

Page 23

May, 1964

No. 5

# This Year, Hike!

## Foot-Trails Revamped for Hikers

Jack Kirstein

can be a happier hiker this year in Iowa's state parks because of a comprehensive program of building new foot-trails and re-working old ones.

In an effort to open new areas to park visitors, and improve the trails already in use, the State Conservation Commission has added a number of new bridges, many miles of new trails, and countless loads of gravel, steps, and handrails to the facilities of the individual parks.

At Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, the lake trail has been extended completely around the lake, and entirely reworked. Some new bridges have been constructed and part of the trail is entirely new, opening up areas that have not been enjoyed by hikers before. The trail is a wooded lake trail which affords a good view of the lake along its route. A new trail has been added from the lower to the upper lodge, also. This is a river trail that follows the Des Moines River and winds through river timber with views of the river itself occasionally veering off into the woods around the horseshoe bend. The total here comes to a whopping eleven miles of trail.

At Waubesa State Park the trails have been reworked along the scenic loess hills for three miles. Here the nature student may find plants normally not found in other areas of the State, such as the locust plant and the paw-paw tree.

The popular Ledges State Park trails of rugged scenic beauty set in limestone bluffs along the upper Des Moines river were also the scene of many repairs and additions. New gravel has been added on edge trails, steps repaired, and new handrails added to help you enjoy this fine park.

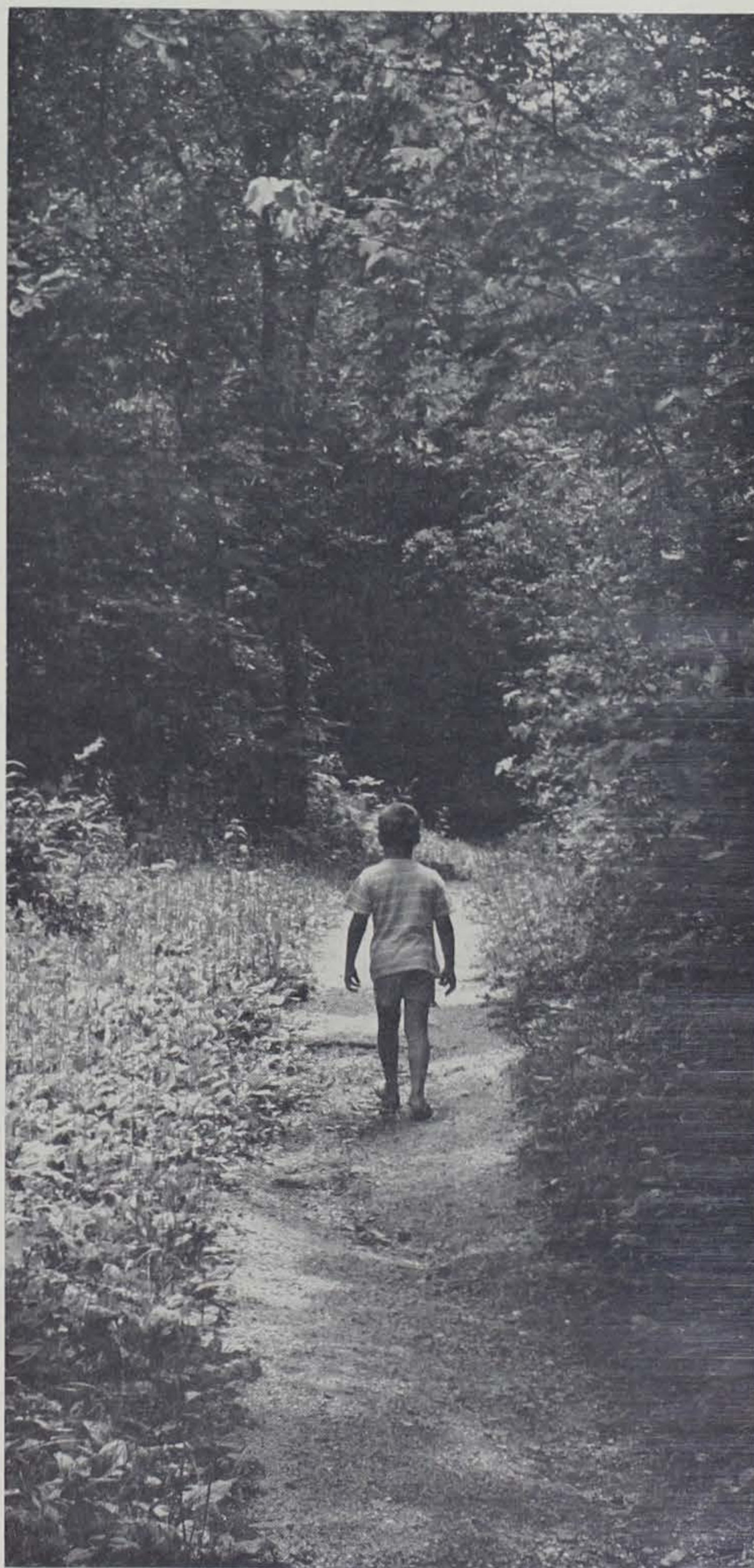
A visitor to Dolliver State Park will find the trail leading to the sandstone beds and the Indian mounds has been reworked and now the hiker can more easily see the interesting trees and plants that grow along the route.

The strange and even mysterious beauty of a walk through Wild-Cat State Park is now available to even the most inexperienced hiker with the addition of new steps and bridges. The trail leading around the Punchbowl and winding down through the dark and often fernbeds has been improved with two new bridges, new steps and much new gravel, to make this trail a memorable event on your hike. Other bridges and trails add fun to your stay at this beautiful State Park.

A trail with good views of the lake, several new bridges, and a completely new section now marks a high point to your trip to Lower Lake State Park. A prime beauty spot, this lake boasts an island which adds its touch to the scenic views available here.

Pikes Peak, a new trail is now being added to make it easier to hike from Bridal Falls to the area up around the Indian Mounds. The trail should be open to the public by late spring. Also at this park, completed, is a trail along the Mississippi river with high overlooks and wide breath-taking views of this mighty waterway. From these overlooks you can see the pleasure boats and barges moving up and down the stream. New steps, gravel, and a new bridge are features of this trail.

In many other parks have been a part of the concentrated effort to improve the foot-trails for the benefit of the park visitor. If you haven't taken a walk through one of these parks lately, you can enjoy it more this year. Why not plan to see them all, and take the family.



Jack Kirstein Photo.



**Iowa Conservationist**

Vol. 23 May, 1964 No. 5

Published monthly by the State Conservation Commission, East 7th and Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50308. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579, manuscripts, mail items) to above address. Subscription price: two years at \$1.00.

Second class postage paid at Des Moines, Iowa (No Rights Reserved)

HAROLD E. HUGHES, Governor  
E. B. SPEAKER, Director  
JAMES R. SHERMAN, Editor  
DENNIS L. REHDER, Managing Editor  
TOM BALLARD, CAROL BUCKMANN,  
JACK KIRSTEIN, Contributing Editors

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

EARL E. JARVIS, Chairman, Wilton Junction  
SHERRY R. FISHER, Vice Chairman

Des Moines  
ROBERT E. BEEBE, Sioux City  
N. K. KINNEY, Ida Grove  
LAURENCE N. NELSON, Bellevue  
ED WEINHEIMER, Greenfield  
MIKE F. ZACK, Mason City  
CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE 52,000

**COMMISSION MINUTES**

April 7, Des Moines

**COUNTY CONSERVATION**

Benton County received approval for the acquisition of 70 acres as an addition to the Wild Cat Bluff Area to provide additional access to the Cedar River and to enlarge the camping and picnicking facilities in the area, at a total cost of \$6,300.

