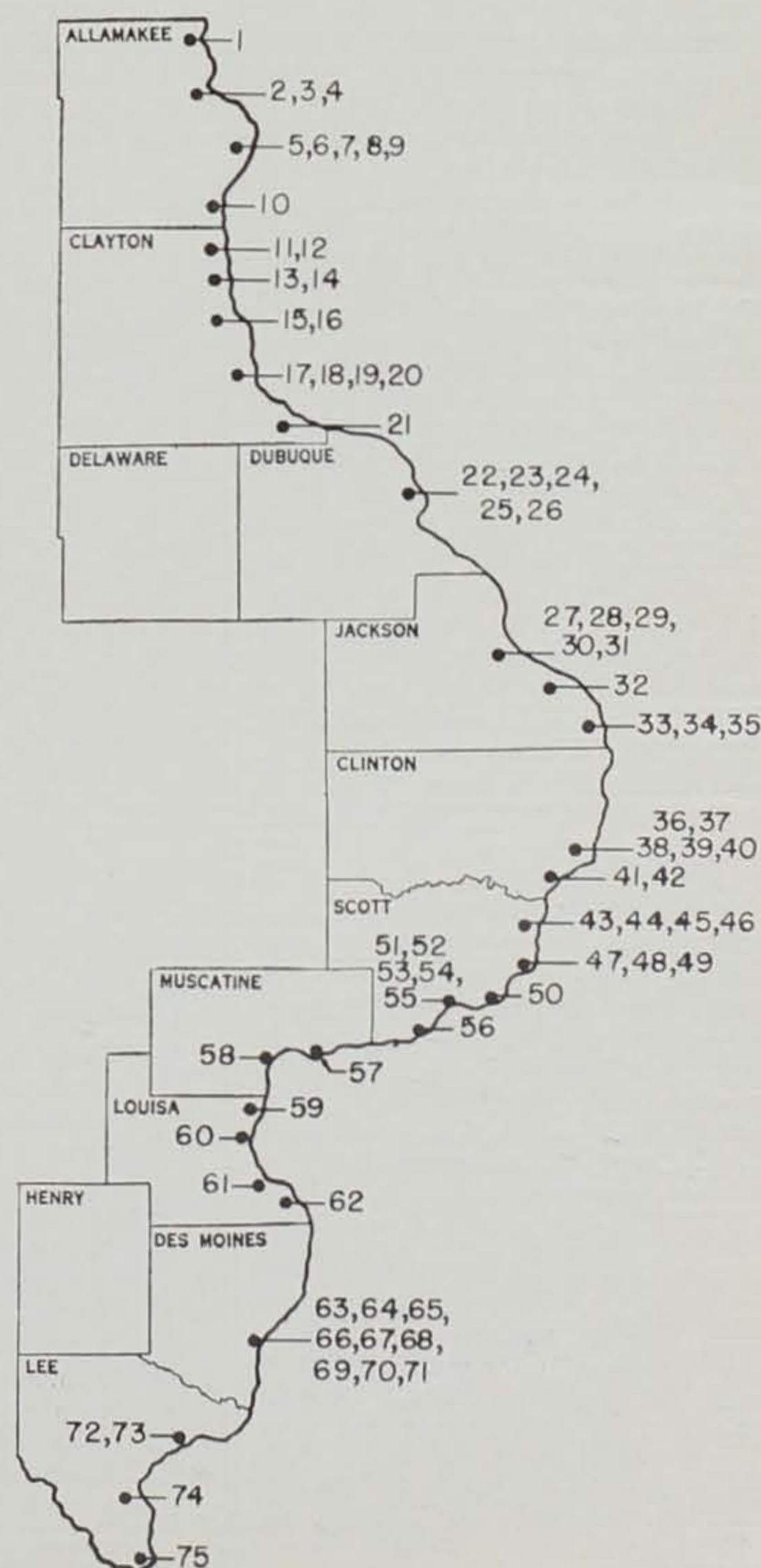
GUIDE TO MISSISSIPPI RIVER BOATING

County	Name	Vicinity	Boat Ramp	Gas Oil	Food
Allamakee	Minnesota Slough	New Albin	Free	No	No
Allamakee	Lansing Marina	Lansing	Free	Yes	No
Allamakee	Lansing City Ramp	Lansing	Free	No	No
Allamakee	State Fish Hatchery	Lansing	Free	No	No
Allamakee	Harpers Boat Landing	Harpers Ferry	Pay	Yes	No
Allamakee	Babe's Boat Landing	Harpers Ferry	Pay	Yes	No
Allamakee	River View Motel	Harpers Ferry	Pay	Yes	No
Allamakee	Taylor's Resort	Harpers Ferry	Pay	Yes	No
Allamakee	Wine's Resort	Harpers Ferry	Pay	Yes	No
Allamakee	Paint Creek Access	Waukon Jct.	Pay	No	No
Clayton	Joe's Landing	Marquette	Pay	Yes	Yes
Clayton	Marquette Boat Landing	Marquette	Pay	Yes	Yes
Clayton	McGregor Public Access No. 1	McGregor	Free	No	No
Clayton	McGregor Public Access No. 2	McGregor	Free	No	No
Clayton	Sny Magill Access	Clayton	Free	No	No
Clayton	Allyn's Landing	Clayton	Free	No	No
Clayton	Guttenberg Public Accesses (two)	Guttenberg	Free	No	No
Clayton	Honey's Boat Dock	Guttenberg	Pay	Yes	Yes
Clayton	Kenny's Boat Landing & Fish Mkt.	Guttenberg	Pay	Yes	No
Clayton	Hansel's Camp	Guttenberg	Pay	Yes	Yes
Clayton	Hefel's Boat Landing	N. Buena Vista	Pay	No	No
Dubuque	Waupeton Access	Dubuque	Pay	Yes	Yes
Dubuque	Mud Lake Access	Dubuque	Free	No	No
Dubuque	Dubuque Marina	Dubuque	Pay	Yes	No
Dubuque	Old City Harbor	Dubuque	Free	No	No
Dubuque	Massey Area	Dubuque	Free	No	No
Jackson	Spruce Creek	Bellevue	Free	No	No
Jackson	I.W.L.A. North Landing	Bellevue	Free	No	No
Jackson	Bellevue Boat Ramp	Bellevue	Free	No	No
Jackson	Schnee's Landing	Bellevue	Pay	Yes	Yes
Jackson	Michael's Landing	Bellevue	Pay	No	No
Jackson	Green Island Public Hunting Area	Green Island	Free	No	No
Jackson	Esmay Slough Landing (I.W.L.A.)	Sabula	Free	No	No
Jackson	City Boat Ramp	Sabula	Free	No	No
Jackson	Sabula City Park	Sabula	Free	No	No
Clinton	Bulger's Hollow	Clinton	Free	No	No
