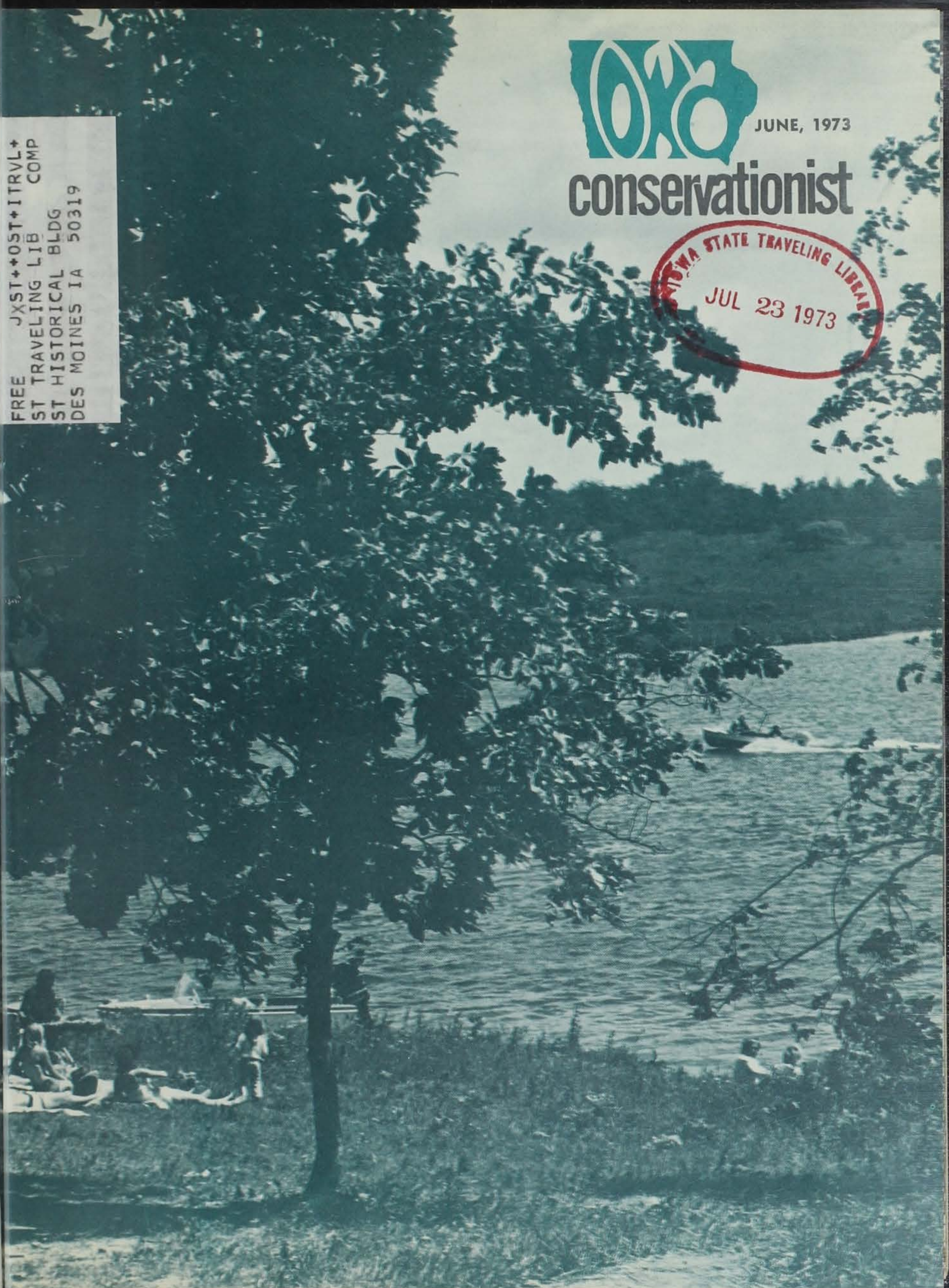


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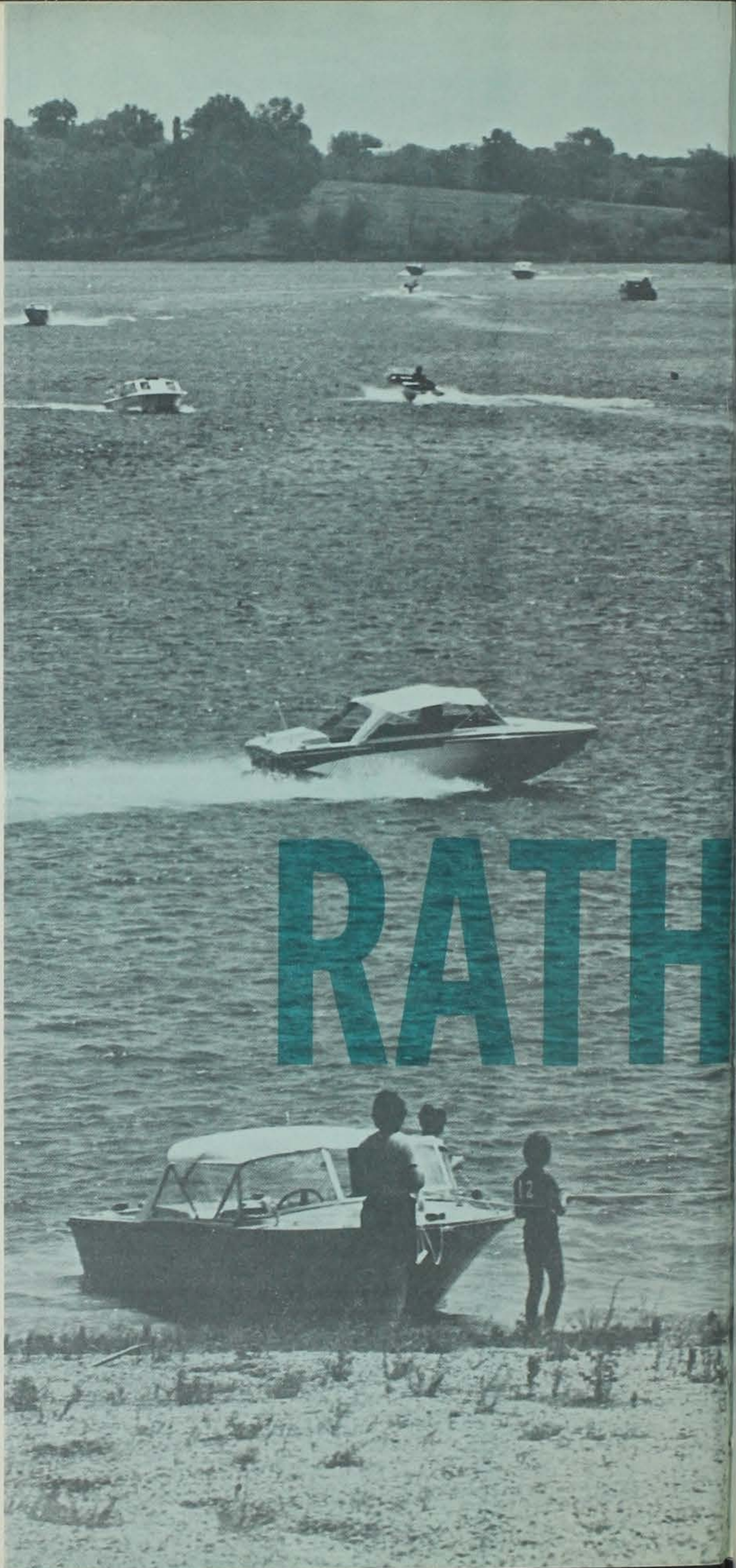
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RATHBUN

Iowa's largest recreation area

RATHBUN

By Sonny Satre

Rathbun Reservoir will attract over 1,750,000 outdoor recreationists in 1973 according to conservative estimates. This is an increase of approximately 160,000 visitors from the previous year. Of course the main reason for the Rathbun project's rapid popularity is its 11,000 acre "inland ocean" in formerly land-locked southern Iowa which people have to see to





believe. Other explanations for its attraction include the lure of its sparkling, clear water, its great fishing and hunting opportunities, and the excellent facilities available for the camper, picnicker and boating enthusiast.

Rathbun Reservoir is located in south central Iowa, eight miles northwest of Centerville in Appanoose County. Actually, Rathbun waters also engulf parts of Lucas, Monroe and Wayne counties.

Facilities in the public use areas developed as of this date are quite extensive. For example, Honey Creek State Park, located on the north shore of the reservoir (see map), offers modern camping facilities, an inviting picnic area and a large, concrete boat launching ramp. Included in the \$3.00 overnight camping fee is electricity, water, use of a shower-latrine complex which incidentally, is open the year round and a trailer dump station. Presently, 120 camping units can be accommodated "comfortably" at Honey Creek according to State Park Ranger Joe Murphy. Camping sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Picnickers have over 225 picnic tables to choose from in a picturesque hickory and white oak setting. Five modern restrooms are conveniently located in the picnic and boat ramp areas. Last year, approximately 229,000 people visited Honey Creek State Park.

Honey Creek has a rather diversified, rolling terrain. The approaches to the shore line are quite steep while the camping and picnic areas are located on relatively flat land.

Development of Honey Creek by the Iowa Conservation Commission began in 1970. Because of limited funding, development is being phased over at least a ten year period. At present, the largest portion of the park is undeveloped.

Beach development, construction of additional parking facilities near the boat ramp, and further road-parking lot development in a newly proposed picnic area, are projects slated for completion this year. In 1974, all





roads in the 850 acre park are scheduled to be paved.