Cherokee County received approval for the acquisition of 14 acres of land at a total cost of \$1,000 along the Little Sioux River in the south-central part of the county to be called the Pearse-Little Sioux access area to be used primarily as a fishing access area.

Delaware County received approval for the acquisition of 42.49 acres of land at a total cost of \$1,700 for the establishment of an outdoor recreation area overlooking the Maquoketa River to be used for camping, picnicking, and scenic value and to be called Hard Scrabble Park.

Des Moines County received approval for the acquisition of 10 acres of land at a total cost of \$1.00 to be called Chautauqua Park located near Mediapolis and to be used for picnicking, camping, nature study and forest arboretum.

Floyd County received approval for the acquisition of two acres of land through a management agreement with the Iowa State Highway Commission for use as a highway safety rest area located seven miles southeast of Charles City on Highway No. 218.

Greene County received approval for the acquisition of two acres of land through a ten-year lease for the purpose of establishing wildlife cover.

Hardin County received approval for the acquisition of 35 acres of land at a total cost of \$3,500 as an addition to the Mann Wilderness Area to be used as a native hardwood timber preserve.

Monroe County received approval for the acquisition of 40 acres of land at a total cost of \$2,800 located adjacent to the State-owned Miami Lake Project in that county and to be used for picnicking and camping areas.

Polk County requested permission to acquire 137 acres of land at a total cost of \$37,587 as an addition to the Chichaqua Wildlife Habitat Area. This request was returned for re-evaluation and re-study of this development.

Black Hawk County received approval for a development plan for Thunderwoman Park which would include a school forest plot and facilities for picnicking, camping and fishing access.

Cherokee County received approval for a development plan for the Barnes-Little Sioux Area, primarily as a fishing access.

Cherokee County received approval for a revised development plan for the Marin-Little Sioux Area which would include picnicking, camping, hiking and a scenic overlook.

Cherokee County received approval for a revised development plan for the Nelson-Little Sioux Area, which would be used primarily for picnicking and fishing access.

Delaware County received approval for a development plan for the Delaware Township Forest and Hunting Area to be used primarily as a forest preserve and public hunting area.

Fayette County received approval for development plan for Dutton's Cave Park which would include picnicking, fishing, and general recreation use.

Floyd County received approval for a development plan for the U. S. Highway 218 Safety Rest Area.

Greene County received approval for a development plan for a Farmer-County Cooperative Wildlife Habitat Area, to be planted by the county board and maintained by the owner.

Hancock County received approval for a development plan for Concord Park located in the ghost town of Concord primarily to be used for picnicking and camping.

Hardin County received approval for a development plan for Steamboat and Tower Rock Park primarily for picnicking, camping and fishing access.

Jackson County received approval for a development plan for the Duck Creek Camping Area to be used primarily for camping and picnicking by boaters with access to be from the river only.

Marshall County received approval for a development plan for the Fair Grounds County Park which will be used in conjunction with the Marshall County Fair Board and as a headquarters area for the Marshall County Conservation Board and for picnicking throughout the year.

Marshall County received approval for a development plan for the C. D. Coppock County Park which would be used for picnicking and camping.

Winnebago County received approval for development plan for the Grant Township Fishing Area to be used primarily for fishing and

hunting with limited facilities for small picnics.

Worth County received approval for a development plan for the Deer Creek Highway Safety Area on State Highway 105.

Worth County received approval for the Turvold Woods development plan which provides for its use as a forest preserve, game habitat area and public shooting ground.

Polk County requested approval of a revised development plan for the Chichaqua Wildlife Habitat Area and this plan was returned for re-study and re-evaluation.

Ida County received approval for a development plan for the Arrowhead Pioneer Park.

**Fish and Game**

Approval was given for two options totaling three and one-half acres at a cost of \$1,000 per acre on the Shore line of Storm Lake called Bel Air Access and the Outlet Access.

An option for five acres, located adjacent to Brown's Slough, in Lucas County, was accepted at a total cost of \$175.

Approval was given a contract for construction work at the Clear Lake Fish Hatchery to the Percy Construction Company at a total cost of \$52,756.

A delegation from Wapello asked through their spokesman, Fred Schwob, that the level of Lake Odessa be maintained at the same level which has been established for the past several years.

A report was given by the Superintendent of Fisheries on the trout program for the coming season and it was moved and passed that measures be adopted to maintain the trout program at the same level as last year.

**Lands and Waters**

A construction permit was approved for the Universal Atlas Cement Company to construct cement barge unloading facilities on the Mississippi River at Bettendorf.

A construction permit on East Okoboji Lake for a boat ramp extension by Leonard Nelson was denied.

Approval was given for a construction permit to Darrell D. Anderson for replacing a seawall on Lake Manawa.

A construction permit was granted to the Muscatine Board of Water & Light Trustees to build coal barge unloading facilities on the Mississippi River at Muscatine.

Approval was given to Paul Freeman to place gravel on the Lakeshore of East Okoboji Lake.

Approval was given to a condemnation award of \$26,666 for a 156.78 acres of land and \$800 to a lessee for damages for the Lake Anita site in Cass County.

Approval was given to an option for an addition in the Yellow River Forest at \$40 per acre for an area which will total 25 to 28 acres.

Belle Fountaine Levee landown-

**Olin Reprints Game Booklet**

Olin-Mathieson has reprinted their entire series of annual game booklets and now have them available with the newest booklet in series, "Gray and Fox Squirrels." The set is available from Olin East Alton, Illinois, at \$1.00 booklet. The series includes: "Cottontail Rabbit," "The Mallard," "The White-Tailed Deer," "Ring-Necked Pheasant," and "Gray and Fox Squirrels."

Olin's publications "Principles of Game Management" and "For Young Hunter" will continue to be offered free of charge.

ers were given a permit to riprap the shoreline of the Des Moines River in Mahaska County near Highway 92.

The Commission met with a delegation from Creston to discuss the use of water from Green Valley Lake.

**General**

Approval was given for travel to the Rural Area Development Program Workshop at Omaha, Nebraska; the Missouri Basin Agency Committee meeting at Bennett Springs, Missouri; a regional public relations meeting at Rapid City, South Dakota.

Approval was given to a change in Policy No. 65 which would allow the Director and staff to apply leave of absence by the employee of the Commission.

Approval was given for the hiring of an Assistant Superintendent of Enforcement and four supervisors for the enforcement section and one additional supervisor for the Park Section.

Approval was given for construction of a diversion wall in water near the California Chemical Plant near Fort Madison.

A report on the current Highway Safety Training Program given by Commissioner S. Fisher of Des Moines and the mission passed a resolution reaffirming its support of the Highway Safety Training Program.

The Chief of Administration instructed to include an indemnification clause in future construction permits.

A report was given by Director Everett Speaker concerning a proposed program by the California Chemical Company to alleviate pollution in the Mississippi River.

The Commission wrote a letter of appreciation to the State Game Committee thanking them for initiating a windbreak improvement in Iowa.

A report was received from Superintendent of Game Control tree removal and game management on the Oppedahl Tract Palo Alto County.

The Chief of Lands of Vicksburg gave a report concerning a game workshop to be held at Macbride by the State University of Iowa.



# WARM WEATHER BOWBENDING

Tom Ballard

may think that walking woodland trails and shooting paper targets is a sport for the "old codgers" or "pansies," but you won't continue to think that way after you have given it a try yourself.

If you are an unswerving bowhunter who wouldn't be caught dead and quivered on "one of those field range things," you are missing some realistic hunting experience and a wealth of hunting enjoyment spoken in your native archery language.

If you don't know the first thing about the fun of shooting a field, or animal round, give yourself a break and try it soon.

The modern, approved field archery emphasizes SAFETY first and secondly shooting fun for the family. Don't be surprised to see anywhere from three to a hundred archers shooting a single day. An increasing number of Iowans are enjoying field archery.