Clinton	Lyons Bridge Access	Clinton	Free	No	No
Clinton	9th Avenue Ramp	Clinton	Free	No	No
Clinton	Anchorage Boat Dock	Clinton	Free	Yes	No
Clinton	Hanson Boat Dock	Clinton	Pay	Yes	Yes
Clinton	8th Avenue Ramp	Camanche	Free	No	No
Clinton	6th Avenue Ramp	Camanche	Free	No	No
Scott	Beuse Boat Club	Princeton	Pay	Yes	Yes
Scott	Davenport Izaak Walton	Princeton	Free	No	No
Scott	Princeton Access	Princeton	Free	No	No
Scott	Al's Dock	Princeton	Pay	Yes	Yes
Scott	LeClaire Access	LeClaire	Free	Yes	Yes
Scott	Green Gables	LeClaire	Pay	Yes	No
Scott	State Conservation Access	LeClaire	Free	No	No
Scott	Bettendorf Boat Dock	Bettendorf	Free	No	No
Scott	Quad City Marine	Davenport	Pay	Yes	No
Scott	Davenport Boat Club	Davenport	Pay	Yes	No
Scott	Harbor Ranch	Davenport	Pay	Yes	Yes
Scott	Credit Island	Davenport	Free	No	No
Scott	Inland Harbor	Davenport	Pay	Yes	No
Scott	City of Buffalo Landing	Buffalo	Free	No	No
Muscatine	Public Use Facility	Fairport	Free	No	No
Muscatine	Muscatine Levee Landing	Muscatine	Free	No	No
Louisa	Public Use Facility	Muscatine	Free	No	No
Louisa	Port Louisa Access	Wapello	Free	No	No
Louisa	Toolesboro Access	Toolesboro	Free	No	No
Louisa	Public Use Facility	Oakville	Free	No	No
Des Moines	Jacoby's Landing	Burlington	Free	No	No
Des Moines	Tama Beach Access	Burlington	Free	No	No
Des Moines	Meyer Marina	Burlington	Pay	Yes	Yes
Des Moines	Hawkeye Boat Harbor	Burlington	Pay	Yes	No
Des Moines	Yetter's Marina	Burlington	Pay	Yes	Yes
Des Moines	Municipal Boat Landing	Burlington	Free	No	No
Des Moines	Sportman Boat House	Burlington	Pay	Yes	No
Des Moines	Cascade Boat Landing	Burlington	Pay	No	No
Des Moines	Sourwine Landing	Burlington	Free	No	No
Lee	Ft. Madison Municipal Boat Landing	Fort Madison	Free	No	No
Lee	Sanford Boat Harbor	Fort Madison	Pay	Yes	No
Lee	Montrose Boat Harbor	Montrose	Free	No	No
Lee	Howard's Boat Dock	Keokuk	Pay	No	No