Six U.S. Corp of Engineer camping areas — Southfork, Rolling Cove, Island View, Bridgeview, East and West Buck Creek all have modern shower-toilet facilities and trailer dump stations. (see map for locations). Electricity is not provided, however. Primitive camping is permitted in the Glenwood area located on the south fork of the lake at its west end. Facilities available include pit toilets, picnic areas and a convenient boat ramp. There is a daily user fee of 50 cents per car for the use of various Corp recreational facilities such as picnic tables, grills and toilets in all day use areas except Buck Creek (East), Glenwood and the Outlet area below the dam. A fee of \$2.00 is charged for overnight camping in the six modern camping areas. For the swimming enthusiast, East Buck Creek and Island View areas have nice sandy beaches and also provide convenient changing booths.

Ten concrete boat ramps are spaced around the reservoir for pleasure boaters and fishermen to utilize. A marina is located in the Buck Creek area where boating and fishing supplies can be acquired and a boat rental service is available.

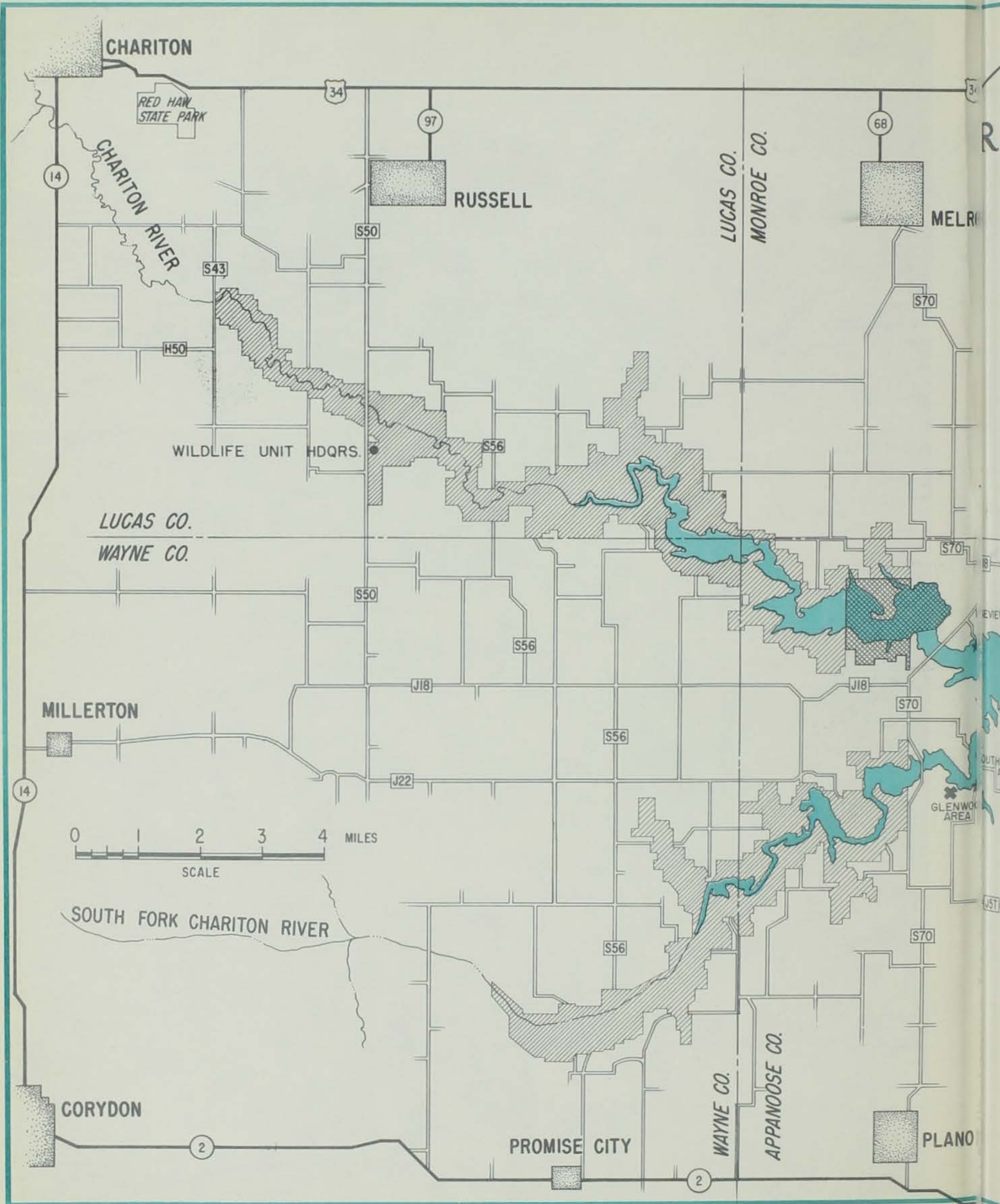
The main conservation pool is practically debris free which is very much to the satisfaction of boaters and water skiers alike. Boaters should exercise more caution in bays and especially the area west of Bridgeview, where there is much flooded timber and shallower water. By the way, the maximum boat motor size allowed on Lake Rathbun is 450 horse power which should qualify most vessels.

