

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA
Historical Building
DES MOINES IOWA 50319

Iowa CONSERVATIONIST

JUNE 1985

Special State Parks Issue

Iowa CONSERVATIONIST

Volume 44 No. 6 • June 1985

STAFF

Roger Sparks, *Editor*
Julie Holmes, *Assistant Editor*
Ron Johnson, *Photographer*
Kenneth Formanek, *Photographer*
Larry Pool, *Graphic Artist*

CONTENTS

- 2 Iowa's Parks • A New Look
- 4 Iowa's Quiet State Parks
- 7 State Parks — People Places
- 10 The Rose Blooms Again
- 12 A History Lesson in County Parks
- 13 Conservation Update
- 18 Classroom Corner
- 18 Nature Tale
- 20 Mines of Spain
- 22 Beyond Camping and Picnics
- 24 Trivial Pursuit Treasures
- 26 Brushy Creek
- 28 A Park with an Urban Flavor
- 30 Profile of an Endangered Species
- 31 Wildflower

FRONT COVER: Hiking trail at Backbone State Park. Photo by Ron Johnson. **BACK COVER:** Photo by Cathy Meddin-Robinson.

THE IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Baxter Freese, *Wellman, Chairman*; John D. Field, *Hamburg*; Marian Pike, *Whiting*; E. Richard Thornton, *Des Moines, Vice Chairman*; William B. Ridout, *Estherville*; Thomas E. Spahn, *Dubuque*; and Sam Kennedy, *Clear Lake*.

DIRECTOR: Larry J. Wilson.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR: Robert Fagerland.

DIVISION CHIEFS: Allen Farris, *Fish and Wildlife*; Stanley C. Kuhn, *Division of Administration*; Michael Carrier, *Lands and Waters*.

SECTION SUPERINTENDENTS: Tom Albright, *Engineering*; Doyle Adams, *Parks*; Richard Bishop, *Wildlife*; James Mayhew, *Fisheries*; Roy Downing, *Waters*; Lester Fleming, *Grants-in-Aid*; Gene Hertel, *State Forester*; Rick McGeough, *Law Enforcement*; Gene Geissinger, *Accounting*; Arnie Sohn, *Planning*; John Beamer, *Land Acquisition*; Judy Pawell, *License*; Ross Harrison, *Information and Education*; Robert Walker, *County Conservation Activities*.

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST (USPS 268-780), is published monthly by the Iowa Conservation Commission, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Second class postage paid in Des Moines, Iowa, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send changes of address to the Iowa Conservationist, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Send subscriptions — one year; \$5.00, two years; \$8.00, or 3 years; \$10.00 — to the address above.

The Iowa Conservation Commission offers equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against, please contact us.

IOWA'S PARKS A NEW LOOK

By Doyle D. Adams, *Superintendent of State Parks*

Do you remember your last visit to an Iowa state park? If you were one of the nearly 14,000,000 people who visited one in 1984, you probably noticed some changes.

Of course, there are still the stately trees, scenic overlooks, massive stone lodges built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's, and the rustic cabins. Still prevalent are the quiet picnic spots, busy campgrounds, sunny beaches, and fine fishing waters. All of the traditional facilities can be found in state parks, but now there is more.

Recent surveys have shown that most of Iowa's parks are underused, particularly on weekdays — and even more so in the early spring and fall. In many cases, park use can double with no problem of overcrowding, unless everyone wants to go to the same place at the same time. The surveys also showed that people want more from their parks. Our feelings that parks are for people precipitated new ideas to increase use by publicizing the areas and by providing better services to the people using them.

New Park Programs

The surveys indicated the need for expanding the types of uses in state parks. This was especially evident for families picnicking or camping with children, for those uninterested in traditional uses, and for individuals who plan to be in a park for a long period of time. With walking and hiking becoming more popular, a system of interpretive trails has been developed pointing out many of the natural and historical features that can be found in state parks. By the end of the 1985 season, every park with a full-time ranger will have some type of interpretive and hiking trail.

In many campgrounds, there has been little to do after the evening meal other than sit around the fire. Now, each park with a campground will be holding programs on weekends. These consist of

movies and presentations conducted by rangers and invited guest speakers. Topics will include birds, animals and flowers found in the park, tree identification, bird songs, bird banding, edible plants and the stars.