Jim Sherman Photo.

The many access points along the Mississippi cut travel time to the favored fishing waters to a minimum. A good choice for walleyes is below this immense roller dam at Lynxville.

BOAT ACCESS
SITES ON THE
MISSISSIPPI

A LETTER OF MERIT

Part of a note to Director Powers from a Marshalltown grandmother who "just had to say these things."

... Another subject that I'd like to bring up at this time while writing you, is our need for wooded sections directly outlying our communities, where our youth can go on hikes, Saturdays and during the summer vacation days, to explore nature on their own. Lucky is the boy or girl who has access to a wooded section of wild nature close to his community where he can go and observe. They need this experience as youngsters to explore woods, to roam about and collect treasures—to observe the different wildflowers and also see them growing and flourishing in their own natural setting. Thereby a child learns about the different type soils in which a plant either flourishes or dies, seeking their own answer, directly from observation.

Then to observe wildlife in their natural habitat. A child's first contact with wildlife is often a very exciting experience. It makes a child suddenly aware of the fascinating world around him, completely independent of man. Each species working out its own individual survival oblivious of human existence. Unlike facts it cannot be taught from books, but must arise from childhood experiences which stimulate a spirit of inquiry and gradually give a youngster confidence in his own ability to observe the phenomena of nature accurately and to reason from facts so obtained.

One of the highlights of my youth in early spring was the indescribable thrill we received hiking off to some woods on the edge of Marshalltown known as "Sloppy's Pasture," to explore and gather the wildflowers which always grew in such abundance there. On Linn Creek winding through the land we could observe where the beavers built their dams. My brother used to set traps along the creek evenings to catch them, or rather he always dreamt of catching one, but I don't remember that he ever did.

My own children loved to go down and do practically the same things we did, but that favorite spring haunt is gone forever. The land was taken into the city limits and housing areas have taken over. Now it is a mass of small one story houses that all look alike with practically no yard and no trees. They call it progressiveness!

Now my grandchildren, all nine of them, will never know the thrill we as children experienced, hiking to Sloppy's Pasture. Multiply that one wooded section, by what is happening all over our country, to our few remaining local wooded areas. Is it any wonder that some of our children in the large cities are bent on destruction, cruelty and other forms of juvenile delinquency?

Many of them may have never known favorite haunts as I described, truly worth while things that money cannot buy once they are gone. God made things that are priceless. If we do not fight now for the preservation of America's outdoor heritage it will be too late by the time our grandchildren grow up.