A waters conservation officer is permanently assigned to Rathbun, stationed at Honey Creek State Park. He is primarily responsible for providing information to the public, assisting boaters in emergency situations and enforcing navigational laws.

Since the Corp of Engineers closed the dam on the Chariton

(Continued on Page 10)





RATHBUN RECREATION AREAS

LEGEND

- ★ BOAT RAMPS
- PAVED ROADS
- GRAVEL ROADS
- ▣ WILDLIFE REFUGE (NO HUNTING)
- ▨ PUBLIC HUNTING AREA
- ▲ MARINA
- ✱ CAMPING AREAS

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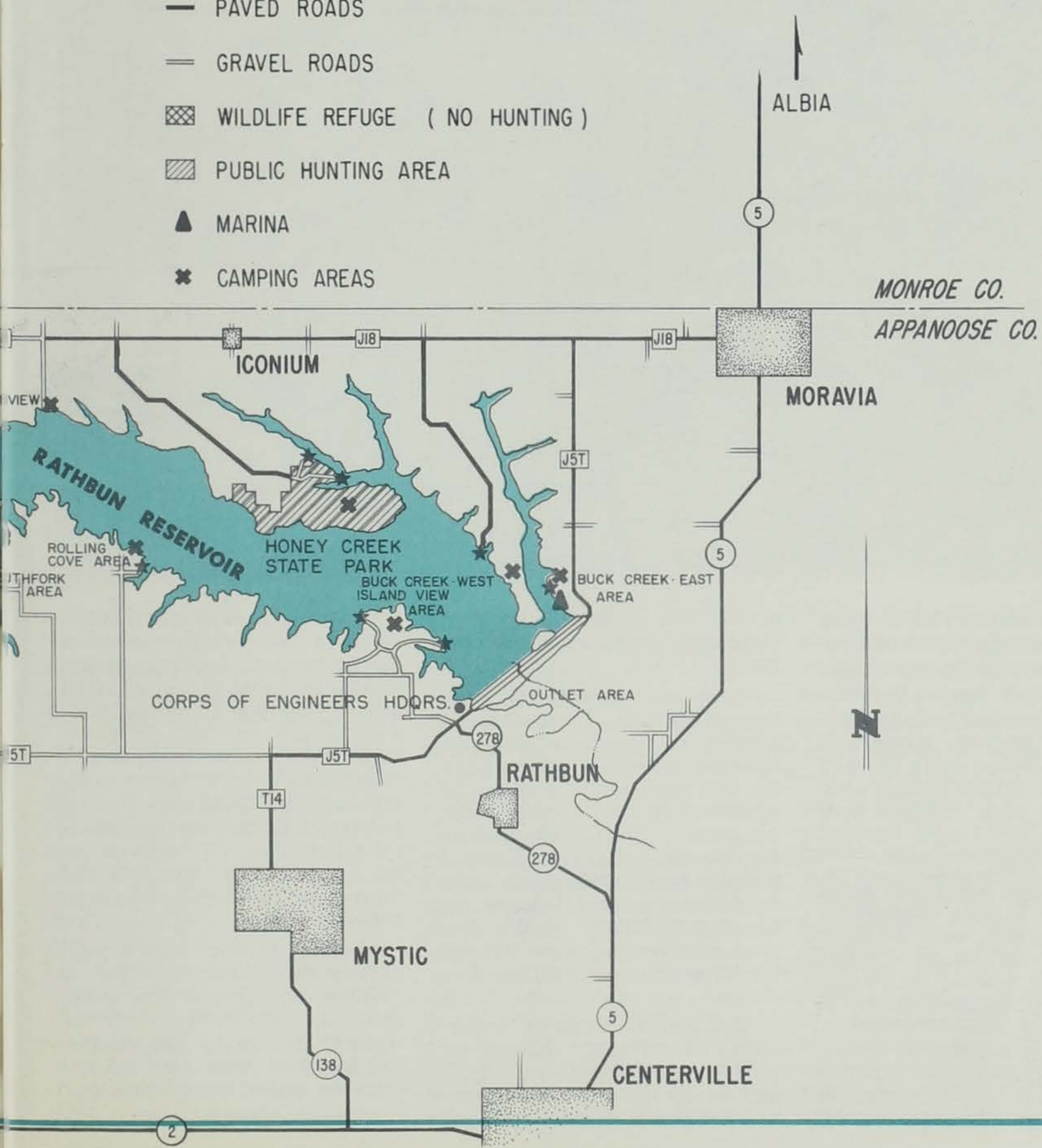
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VIEW

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PLAN

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River in November, 1969, forming Iowa's largest lake, the Iowa Conservation Commission has stocked over 40 million fish in Rathbun. The species stocked include channel catfish, walleye, largemouth bass, muskellunge, white bass and striped bass. Native species present in Rathbun include good populations of bluegill, crappie, green sunfish and bullhead.

Striped bass are a salt water species which have successfully adapted to fresh water in states south of Iowa. "Ocean striper" attain tackle busting weights of 30-40 pounds in fresh water. In 1972, 2100 of these ocean transplants were successfully introduced in Rathbun. Additional stockings of striper fry is planned and hopefully this large member

of the bass family will produce some exciting angling in the near future.