A field archery range is set up to simulate hunting conditions for the shooter. Most courses are set up with either 14 or 28 targets at a variety of ranges from thirty to eighty yards to test your

target is called the "80 yard walk-up." You shoot the standard arrows at this target, too, from 80 yards, one from 70 and 50. This will be a test for you if you experienced bowbender. All four shots are on a target, usually with trees, of

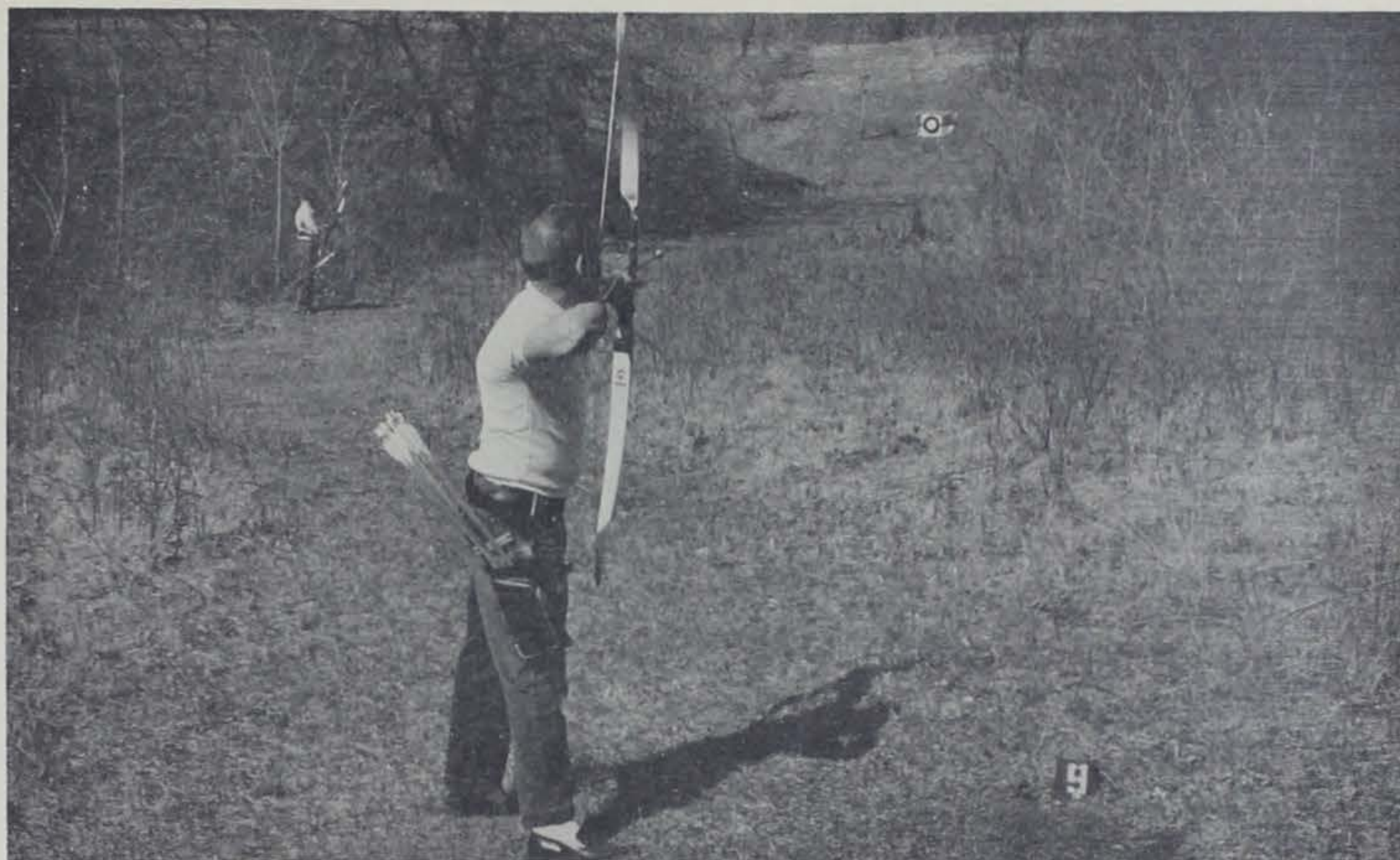
different target sizes (6, 12, and 24 inch diameters) in the variety of images that you will encounter on a good field archery range. Trees, hills, gullies, an open creek, and many other objects can make a thirty yard target resemble eighty yards or vice versa.

If you are a little bashful about competing, forget it. You won't be shooting against the pros, you will be slinging arrows with archers of your own level.

Think the field archers in the classes have more fun. They don't worry about each shot and they shoot for the fun of it and the "ball." This is what you will find a few years from now when you are watching the best shoot.

There are classes for scores of 75, 250, 325, and 400 for 28 arrows.

An animal round is the nearest to actual bowhunting experience available to the archer. Silhouettes or pictures are on the target faces and the archers may have to kneel to shoot through a crotch or to hit the "vital" area for



Jack Kirstein Photo.

Simulation of actual hunting experience is one of the big attractions of field archery. This target is an "80-yard walk-up" where the shooter fires from four stations at varying distances along the way.

top score. Three arrows per target for this round. (Only one, if you hit on the first shot.)

If you don't have an archery club in your local community, join one in a nearby town or get your bowbending buddies together and start your own club. With a little organization and some hard work, a small group can have a very fine, safe field range, do-it-yourself style. Needed assistance is available through any of the national or state archery organizations.

String up your favorite bow and join in on this popular outdoor Iowa sport.

## NOTICE

"Reminders" are being sent to those subscribers who forgot to renew their subscription to the CONSERVATIONIST. Please disregard this renewal notice if you have already sent us your remittance. We must receive your renewal before the twentieth of the month or you will miss an issue.

Not even the teeming myriads of antelopes, zebras, wildebeests and other grazing animals of southern Africa approached the multitudes of bison and antelope of colonial America.

The mammals are an extremely ancient division of the animal kingdom. They probably developed from reptilelike ancestors in the early Triassic period—about 200 million years ago.

Buffalo, wild sheep and goats have true horns which are never shed and which are not branched. Horns are present on both sexes.

## Fundamentals of Fly Fishing—Part IV

### Spring Fishing—The Walleyes

Bill Tate

Asst. Supt. of Fisheries

Fly fishing for walleyes is usually an early and late proposition. The normal movement pattern of the walleye in lakes includes an on-shore excursion at dusk which may extend through several hours of darkness, and another movement toward shore very early in the morning. The hottest fishing is in channels leading to sloughs or bays at the time the fish are moving into shallow water to feed. They are also attracted to rocky points, beaches, and weed beds by the numerous small fish and insects that are in those areas.

Streamer flies and bucktails are effective for walleyes. A sinking fly line is almost a necessity for walleyes. The fly should be allowed to sink to bottom before starting the retrieve. The retrieve should be very slow. A jerk and pause retrieve is usually best. Schools of minnows or small perch are usually attracted to water running into a lake, and walleyes invade these inlets to feed on these small fish.

In June and July, when the large burrowing May flies are hatching, walleyes go on a feeding spree. They feed on the nymphs as they swim to the surface to emerge and they feed on the newly emerged fly during the few seconds it takes for their wings to harden to support their weights in flight. These large may flies can be spotted as a hatch starts. Light colored streamers or bucktails, 1 to 1½ inches

long can be used to catch walleye during these hatches. The may fly nymphs are swimming up from the bottom to emerge, and the artificial fly should take a similar course. The fly should be allowed to sink a few feet after the cast, then retrieved toward the surface. During the height of a May fly hatch, walleyes and other fish go crazy and most any light colored lure or fly will take fish.