Because of the growing demand for land, the need for immediate action is critical. In the case of many areas it is either now or never! One man with a tractor can plow an acre of prairie in a matter of minutes. A crew with modern chain saws can fell an acre of timber in a few hours. And though we try a thousand years we cannot fully restore either prairie or virgin forest.

I believe it is the duty of every community in the state to acquire the few remaining areas adjoining them which can be bought outright, or presented to the county by gift. Then they can be set up and protected by the community as areas of special interest for our young people or established as memorials. *Every day wasted is an acre lost!* . . . Mrs. Dewey Jacobson, Marshalltown, Iowa.

YOUNG IOWANS RESPOND TO HUNTING SAFETY PROGRAM

Malcolm K. Johnson

Hunter safety training, sponsored by the State Conservation Commission, is snowballing through Iowa. The system was reorganized last fall and since that time some 1,440 new students have been certified as safe hunters in the 81 counties that have qualified instructors.

A few communities had a head start. Keosauqua down in Van Buren County is a good example. About six years ago a boy in that town of 1,100 asked George Carnahan, a local NRA instructor, to teach him how to handle a rifle. A year later George had 60 boys and girls under his supervision. By this year more than 300 had been certified and 138 youngsters are now undergoing training. The course taught there is about as complete as could be desired. The first things the students learn are the "Ten Commandments of Gun Safety" and the "Conservation Pledge." They progress through the basic rifle course, safe hunting

techniques, and, if desired, shotgun training.

Some of the more advanced students even learn the mathematics and mechanics of reloading shotgun shells; the grains, drama grams and ounces of powder and shot and the correct proportions for various gauges and loads. All of the loading operations are of course done only when the instructors are on hand to see that the boys and girls make no mistakes.

Coed

Gun safety is coeducational. Between 30 and 40 young ladies have been trained so far in the Keosauqua vicinity and several more will be certified this summer. They learn the same safe habits and methods of handling rifles and shotguns from Naomi Pfeiffer, bookkeeper at the creamery. The girls often give the boys real competition on the firing line.

Elsewhere in Iowa

At the time of this writing, Carroll County leads the rest of the state with 250 certified safe hunters. Marshall County is next with Cass County trailing close by. The secretary-treasurer of the Carroll Rifle Club wrote in and made a very pointed comment on his feelings about the program. Instructor Wilbur Pluckhahn said, "All of our instructors have put a lot of volunteer work into it (the program) but when a boy's dad tells you that he would rather hunt with his son than some older men it makes you feel that you are accomplishing a good deal."

Wilfrid Macheak, game warden in Winnebago County, recently reported, "I am proud to say that we will have a hunter-safety program in the school curriculum of all schools in the county." He had just finished setting up an instructor's course for the whole county with some schools sending as many as four teachers.

The Community Benefits

Park Officer Skip Sapp of the Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, adjoining the town of Keosauqua, helps train the young shooters in his spare time. When asked what effect he could see that came from teaching proper gun handling he replied, "In most state parks the kids from nearby towns are responsible for the vandalism that goes on. In Lacey Keo, the kids come and tell me if something is being damaged. They know that the park is theirs too."

The gun safety students and graduates behave themselves. Since training began none of them has been involved in shooting tombstones, electrical insulators, etc. That type of vandalism does occur, but other juveniles are at fault. Adults of the town were found in need of training after they had used signs behind the rifle range to sight-in their shotguns for the shotgun deer season.

At Keosauqua the students receive 12 to 15 hours of classroom

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WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH



Bloodroot
Sanquinaria canadensis

Beckoned up from the warmed earth on hill slopes by a few days of sunlight, bloodroot blooms with hepatica in April and May. They often appear in colonies along the edge of thickets and in open woodland glades. Each plant has a single flower an inch or two across of from eight to twelve delicate white petals. The center of the blossom is composed of many golden-yellow stamens.

On first glance a distinguishing feature of the flower is its square appearance. Normally four of the petals are longer than the rest and with little imagination you can make out a square. A scalloped gray-green leaf enfolds the stem below the flower.