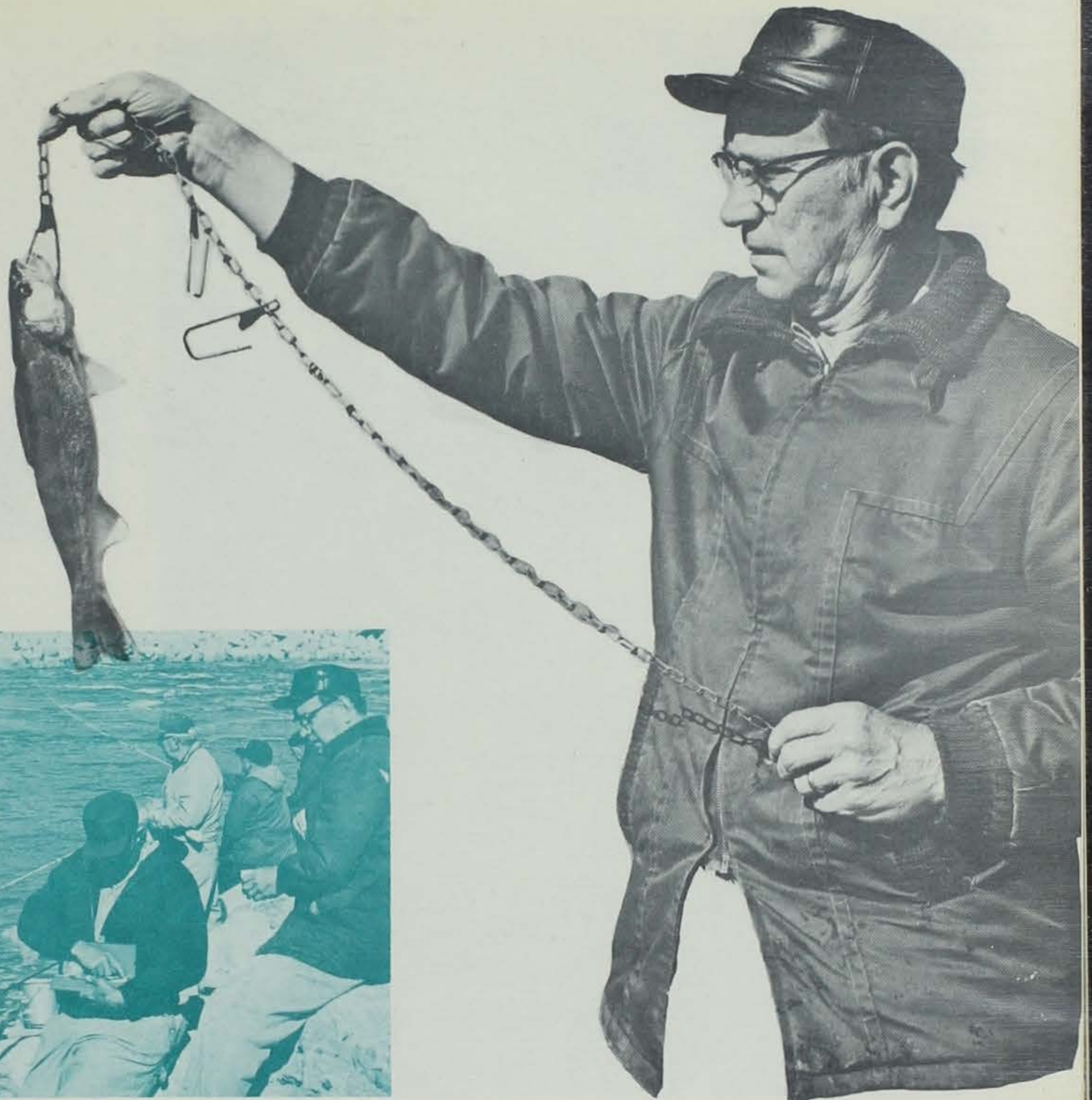
Fishermen should take note that MUSKIES, not northerns, have been placed in Rathbun. Muskies, according to Iowa angling law, must attain a minimum length of 30 inches before being considered a legal catch. Muskies over 20 inches have been netted recently by Commission fisheries creel census personnel. In the not too distant future, possibly this year, muskies will provide some trophy angling for Rathbun fishermen.

Rathbun fishermen experienced some good angling for largemouth bass, walleye, crappie and catfish in 1972. Anglers who had the greater success were boat

fishermen. Although many of the walleyes fell in the borderline keeper bracket, the big-eyed fish provided plenty of rod bending action. This year 2-3 pound walleyes should be quite common. Two-three pound largemouth "mossbacks" were taken with regularity in '72 as were the fat, sporty white crappies and channel catfish. Yes, 1972 did produce some good fishing but 1973 and future years should be even better.

A likely question from a prospective new Rathbun angler is "Where do I fish in this mammoth 11,000 acre body of water?" Following are a few helpful hints from personal experience and observations.