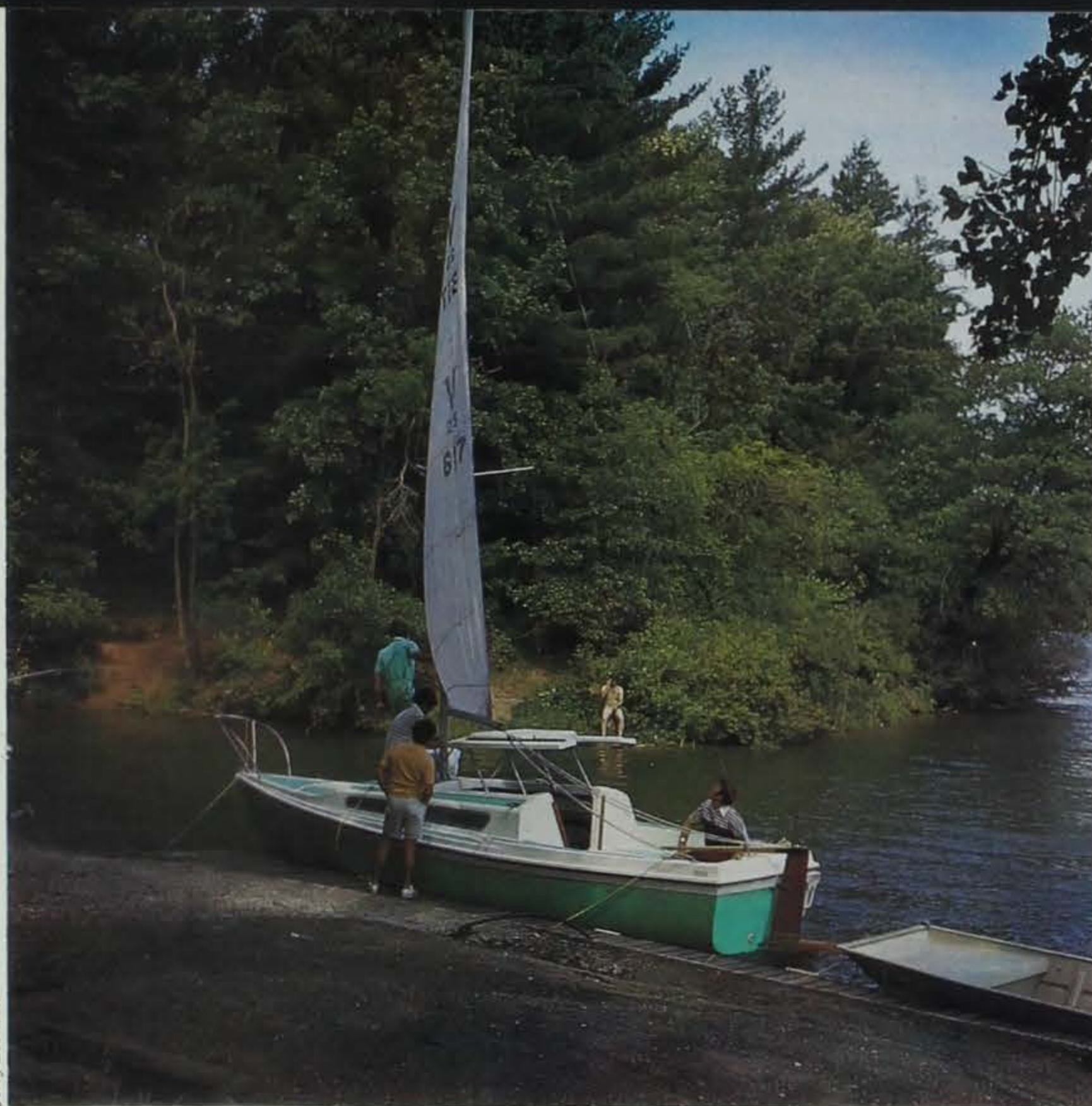
An "Artist In The Park" program in which ten artists conducted programs at eight parks was extremely well received in 1984. Included in this season's programs are folk music, dance, mural painting, story telling, puppetry, and photography. Plans are underway to expand this program to include clay and metal sculpting, silk screening, pottery work, water color painting, wood carving, and theater productions.

In an effort to encourage more wildlife species, both game and nongame, and also to provide added interest in our interpretive programs, state parks personnel have undertaken a variety of wildlife habitat development projects. These consist of planting trees and shrubs specifically to attract various species, and the planting of food patches to draw birds and animals into areas where they can be viewed by people from the trails and roads. Native prairie grasses and forbs are being re-established wherever possible. These are used not only by many wildlife species, but are also very popular for interpretive activities. Nearly all of Iowa's parks have some small niche where native prairie has been preserved or is being re-established.

To provide more activities for the younger set, many parks have constructed playground areas where kids can climb, jump, and crawl on and over facilities constructed with natural materials.