The common and scientific names for this plant come from the bright orange-red juice contained in the thick root. This bitter sap is poisonous, affecting the heart, nervous system, and muscles of animals as well as humans. Bloodroot has been reported as the cause of a few deaths.

The flower stalks generally stain the hand that pick them with a sap used by the Indians for paint and dyes.

ING NECKS INVADE SOUTHEAST IOWA

Malcolm K. Johnson

Duke's mixture of 680 pheasants were uncaged last March in northwest Jefferson County near Fairfield. This is the first such restocking made in that section of the state and is an experimental effort to see if the lower limit of the pheasant range can be pushed southward on that side of the state. Several years ago two islands of extremely high numbers of ring-necks developed in the area near Greenfield in Adair County and Grinnell in Poweshiek County. They were the first break-throughs for southern Iowa and caused minor sensations. Before that time the southern border of the wood pheasant range was generally accepted as U. S. highway 30.

Following the example of the bird that did so well near Greenfield, a stocking site of similar topography was chosen on the eastern quarter in one of the seven counties that has never had an open season on pheasants. The broad upland separating the Snake River and Big Cedar Creek exhibited the same general features as the Greenfield salient. Accordingly, the 277 proud roosters and 103 hens were set free near several points of good cover. At the time of stocking only one bird failed to make it; a hen dropped in front of a farm dog that promptly ran her down. This sort

of thing wouldn't have happened if she had a day to recover from the trip down from Boone and the wing brails that bound their wings during the winter. All of these pheasants were kept in a 13 acre open roofed pen with one wing folded by a leather strap. Feed and cover conditions were natural so that they would be better able to adapt to the stocking area. The birds that survived this type of confinement are as sturdy as can be produced.

This batch of birds was hatched in the spring of 1960 from parents that came from practically every section of Iowa plus some from Wisconsin. Future releases will be made on similar type areas with young birds descended from Greenfield stock. The Mount Pleasant area in Henry County is scheduled for next year's attempt to solve the low population problem.

Still a Mystery

As yet, biologists have no conclusive answers for the pheasant's failure to reproduce in southern counties. Adult birds stocked outside the range boundary seem to survive normally, so poaching and predators have little bearing on the case. The favored theory now relates to higher temperatures prevailing in the lower half of the state during the nesting period. The pheasant hens normally lay an egg a day until she's dropped

six to twelve and between times leaves the nest. According to the high temperature concept, in southern latitudes the eggs begin to incubate before the hen actually starts to set on them. After commencing incubation with heat from the sun and then exposed to cool periods the embryo supposedly dies. All this goes on unrealized by the poor hens who are merely performing hereditary physical functions. The key or solution to this would seemingly be to find a strain that nests before the onset of high daily heat. In other words, the hens would have to make an adjustment in their timing that would account for the change in latitude. Perhaps this may be the case with the pheasants that have done so well in the Greenfield vicinity. At the very least, this could be a partial answer.

Another theory that has withstood the strain of time is the lack of grit with a high calcium content. The best and good pheasant ranges in Iowa lie vaguely in the area covered by Wisconsin and Iowan glaciation. (See April, 1961 issue, page 124.) Outside of this region the land has been exposed to leaching for many more thousands of years and as a consequence the soil in many instances is less rich in calcium than farther north. A related idea that could bear on the problem is that proper amounts of the trace elements such as iron, copper, magnesium,

manganese, zinc, and cobalt may not be available. Likewise the quality of the natural foods has been questioned.

All the foregoing and probably other factors are partially or wholly responsible for the few pheasants in southeast Iowa. At some future date Conservation Commission biologists expect to crack this tough nut. In the meantime, people in Jefferson County are mighty happy to hear those proud cocks cackle and hope they'll beget more of their kind.