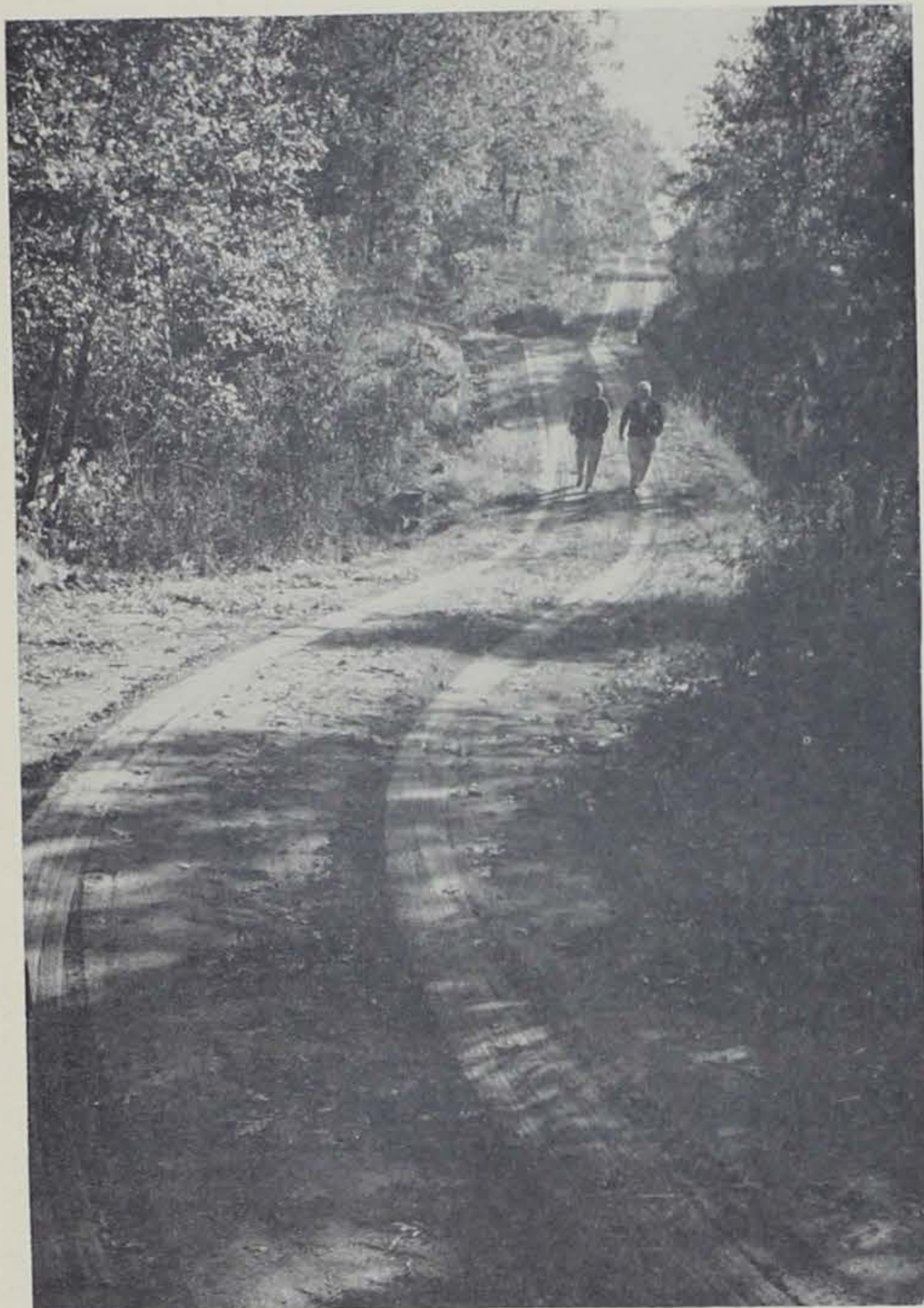
Iowa streams are often "high" and "muddy" in the spring and early summer. Walleyes are predominantly sight feeders and will move to and into the mouths of clear tributary streams to feed on minnows and other small fish. The same flies and small lures that are effective in the lakes will take walleye in the mouths of tributary streams.

When walleye streams are clear in the spring, they will move to gravel bars, rocky areas and stream mouths morning and evening. Night fishing may be very effective also. The most productive areas are gravel or rocky bars just above the riffle leading down to the pool below, and at the bars at the head of such pools.

During the day, walleye lie at the bottom edge of drop-offs at the head end of the pool. Small lead-heads or weighted streamers are very effective in this type of water. Pools or bends with vertical cut-banks are also likely places for walleyes in streams. A fly or lure must be cast against the cut-bank to catch walleyes in this type of water.



# FEDERAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFERS NEW RECREATION



One of the unimproved roads on federal lands now providing fire prevention access to a portion of the Shimek State Forest area.



Hunting offers one of the greatest recreational opportunities on Iowa's state-owned forest acres. Deer, squirrel, fox, rabbit and some upland game birds are among the most popular species.

The 4,649 acres of federal lands in Appanoose, Davis, Lee and Van Buren Counties will be planned for multiple-use recreational development. First priority on development will be those units now adjacent to the Shimek State Forest.

Denny Rehder

Planning and preliminary work is already underway to prepare the addition of over 4,600 acres of timberland to Iowa's State Forest system. The recent action of the Iowa General Assembly in providing funds for the acquisition of federal forest lands in southeast Iowa has been encouraging to conservation-minded individuals across the state.

The lands involved were the nucleus of a proposed national forest in Iowa. Over 4,600 acres in 17 tracts were acquired in 1935 by the U. S. Forest Service. World War II "scotched" the buying program. A recent review of the situation by the U. S. Forest Service showed insufficient lands to continue the program. The Congress passed enabling legislation which would allow the sale of these lands.

The Conservation Commission had first chance at the lands, which they would have been sold to the highest bidder. The General Assembly's action has insured these lands remaining under public ownership.

At present, foresters for the Commission are "cruising" the timber, taking inventory of what now exists. From this, inventory maps are being drawn showing the vegetation in the areas. These maps will be used to plan the future planting programs and the development of the areas.

## What About Development?

The development of these new forest areas calls for public-use facilities and the establishment of sound conservation practices. Planned recreation facilities will include hunting, fishing, primitive camping, picnicking, hiking and trail riding. Conservation practices will include timber management, water pond construction, erosion control measures, and watershed development.

All departments of the Commission will be involved with the development in some way or another, but those sections most concerned with the planning and development are Forestry, Fish, Game, Forest Waters and Engineering.

The first physical development of the new lands will be the construction of access roads into the tracts to allow fire protection and some public use.

Construction of water ponds will be next to provide not only recreation for fire protection, but also fishing and other water-oriented activities. All water areas will, however, be small but numerous for fire protection.

The acquisition of these federal lands will double the size of the Shimek Forest Area in southeast Iowa. Much of the federal land helps "block in" large tracts of the Shimek area—always desirable for planning a major timber and recreational complex.

## It Will Take Time

The development in general terms will closely parallel the development of the Yellow River Forest Area in northeast Iowa. Like the Yellow River, the proposed Shimek development will take time. Facilities will be installed as available funds allow.

Following are the nine points the present general plan will include:

1. Provision of all-weather access roads and parking areas.
2. Provision for adequate fire protection of the area.
3. Establishment of picnic areas, primitive camping areas, and hiking trails.

4. Construction of work-access and fire protection roads, including seeding for wildlife cover.

5. Construction of artificial lakes and marshes twenty acres or more in size.

6. Construction of ponds for fish, wildlife and fire protection. It is estimated that four ponds per section of land, size one-fourth of a section, or ten acres will be needed.