Largemouth bass fishing has



proven to be very successful in the flooded timbered area west of Bridgeview. Good bass fishing is also good practically all along the lakes shoreline, especially around sunken logs, submerged stumps and brush piles in narrow fingered bays. Early spring walleye fishing is good below the dam. In the lake itself, favorite walleye haunts are along rock rip-rapped shorelines and off sandbars. A good depth finder or fish locator would be a helpful aid in seeking out the exact locations of sandbars and the schools of walleyes themselves.

Spring and fall crappie fishing is usually the best. The sporty crappies can be caught almost anywhere on the lake but finding

the school of feeding fish sometimes can be difficult. Fishing in narrow fingered areas around brush piles is usually quite productive. Channel catfish are quite plentiful in most areas of the lake.

The most modern warm water fish hatchery in the midwest is scheduled to be built by the Iowa Conservation Commission below the Rathbun Reservoir dam. Emphasis will be placed on rearing channel catfish, a fish listed number one in fishing preference by most Iowans. Other fish to be reared will include "ocean" stripers, walleye and muskies. The \$2.7 million structure hopefully will be completed by late 1974, depending on available finances.

For the hunter, the Conservation Commission manages over 13,000 acres of public hunting land at Rathbun. The potholes and flooded timbered areas of the upper reaches of Rathbun attract many waterfowl. A wildlife refuge is maintained by the Commission to attract waterfowl and provide them a resting place on their long flights north and south. Besides waterfowl, there is good upland game hunting for quail, pheasant, squirrel, rabbit and white-tail deer.

Whether you enjoy the forms of outdoor recreation described in this article or you prefer hiking, outdoor photography, nature study or just plain sight seeing, I am sure you will like Rathbun.



The Honey War at Big Bend almost happened. Both Missouri and Iowa were mustering forces to fight for a grove of bee trees and a fourteen and a half mile wide strip of land between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Fortunately, the territorial governments called off the dispute and sent the problem to Congress.

Part of the disputed land has since become one of Iowa's largest state parks, Lacey-Keosauqua. The park is over 1,650 acres of hills, rivers, and lake in Van Buren county along the Des Moines River. The park's boundaries begin just outside the town of Keosauqua on highway 1.

Originally the park was called Big Bend but when it was dedicated in 1921 a more colorful name was sought. For the next five years it carried the name Keosauqua, an Indian term meaning "the stream bearing a floating mass of snow, slush, or ice." A county seat town bearing the same name borders the park on the east side and is as rich in lore and history as the park itself. In 1926 the name was changed to Lacey-Keosauqua to honor Major John Fletcher Lacey.

Major Lacey was born in West Virginia in 1841. He came to Iowa to study law. When the Civil War broke out, he joined a unit from

lacey-k

Iowa and by the end of the war had advanced to the rank of major.

In 1868 Lacey was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives. By 1888 he was a member of Congress. In Congress he campaigned for conservation legislation long before Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot. His interest in conservation teamed him with Dr. Thomas Macbride in persuading the Iowa legislature to establish a state park system.

A plaque commemorating Major Lacey's outstanding abilities as a lawyer, statesman, soldier, and conservationist stands on a granite rock on the hill behind Ely's Ford.

Shortly after white settlers moved into the area, the Mormons left their mark on the Des Moines River at Ely's Ford. Over 16,000 of them crossed the state and the river from 1846-1847 on their exodus to Utah. A few Mormons temporarily settled in parts of southern Iowa. The ford where they crossed the river was used by Indians and settlers until the first bridges and railroads were built.

One of the most comical, yet potentially serious, events of the area was the Honey War. Many historians call the war a

Keosauqua

farce but Iowan's of the area considered it an important victory. When the territory of Iowa was created, both Iowa and Missouri claimed a fourteen and a half mile wide strip of land from the Mississippi to the Missouri River. Two different men surveyed the line and of course both lines were different. Each territory naturally took the line that gave them the most land.

Originally the land was surveyed by John Sullivan, but his line was hard to decipher. Missouri had the land re-surveyed to clear up any questions arising from the original line. The survey line was to run from the Des Moines Rapids west to the Missouri River. J. C. Brown, the second surveyor, did not know that the Des Moines Rapids referred to was on the Mississippi so he chose a set of rapids on the Des Moines River. This made the new line vary anywhere from nine to fourteen and a half miles from the first line.

Some Iowans were living on this strip of land and the Governor of Missouri decided to tax them because, as he saw it, they were now living in his state. The Iowans refused to pay because they considered themselves in Iowa. An angered Missouri Governor vowed to force them to

pay the tax. Iowa's governor Lucas, not the type of man to be pushed around, retaliated by saying he would match man for man any force the honorable Governor of Missouri could muster.

Luckily before any blood could be shed, the territories decided to let Congress settle the matter. Congress, choosing to avoid this delicate matter, left the dubious honor to the Supreme Court. In 1849 the Court gave most of the land to Iowa.