Concessions

With the addition of new concessions at Pleasant Creek, Lake Manawa, and George Wyth, 26 state park and recreation areas now have privately operated concessions offering beach and boat



Jerry Leonard

rental services. Many of them carry items available for campers such as food, gasoline, charcoal and firewood. Concessionaires patrol the beaches, rent boats, and provide bait. Some also rent dock space for privately owned boats for those who wish to use the lake on a regular basis. Their services also provide an element of safety appreciated by park visitors.

Special Events

Two major special events are hosted in state parks or preserves each year. In late September, the Fort Atkinson Rendezvous annually draws over 20,000 visitors to view the "bucksquitters" dressed as they would have been in the 1840's when the historic fort was in existence. Special programs including black powder shooting demonstrations and contests, tomahawk throwing, hourly cannon drills by the militia, movies, lectures on fort activities, authentic nineteenth century melodrama, and the women's skillet throw all add special interest to the weekend.

In far southeast Iowa at beautiful Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, the Forest Craft Festival in mid-October serves to acquaint the public with all aspects of timber and woodland wildlife management in Iowa. Of special interest, craft people demonstrate the arts of everything from wood sculpture to basket-

making. Most items are for sale. The heavily timbered hills of Lacey-Keosauqua are ideal for presenting demonstrations on small sawmill operation, chain-saw wood carving, crosscut saw contests, tree identification from leaves, as well as woodland management for various wildlife species.

Other special events such as Civilian Conservation Corps reunions, the Mississippi River revival, informal artists in the parks programs, special beach attractions, and many other events will be held in every park on a monthly basis throughout the summer of 1985.

State Park Week

The second week of June in 1984 brought the first State Park Week celebration. The purpose was to increase public awareness of Iowa's state parks and recreation areas and to let the people of Iowa know what there was to see and do in their parks. This year's state park week will be held June 9-15 and will feature many types of promotions including a drawing for 20 free camping passes for a month of free camping in Iowa's parks. Special rates will be in effect for swimming beaches, canoe, paddleboat and boat rental. Drawings will be held for prizes ranging from T-shirts, to merchandise discounts; from fishing tackle to beverages. Many special programs and events will be held in

New programs, like the Forest Craft Festival below, mix with traditional uses, like sailing.



Ron Johnson

individual parks during the week and throughout the summer.

Mascot

As a special part of 1985 State Park Week activities, the new state park mascot will be presented by Governor Branstad at his news conference proclaiming State Park Week. This contest was undertaken through posters drawn by fourth to sixth-grade students in all schools throughout the state. These were judged, and the winner chosen for the state park mascot who will put in appearances at various state parks and special events throughout the year. The mascot will be the official symbol of Iowa's state parks.

All of the above expansion and improvement of programs and activities within the state parks has been done at a time of drastically curtailed budgets. Many state park facilities have had little or no maintenance due to lack of funding since they were originally built. Many facilities are in a state of disrepair, and without renovation, will have to be closed. Efforts to solve this problem have been well received in the legislature, and new funding has been promised to be available in late 1985. Efforts are being made by parks personnel to solicit help in the way of donations of materials and services to do as much upgrading of facilities as possible until new funding sources are received. In 1984, these efforts brought in over \$84,000 to be used in upgrading the parks. We hope this figure will be much higher in 1985.

Many exciting things are planned for Iowa's state parks in the coming years. The next time you are looking for something to do, come to a state park and see what's new!