7. Wildlife food and cover plantings and reforestation on ex-agricultural lands.

8. Construction of game and waterfowl nesting sites.

9. Possible stocking of wild turkey and ruffed grouse, implementation of deer, rabbits, squirrels, quail, raccoon and fur bearers already present.



## RECREATION POTENTIAL IN SOUTHEAST IOWA

Photo Feature by Jack Kerstein



management plans will be prepared for all new federal areas. Over-mature trees will be thinned periodically in areas aside for forest product production.



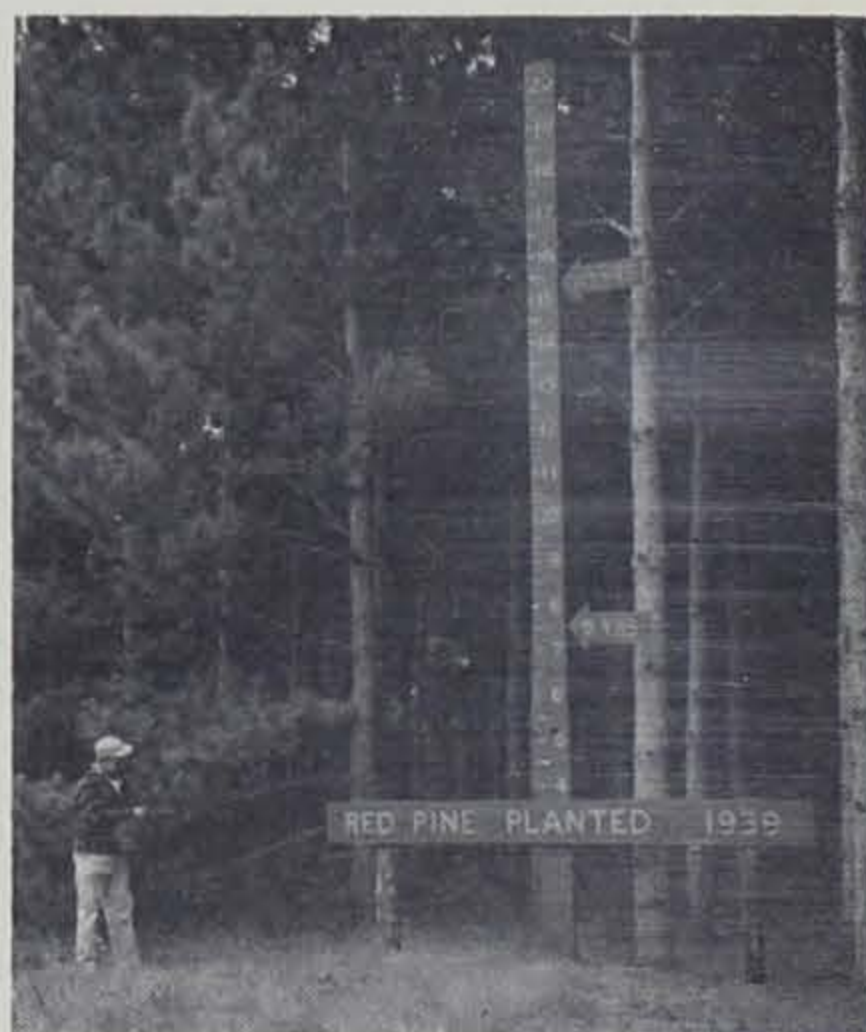
Water areas such as this on the Shimek Forest will also be developed on the federal lands. Besides offering fishing, the lake can serve as focal point for picnicking and primitive camping facilities.



Stream on the federal lands offers a natural beauty spot for future development. Such areas lend themselves to hiking or bridle trail development.



Research studies are being conducted to determine the best management procedures for a pine planting such as this.



This demonstration pine planting is 24 years old. Plantings such as these will be established on the federal lands. These trees are 48 feet high. Products obtained from the thinning and other management practices are used on forest areas.



All-weather gravel roads in the Shimek area have stream fords rather than bridges. Roads such as this will provide access to the federal lands as well as offering a good location for a Sunday drive.



This old cropland on the federal lands shows the severe sheet and gully erosion problem foresters face in developing the new lands. Pine plantations will be established on these areas to stop erosion. Similar Shimek areas stabilized in ten years after initiation of a sound planting program. Other areas will be planted for reforestation and wildlife habitat.



## Iowa Marshes . . . LAKIN SLOUGH

Carol Buckmann

Once northwest and northcentral Iowa were covered by thousands of prairie potholes where the wild calls of waterfowl and the sound of flapping wings pierced the air; ducks and shore birds raised their young while mink, beaver and muskrats busily carried on their activities.

Today, most of these potholes have been drained to make room for agriculture but Lakin Slough, 1½ miles south of Yale, remains as a remnant of Iowa as the major waterfowl producing state it once was. One of Iowa's natural marshes, Lakin Slough is at the southern-most edge of the prairie pothole country and is one of the potholes left by the retreat of the last glacier which once covered the region.

The Lakin Slough area is 300 acres of which 165 are wetlands managed primarily for waterfowl production and hunting. Here, the blue-winged teal, the mallard and the wood duck return each year from their spring migratory flights to raise their young, sharing the marsh with coot, pied-billed grebes, red-winged and yellow-headed blackbirds, black terns and rails.

The remaining 145 acres are managed secondarily for upland pheasants and aquatic fur-bearing animals including mink and muskrat.

Occasionally, bullheads are taken but the marsh usually freezes to the bottom in the winter and is not managed for fish.

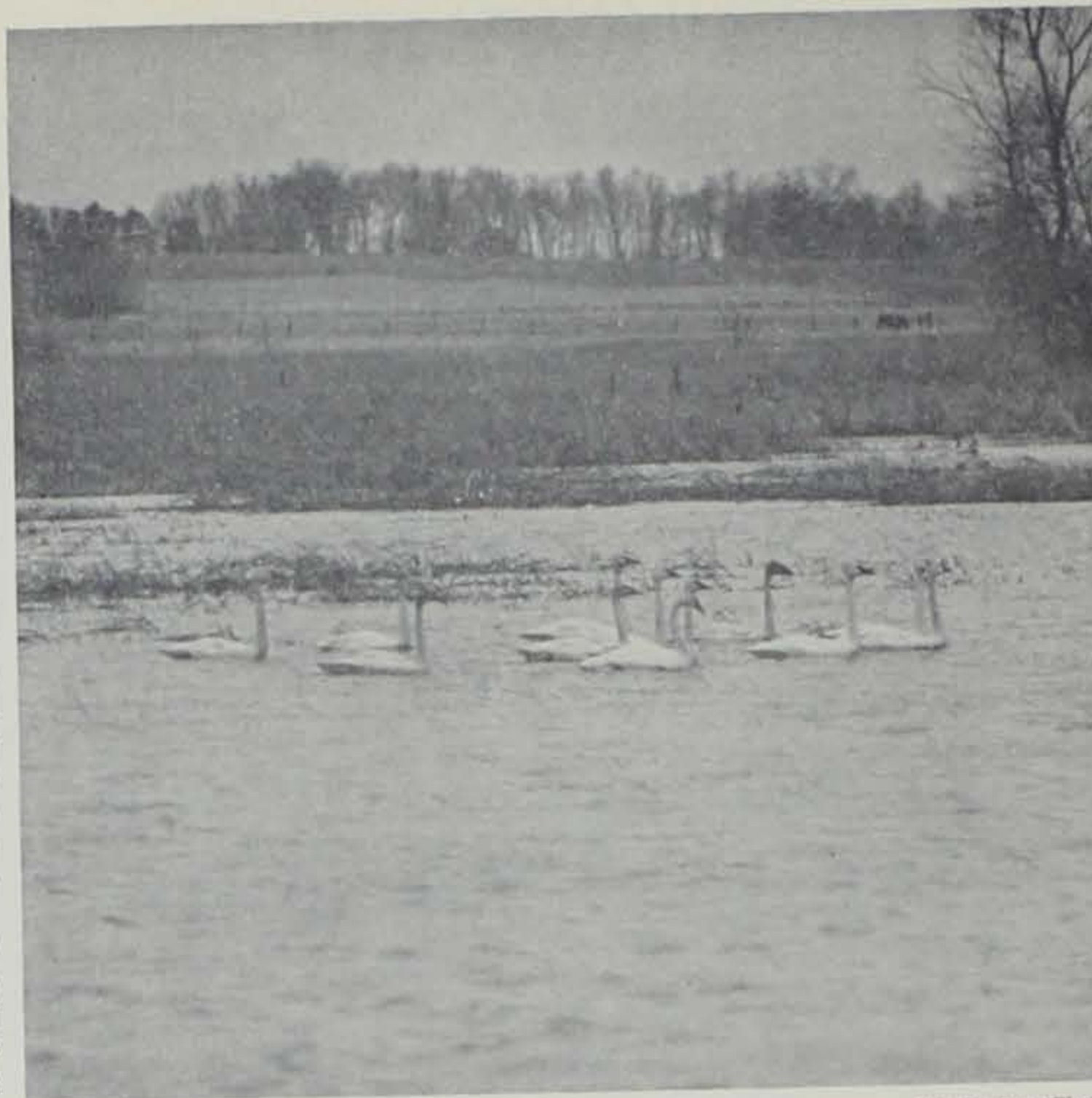
It is a favorite stopping place for spring concentrations of geese, shore birds and ducks where they rest and feed before flying on to their northern breeding grounds. At this time, the mysterious wild sounds of these migrating birds break upon the crisp spring air in the marsh and along its margins.