A small section of the disputed land held a grove of bee trees, much prized by the Iowans. Hence the name Honey War. A plaque, now in the main lodge, commemorates the peaceful settlement of the dispute. It was moved to the lodge for safe keeping after vandals attempted to destroy it.

The land reveals much of the park's ancient history. Lacey-Keosauqua's geology centers around the Des Moines River, which has cut down through the soil to expose the bedrock. Most of the park's bedrock is sedimentary and formed millions of years ago during the time when Iowa was periodically covered by great seas. Most of the cliffs along the river are Pennsylvanian sandstone laid down by the last sea to cover Iowa. In a few places the

deeper cliffs expose a limestone deposited by earlier seas.

Twice glaciers swept across the region leaving a hodge podge of stone and boulders mixed in the soil. This glacial drift called "till" forms most of the park's subsoil.

A fine textured wind blown soil called loess forms a shallow layer over the "till." Loess is made of tiny particles of sand and clay and is easily eroded.

The park's hills and valleys were created by water erosion, a process that has been taking place ever since melting glaciers formed the Des Moines River and its tributaries.

The river played an important role in the creation of the park and its present recreational and scenic value. At the park the Des Moines River departs from its fairly straight course and forms a horseshoe bend. This curve in the river is of special interest to geologists. They hypothesize that the river used to flow in a generally straight line until it cut deep enough to hit some resistant material and caused the bend. The shape of the curve indicates the resistant material is on the left bank, thereby causing the shift to the right.

All along the river bank the cliffs are trails for hikers and

fishermen. Along the north side of the park are a series of beautiful sandstone cliffs commonly found along the Des Moines River.

A series of nineteen mounds can be found overlooking the river in the northwest section of the park. These mounds were built by an ancient group of Indians of the Woodland Culture. The name mound builders is sometimes given to these people because of their mound building activity throughout the state. These mounds were built as a place to bury their dead. Mounds are usually found on hilltops overlooking a stream valley.

Another remnant of the Woodland Culture Indians is the site of an ancient Indian village. These Indians built their villages above the river's flood plain usually on the second terrace. The location of the village at Lacey-Keosauqua is not known. It is believed to be somewhere southwest of Ely's Ford on a flat area on one of the river terraces. Indian villages of the Woodland Culture can be identified by finding flakes of flint and flint and stone tools at their campsites. Since these Indians occupied this area for a long period of time many of the flat areas on the river terraces are campsites or villages. For a day of exploring try to find the

lost Indian village at Lacey-Keosauqua.

Two Knobs are found in the northwest section of the park. (Knobs should not be confused with the mounds built by the Indians which are man made.) Sandy Knob is just north of the road. It gained its name from a man named Sandy that used to farm there. The other knob, unmarked and back in the timber, is called Lookout Knob.

Damming Thatcher Creek, a tributary of the Des Moines River, created a thirty acre artificial lake in the eastern half of the park. For simplicity the lake was given the same name as the park.

Many plants at Lacey-Keosauqua can be found nowhere else in the state. The Des Moines River valley acts as a migratory patch for many southern plants into Iowa. The park contains the largest number of oak species found anywhere in the state and many southern trees and shrubs such as the pecan. Some of the trees are believed to be over 200 years old.

Lacey-Keosauqua offers a wide variety of recreational facilities to her visitors. Most of the facilities are found around or near the lake. Camping in the park is classified into modern and modern with electricity. Modern facil-



ities include a shower, water, and sanitary facilities. Modern with electricity has the same facilities plus electrical hook ups. Special rates can be obtained for organized youth groups.

For those who want a few more comforts of home, modern cabins are available. These cabins can be rented by the day or week and can accommodate four persons comfortably. Reservations can be made through the park officer.

Picnic areas are scattered through out the park for the visitors pleasure. Shelters and sanitary facilities are located in or near all picnic areas.