BURLS AND OTHER UNUSUAL WOODS

Mann and Thompson

Wood worked by the hands of skilled craftsmen puts a wealth of quiet beauty into our daily lives. The warm glow of natural wood in different shades and forms invites the touch and a home without it seems drab and artificial. Most carpenters and amateur handy men are happy to work with straight boards with straight grain sawed from perfect logs. In contrast, the finest panelling, cabinet work, art objects in wood are made from parts of the tree which are ordinarily discarded. The crooked grain in stumps and logs with knots of crotches yield fanciful patterns when turned on a lathe or cut into veneer. So does the twisted grain in trees crippled by old injuries and in the tumorous or abnormal growths called burls.

Sometimes a burl is defined as an enlarged bump growing on a tree trunk and sometimes as almost any unusual woody growth. They are found occasionally on a wide variety of trees. Certain large galls or burls on oaks follow a chronic fungus infection. On other trees they seem to result from injuries, burns or continuous irritation. In most cases the causes are not understood.

Many kinds of trees produce the lumpy swellings called burls but those of the redwood may be six or eight feet thick and weigh thousands of pounds. Their heavy hard dark wood is figured with a fantastic grain. Like the potato with its eyes, a burl contains buds. A small one from the redwood placed in a dish of water will send up a ferny sprout.

Black walnut and black cherry burls are highly prized both because of the rich colors of their woods and because of their weirdly distorted grain. This is produced by innumerable buds that failed to develop, giving a bird's-eye effect. Rare sugar maple logs—perhaps only one in a hundred or a thousand—show the exceptional curly or bird's-eye pattern in the grain.

Tastes in woods change like fashions in hats. Pine boards full of knots and cypress boards full of holes, once worthless, now bring high prices for panelling in dens and rumpus rooms.—Cook County Forest Preserve.



George Tovey Photo.

the coop, a pair of squawking cock pheasants test their flight power for the first time on the way to freedom in Jefferson County. The stocking site is outside of the normal range, but deemed best to maintain the birds and expand the territory.