Sight-seers use Lakin Slough at all seasons as do nature study classes including those from the Teachers' Conservation Camp held in nearby Springbrook State Park. Here they find typical marsh vegetation including river bullrush, rough-stemmed bullrush, cattails and wild rice (an unusual plant for this region as is the pickerel weed also in Lakin Slough).

Water lilies decorate the marsh in the late spring and summer. Among the sub-aquatics, sago pond weed, considered a foremost and favored food for waterfowl with its high quantity of seeds, thrives profusely.

On the dry portions, blue stem prevails while thickets of willow grow along the water's edge. Dogwood and other bushes provide pheasants with substantial winter cover. Hard maples and walnut groves are found at the south end on an old farmstead site.

In the fall, Lakin Slough becomes a waterfowl hunter's para-



Whistling swans on Lakin Slough.

Jim Sherman Photo.

dise while pheasant hunting is popular to a lesser degree. Fall also brings trappers to Lakin Slough to harvest raccoons, muskrats, mink and other aquatic furbearers.

Major development on Lakin Slough was done in 1949 when two parking lots were added along with two low dikes built on both the north and south ends. A water control structure on the south end has an outlet used to manipulate the water level. Water in this marsh is from natural run-off which drains from here into the upper end of Bays Branch Game Management Area, 1½ miles south.

This marsh was acquired in 1945 and 1946. Lakin Slough, like many other Iowa marshes, was acquired by the state and developed by money from sportsmen through the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses, arms and ammunition. No legislative appropriations or tax money was used.

This is your area, sportsmen, enjoy it and save it for the future.

## Brainstorming a Bookband

Saw one of these big rubber bands the other day that kids use to carry books and the like. It is about eight inches long and an inch wide. It stretches to about 24 inches and is pretty tough. You can find them in most supermarkets and office supply stores.

A group of us started brainstorming the usefulness of these bands to the outdoorsman. You can probably add many more of your own, but here are some of our ideas:

Stretch around lid of camp kitchen to hold tablecloth or garbage sacks . . . stretch around water jug to hold napkins . . . use as tablecloth holder for small table . . . use near camp stove on tree to support utensils with hooks made from coathangers . . . as a small waterproof clothesline between small limbs of trees . . . around

(Continued on page 40)

## January, February, March Hunter Firearm Casualties

(No Fatalities)

"A hunter casualty is a casualty in which a person is injured by a hunting weapon outside the home and arising from the activity of hunting, including travel to and from the hunting field."

### Unintentional Firing

"Horse play"—Didn't know gun was loaded . . . 2  
Children playing with guns . . . 1  
Weapon fell from insecure rest . . . 1  
Riding in vehicle with loaded firearm . . . 1

5

### Intentional Firing

Bullet ricocheting from the ice . . . 1  
Victim out of sight of shooter . . . 1

2

### Casualties by Weapons

Rifle . . . 3  
Shotgun . . . 2  
Pistol . . . 2

7

### Casualties by Game Hunted

Crow . . . 1  
Rabbit . . . 1  
Pigeon . . . 1  
None . . . 4

7

## Carry a Kitchen for Convenience

Jack Kirstein

There comes a time in every new camper's travels in the outdoors when he decides, "one of these days we've got to get organized."

What this new camper is usually referring to is the mess of pots, pans, utensils, food, and cleaning supplies that must accompany the fact that meals come three times a day, indoors or out.

The solution in most cases is to cast a longing eye at the experienced camper and his well organized camp kitchen unit.

Your own solution to this can take several forms. It is possible to buy a ready made unit into which you can fit all your present supplies and equipment or restock with more suitable items. Also, on the market at sporting goods stores is a kit which you can assemble to save on costs and permit a few innovations of your own to be added.

If you prefer, and are handy with tools and design, it is not difficult to plan your own kitchen (Continued on page 40)



Jack Kirstein Photo

This kitchen is merely a large box with lids forming tables. It is flexible and adaptable. Note paper clamp holding a bag sack.



Jack Kirstein Photo

This custom unit contains food, lantern, tool kit and a wide variety of other camping supplies. Everything has its place. The two units stack with the top of the top unit attaching to the rear of the bottom unit. Approximate cost is \$15 if you build yourself.



## Swimming, Relaxing Rate Tops With Campers

...and Mom rules the roost!

Denny Rehder

During the summer of 1962, many park visitors were interviewed at the parks by Commission personnel, concerned with visitors and their attitudes.

A number of interesting items can be gleaned from the voluminous report of the survey. Of most interest is the responses to questions intended to show the attitudes and interests of campers.

Much was learned about the camper in Iowa from this survey. We find that over half the people at the campgrounds are under 20 years of age. This is a reflection of the family nature of Iowa camping. Eighty per cent of the campers were part of one-family camping units.

In terms of age, we learn that relaxing doesn't rate highly as an activity until you are over the age of 40.

Anyone spending time on a campground doesn't need a survey to tell him this is true. But, swimming is one of the favorite activities with high participation until age 40.