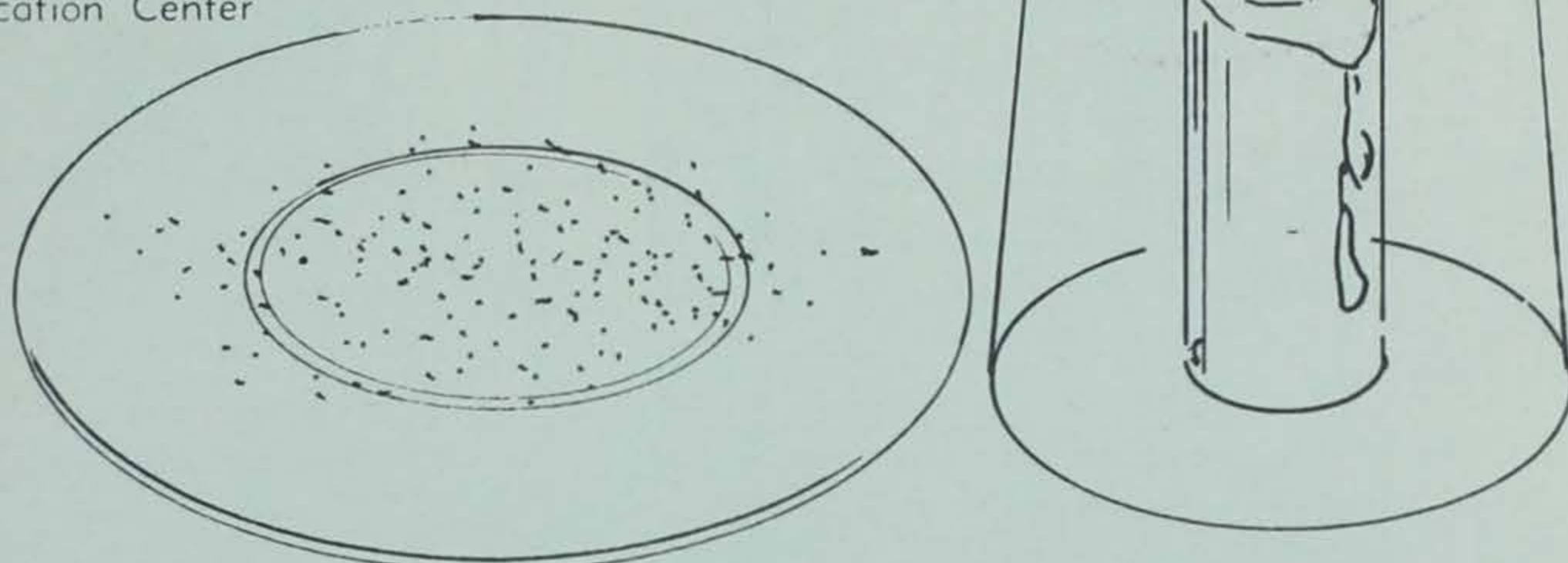
Fishing and boating are favorite past times on the river and at the lake. Channel catfish and flatheads are caught in the river and pan fish such as crappies and bluegills provide some good angling in the lake. Swimming is allowed at a nice beach on the western shore of the lake. There is a bath house near the beach. Boat docks and ramps are located at various places around the lake.

Lacey-Keosauqua has a diversity of recreation to offer her visitors. Historical interest of the park and surrounding towns make it an ideal place to visit. The scenic beauty of the cliffs and rolling hills alone is worth the trip.

Classroom Corner

By Curt Powell

Administrator
Conservation Education Center



Have you ever been to some place where the air smelled fresh and almost sweet? Where there was no smog, nor smoke nor exhaust fumes? Do you know what makes air foul or polluted? Is there anything that we might do to insure that we will always have good air to breathe?

When the composition of air is changed by substances that are harmful to living organisms, the air is said to be polluted. These substances might be exhaust fumes from automobiles, waste products produced by industry in the manufacture of goods, smoke from burning debris or chemicals. There are many methods through which air can be polluted. But, as you can see, the vast amount of air pollution comes from man's mis-use of the natural resource.

What is "air" and how is it used? Air is composed, basically, of nitrogen, oxygen, and carbon dioxide. It is a gas. Of these three gases which combine to make air, oxygen and carbon dioxide are probably the most important. Green plants use carbon dioxide to produce oxygen through a process called photo-synthesis. Animals use oxygen to maintain life and exhale some carbon dioxide. Not all of the gas (oxygen and carbon dioxide) is used in

this process to maintain life. In fact, very little of it is used. The rest is returned to the atmosphere. The little bit that is used is changed in composition however. How is it changed?

When material is burned, such as coal, oxygen from the air is used. Without oxygen, combustion of most materials will not take place. What happens if you place a glass jar over a candle? Does it go out? Is there any residue on the inside of the jar? What is it?

Carbon dioxide, water vapor, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide are a few of the by-products formed when material is burned. Of these, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide are the most poisonous and cause serious air pollution. These pollutants can move with the air currents and cause problems away from the area in which they were first formed.

Are there ways in which air pollution may be abated? Are there agencies that are trying to do so? On your own, investigate to see which state, federal, or local agencies there are that are trying to do something about air pollution. Draw a map of your town and mark on it the various sources of air pollution. Do you

think our State has many sources of air pollution?

One indication of how clean the air is, is to determine the number of suspended particles of pollutant material that there is in the air. Take two small dishes or saucers and smear the insides with vasoline. Place one dish outside near your school and another in your classroom (you may place a third one in your home if you like.) Let them set for twenty-four hours. Which dish has the most particles of soot, dust, etc., in it? Where would you say the air is cleaner?

Clean air is important to all living things. Since man can control what substances he put into the air, it is necessary that we all become concerned about doing our part.

Upcoming events at the Conservation Education Center: June 6 and 7 — Future Homemakers of America meeting; June 17 thru 23 — Muscular Dystrophy Association; June 25 thru 29 — Iowa Junior Academy of Science High School Science Survey (limit 64); July 23 thru August 1 — Session I Drake University. The Conservation Education Center is normally open Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome to stop by and tour the facilities and exhibits.