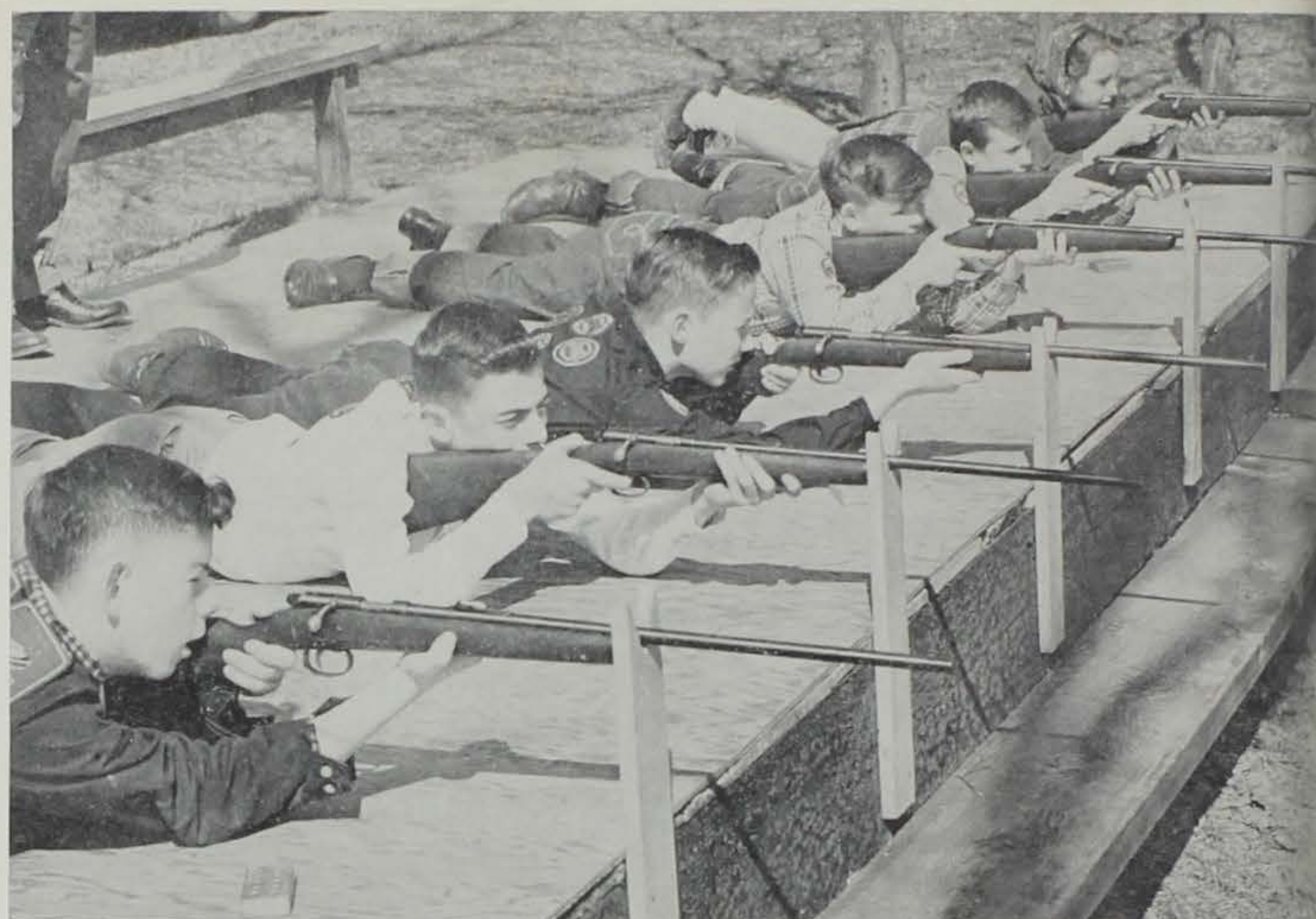
HUNTER SAFETY—

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work plus the time spent on the firing range. They shoot at the range only when supervised by adults and must have written permission from the parents before they are allowed to fire a gun at the range.

Of course, there is always some resistance to firearms instruction from the standpoint of danger. One mother refused to give her children permission to attend classes and on the meeting night they went sleigh riding and were involved in an accident. When the next class was held they were there and now even "mom" shoots with them on the range.

One principal benefit of the program is that safe shooting habits are infectious. When a youngster is fully trained he is quick to point out errors to his friends and his family. He takes his good habits home with him; home—where a good many accidents result from carelessness. On the rifle range at Keosauqua one day an outdoor session was taking place. Young folks from 10 to 15 years old were firing or waiting their turn. A stranger walked up with a new varmint rifle (telescope and all), laid it on a table, and went to talk to one of the instructors. Several boys walked over to admire the gun, looked at it without laying a hand on it and left. Later one lad asked the man



"Ready on the firing line" . . . and six hunter safety trainees prepare to unleash a barrage of 22 bullets. The community of Keosauqua has been very active in providing equipment and trainers to help their children learn how to be safe with firearms.

if he would please move the weapon as the table was needed. Surprised, the gun-owner asked an instructor, "What's the matter with these kids—not one of them

touched my rifle?" He was told that the students never pick up someone else's gun. "They'll take it if you hand it to them, but only if the action is open," the instructor added.

Who's Responsible

The Keosauqua Junior Rifle Club is sponsored locally by the Beer Barker American Legion Post, guns and supplies are donated by local merchants, and teaching aids and materials come from both the State Conservation Commission and the National Rifle Association. The club is run by an electrician assisted by a park officer and guided by an executive committee of five citizens. The organization operates smoothly and has

received requests from cities in northern Iowa, Illinois and Missouri for advice on how to set up similar clubs.

The leaders of the club are in full agreement with the adage "If you hunt with your boy today, you won't have to hunt for him tomorrow" even if, as has been the case, it's the boy that gets dad interested in hunting and fishing. The whole object of the time and toil involved in training the junior hunters is not to make professional shooters out of them, but to make safe, well-mannered hunters whose sense of competition lies in who is safest rather than who makes the highest score on the target.



This beginning rifleman handled her gun with the assurance and proficiency of a veteran. Responsible adult supervisors should stand by at all times when youngsters are firing.



"Keep that muzzle up" and "never accept a gun unless the action is open" are two cardinal rules obeyed by the junior shooters. Many adults could profit by these thoughts.