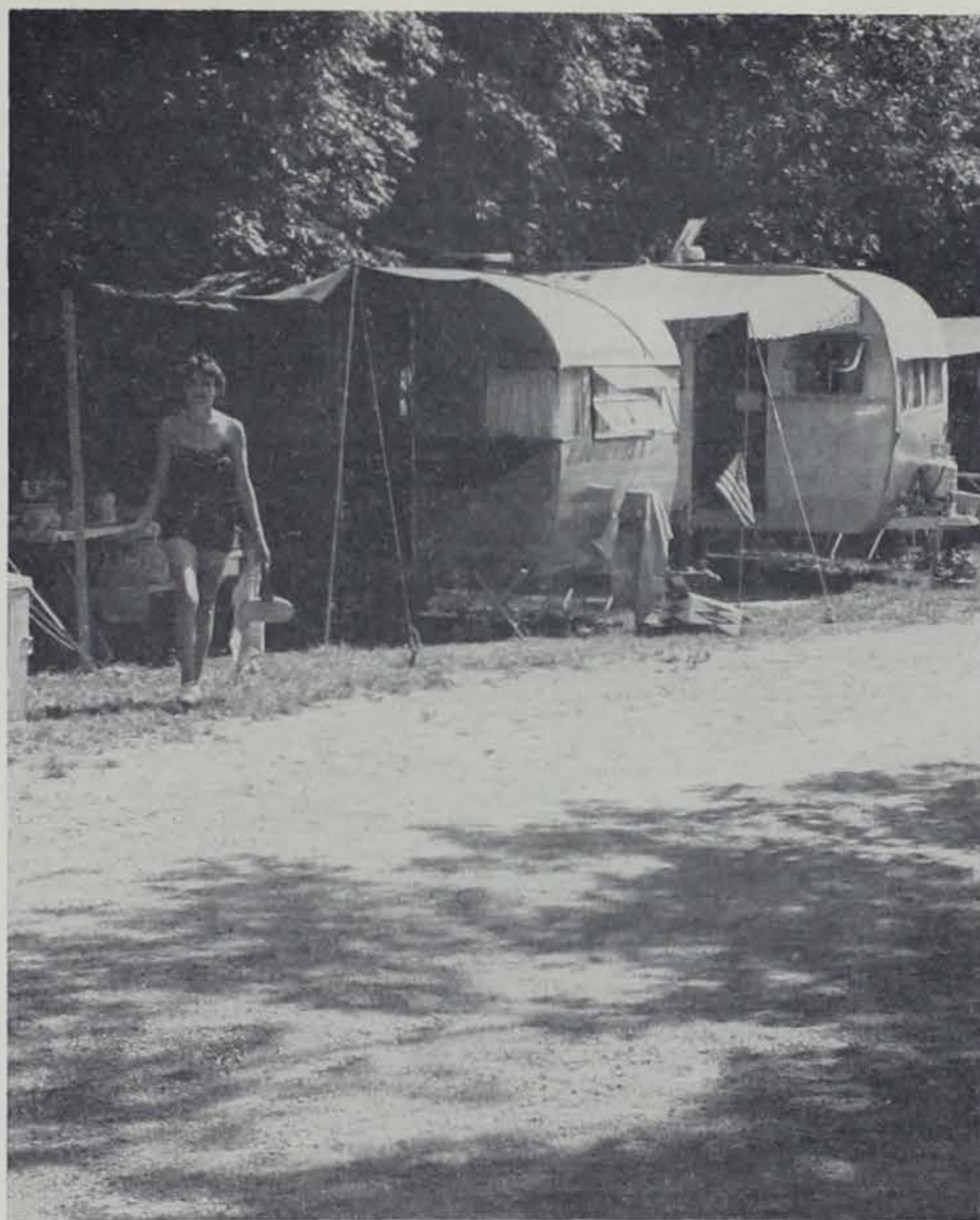
Hiking seems to appeal to all ages with a drop in participation after 60 years, but then again rates are high among those campers over 70. Sightseeing, picnicking, and fishing also seem to be universally appealing to all age groups.

It is interesting to note the difference between what people say they "like to do" and what they actually do. Speaking in the most general of terms people rate fishing highly, but when they get to a campground they don't seem to get much done (we suspect family influence, the kids want to swim or hike, mother wants to make it easy, etc.).

Also, once on the campground it seems to be too easy to sit around and talk about doing something—relaxing rates as the highest activity in participation, although it is not as high on the list of "liked" activities.

Sightseeing rates well down on a list of preferred or "liked" activities, but it ranks high in participation (too much to see at most parks, everyone likes to explore, we suppose). And, of course, picnicking is near the bottom of the list for campers by preference, but ranks well up in terms of participation.

In the tables below, you should see the different responses by men and women to the questions asked. When it comes to "what do you like to do?" men and women have widely divergent views. When you combine these varied interests, you find a hodge-podge of activities listed under "all campers." But when you look at the table of "what did you do?" you will find that Mom pretty well runs the schedule of events for the family at the campground. The columns



Jim Sherman Photo.

The survey showed that Mom pretty well determines what the schedule of activities for the family will be. Relaxing rated tops among campers as their favorite activity.

showing what women did and what all campers did are nearly identical.

What did campers think of the parks they visited? The survey showed over 80 per cent of the campers were well satisfied with the cleanliness of the facilities; found the park quiet and restful; went to the park to get outdoors; liked the way the parks were maintained; and liked a park with swim-

ming facilities.

Over 60 per cent found adequate parking space; liked parks with fishing, historical backgrounds, interesting natural attractions and boating facilities; visited the park for its scenery; thought the parks they visited were good examples of what a state park should be. Also, nearly 60 per cent did not feel the park was overcrowded when they visited it.

### WHAT CAMPERS SAY THEY LIKE TO DO

(In order of preference)

Men	Women	All Campers
Fishing	Picnic	Camp
Camp	Relax	Swim
Nature Study	Hike	Fish
Boat	Swim	Relax
Sight-see	Sight-see	Hike
Swim	Boat	Boat
Hike	Nature Study	Sight-see
Relax	Camp	Nature Study
Picnic	Fish	Picnic

### WHAT CAMPERS ACTUALLY DO

(In order of preference)

Men	Women	All Campers
Relax	Relax	Relax
Swim	Swim	Swim
Hike	Hike	Hike
Fish	Sight-see	Sight-see
Sight-see	Picnic	Picnic
Picnic	Boat	Fish
Boat	Fish	Boat
Nature Study	Nature Study	Nature Study

## COUNT 77 TURKEYS

Tom Ballard

Wild turkeys are not new in Iowa, but few of us have actually seen them in our northeastern woodlands. A recent survey by Commission biologists observed a total of 77 of these wild game birds that were transplanted from their native Texas home to the Yellow River Forest in 1960.

Seventy-seven turkeys may only represent one half or more of the actual number of these birds in this area. The lack of snow cover in past winters has increased the chances of the turkey's survival but has made it difficult, if not impossible, to count the turkeys in some of the inaccessible areas of Iowa's Little Switzerland.

The recent aerial surveys and field work have indicated that these birds are still very wild and that they have dispersed over a twenty mile range from their original stocking points. Broods were observed last winter in all the areas where birds were seen in '62.

Attempts to re-establish wild turkeys in Iowa were made in 1927, 1934, and 1938. The turkeys used were probably of the Eastern strain, hand raised, and were released in areas much too small for them to range. The presence of numerous flocks of domestic turkeys at this time made successful stocking programs even more difficult. The hand-nurtured "wild" turkeys that were released had little fear of man and were soon roosting on and around local farm equipment and fences. They didn't last long.

There are several factors involved in the survival chances of the turkeys that are now in Iowa. These turkeys were wild trapped birds (not hand raised) and they are of the hardy Rio Grande strain. Wilderness will diminish your chances of actually seeing these birds but they must stay wild to exist and successfully raise broods. The mild winters have increased their chances and food doesn't pose a problem. The comment has been made that "Pastures and fields where farmers had spread manure 'looked like a chicken yard' from all the turkey scratchings." Grain that is missed in the field also provides a source of food.

Although the birds are doing well so far, wild turkeys may never be re-established in this primitive Iowa forest area. Poachers may secretly gloat on shooting one of these new outdoor Iowa residents. Perhaps some avian disease, yet unknown to these little flocks, will exterminate them. Maybe a fierce Iowa snow will put an end to this stock. There are many reasons for thinking that we may never again see a genuine wild turkey population in our state, but if we or our children or even our grandchildren do, they will be thrilled with the gobble-gobbling of the toms in the spring.



## State Park Visits Up One Million

Park attendance in 1963 was up one million over 1962, according to the review of the 1963 calendar year by Parks personnel of the State Conservation Commission. Last year's attendance was at 8,314,938—another all-time high.

Eleven parks had visitors totaling over a quarter-million with Lake Manawa recording nearly three-quarter million visitors, and Lake MacBride logging over a half-million visitors. The other nine parks in descending order are: Ledges (427,544), Backbone (389,706), Geode (380,504), Lake Ahquabi (377,995), Rock Creek (325,707), Black Hawk (264,045), Gull Point (260,540), Clear Lake (253,162), Pine Lake (245,816).

Camping activity was up about 75,000 last year over 1962, according to the review. Total campers reached 285,873 for 1963. This was a sizable increase over 1962, the year when Iowa was expected to have a record-breaking year because of the World's Fair in Seattle.

Six parks listed over 15,000 campers during 1963. Top spot in the state was Backbone with over 24,000 campers. In descending order are Black Hawk (17,539), Ledges (15,715), Gull Point (15,224), Lake MacBride (15,153), Rock Creek (15,067).

## BOOKBAND—

(Continued from page 38)

each end of a rolled sleeping bag or blanket roll . . . around a bundle of paper hand towels to prevent scattering . . . use in lid of tackle box to hold maps, leaders, etc. . . . use on sunvisor of car for maps, etc. . . . use as emergency legstraps for hip boots . . . wrap around rolled parka, poncho, or rainsuit . . . use as hatband on hunting cap to hold small twigs and grass for camouflage . . . use on inside frame tent as clothes hanger . . . use as emergency tent peg loops—elastic gives in rain . . . use as keepers on covered pans . . . use for self adjusting tent rope tensioner . . . wrap around silverware in camp kitchen to prevent scattering while traveling . . . use with sheet of plastic as emergency overshoes . . . use on pants cuffs to keep weed seeds out of open shoes or slip-on boots . . . use as dust cover for rifle scope . . . use to secure paddle to canoe while transporting.

Hybridization, the crossing of two species to produce an intermediate form, is known to occur in trout, suckers, minnows and sunfishes.

Each quill of the porcupine is constricted and is lightly connected to a layer of muscle which lies just under the skin.



Clear Lake's 8 1/2-pound "musky".

Jack Kirstein Photo.

## Two Large Muskies Taken by Netting Crews

Two large muskies, both four years old, have been taken by netting crews collecting brood fish for walleye hatching, the State Conservation Commission said today.

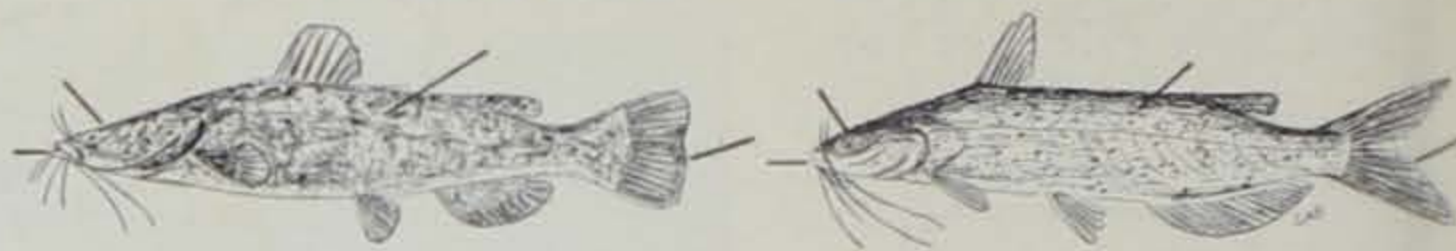
At Clear Lake, a 31 1/2 inch, eight and a half pound immature male was taken. East Okoboji offered a 10 pound, 32 1/2 inch specimen, an immature female. Fisheries biologists feel that mature males could be taken this year during the netting operations. The size of the fish is slightly above

average according to data available from nearby states with "musky" populations.

The fish taken were part of two stockings in Clear Lake and West Okoboji four years ago. When they were stocked the fish measured about 11 inches and weighed a few ounces. A total of 81 fish have been stocked in each of the two lakes.

There is no open season on muskellunge in Iowa, and any muskies taken by anglers must be returned to the lake.

## FLATHEAD — CHANNEL



Carol Buckmann

There are nine species of catfish swimming in Iowa waters and of that number, the channel, flathead catfish, black and yellow bullheads are common enough to be of economic importance.

Although there is a world of difference between flatheads and channel catfish, the larger channel cats go through a blue color phase during their spawning season when they may be confused with the blue catfish. But this confusion needn't exist. Channel cats are the most widely distributed game fish in Iowa while blues are scarce and very rarely taken from inland waters.

Blues are mostly a species of southern United States, occasionally being taken in Iowa from the lower portions of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. They occur rarely in the lower tributaries of both these rivers.

Channel and blue catfish have deeply forked tails. The silvery-gray channel catfish have distinctive dark spots especially notable in young specimens. These spots do not usually show until the fish is over two or three inches, becoming obscure in adults.

Channel catfish have larger eyes and broader heads than flatheads. The eyes of both flatheads and bullheads are considerably smaller and their eyesight poor. Small flatheads and bullheads may be confused but flatheads have quite compressed "flat" heads while bullheads have more bulbous type heads.

Flatheads are dark to olive-brown with dark brownish mottlings on their sides, especially noticeable in the young fish, but when taken from sandy bottoms, they are often light tan or even yellowish. The anal fin is very short and the tail not forked but squarish, as in bullheads. The jaws are heavy with the lower notably longer than the upper. In channel and blue catfish, the upper jaws protrude prominently over the lower.

The adipose fin of flatheads is many times larger in relation to the rest of the body compared to the channel catfish which have a much smaller adipose fin.

Flatheads are occasionally taken from natural and artificial lakes but are generally considered a big-water species. They are taken from large rivers and a short distance up their tributaries.

No matter what variety, once they're on the table, served fresh on the hook, golden brown and sizzling hot, all four are tasty treats that can't be beat.

## CAMP KITCHEN—

(Continued from page 38)

unit and build it to your own specifications.

In planning a design, or buying a kit or ready-made unit, you should consider "what to leave out" as important as "what to put in." The unit must suit you and your family's needs, but should be manageable when in use. Strength of the materials should be carefully weighed against weight of the finished product. Resistance to abrasion should determine the outside finish of your unit, if you wish it to look ever new. If you plan to use it where it sits in the trunk of your car or in the storage space in your trailer, then how it opens, top or sides, will be another important factor.

If the load you intend to impose on the unit is large, then perhaps you should consider one unit for pots, pans, and other sundry items; while using a second unit for foodstuffs and staples.

The designing of a good camp kitchen begins with problems, is tempered with ingenuity, and ends with a good deal of satisfaction.

In your camping equipment, the following items lend themselves to storage in such a unit:

Canned foods, silverware, soaps

and detergents, boxed or otherwise packaged ready-to-serve foods, flat lifters, hot pan holders, cans of insect spray, small first aid kit, napkins, towels and washcloth, clothespins, tablecloth holder, clotheslines, tablecloths, storage lighters, matches, charcoal tongs, long-handled barbecue forks, cooking salts and spices, extra mantles for your lantern, a small fuel funnel, a supply of folded paper sacks for garbage, toilet tissue, face tissues, shave kits, a flashlight, folding bread toaster, etc. You will probably add to this list many items that now are difficult to pack in your own camping equipment.

Detachable legs or legs that fold can be an advantage on one of these units. Many campers, however, merely place their kitchen unit on the end of a picnic table or use a small folding stool to keep it off the ground. The latter method also affords another shelter for visitors from the tent next door when needed.

One camp kitchen has been seen in the campgrounds that is a cat of the tail wagging the dog, it is six feet wide, seven feet long, has wheels and a tongue for pulling behind the car.