Iowa's Quiet State Parks

By Wendy Van Gundy

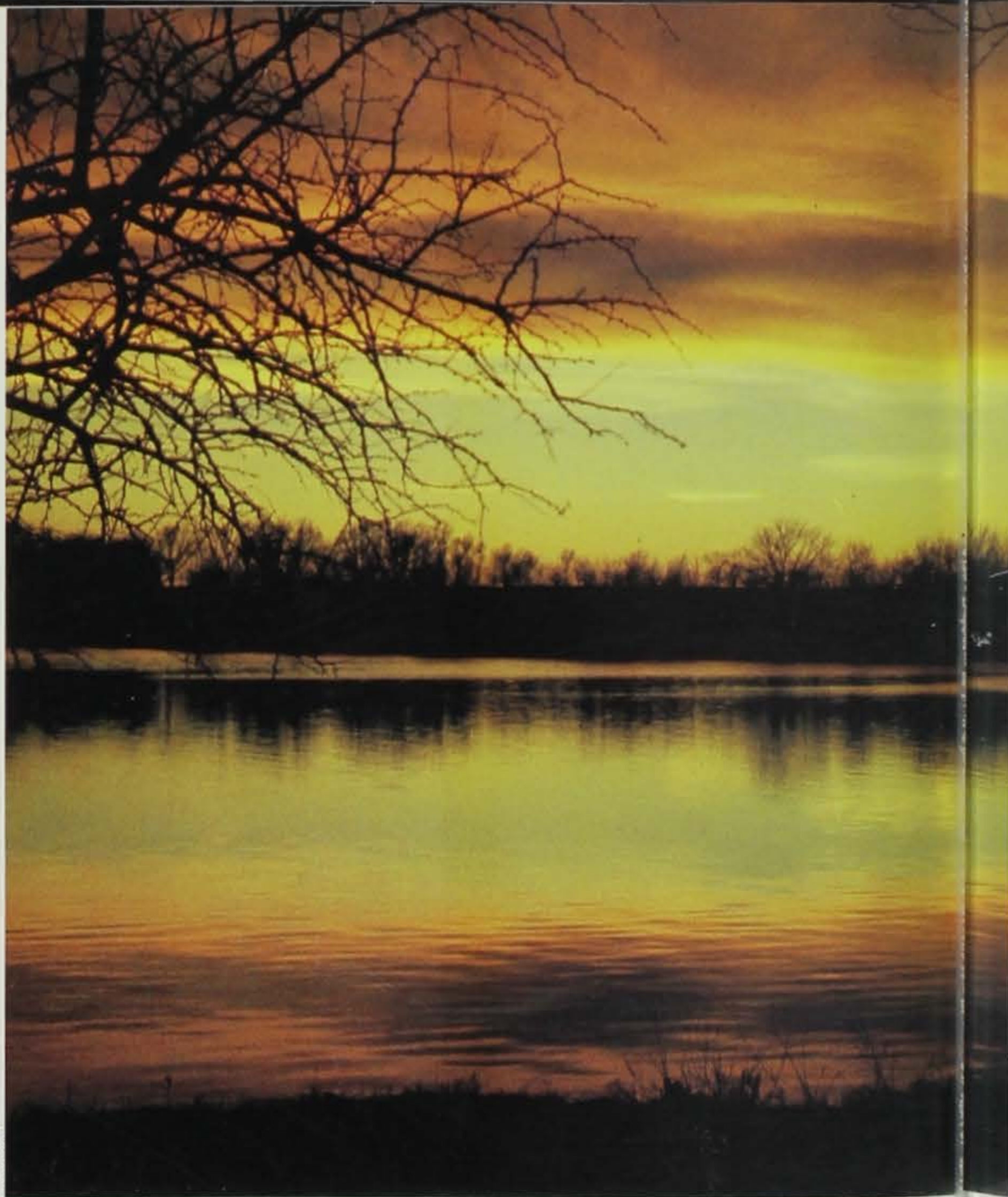
If you wish to experience nature at its best, without the competition of noisy crowds, visit one of our 13 selected parks. They are found sprinkled throughout the state. Each is a special place and many contain some unique and historical features. Bobwhite State Park is typical of these areas and will be featured here.

I first knew of Bobwhite's existence back in fifth grade when we were studying maps during Iowa history class. I learned it had been named after the bobwhite quail, native to southern Iowa.

I had my first opportunity to visit the area last year during a tour of that part of the state. It is a 390-acre gem nestled along Iowa's southern border in Wayne County. I found it to be a place to escape the crowds and noise of the city and it affords time to relax around nature's beauty.

I discovered it was first owned by the Rock Island Railroad. They built the 89-acre lake in the early 1900's to supply water to the steam engines in nearby Allerton. It became a state park after World War II and since then, it has been managed for wildlife as well as people.

Pick any time of the year and a variety of wildlife can be seen in the park. I hiked the self-guided nature trail this spring and saw and heard many pheasants along the cropland edges. Just before sunset, the woodcock were out attempting to attract mates with their courtship dance and aerial displays. If you hike the trails this summer, watch for



Keith Allen

Bobwhite State Park

the pheasant and quail broods slipping through the grass. Ducks, coots and shorebirds use the area in the spring and fall. Swans, pelicans and loons are unusual migrants through the area.

People not only come to Bobwhite to watch wildlife but to pick mushrooms, blackberries and raspberries. Like other parks, wildflowers flourish throughout the area.

The campground and picnic facilities overlook the lake. Campfire programs are planned for each Saturday night. Topics will include: Iowa waterfowl, wildflowers, nature photography, fossils, pioneers of Wayne County, pheasants, woodcock, weather and much more. Contact Keith Allen, park ranger, for further information.

Other quiet areas worth visiting are:

A.A. CALL STATE PARK — Kossuth County

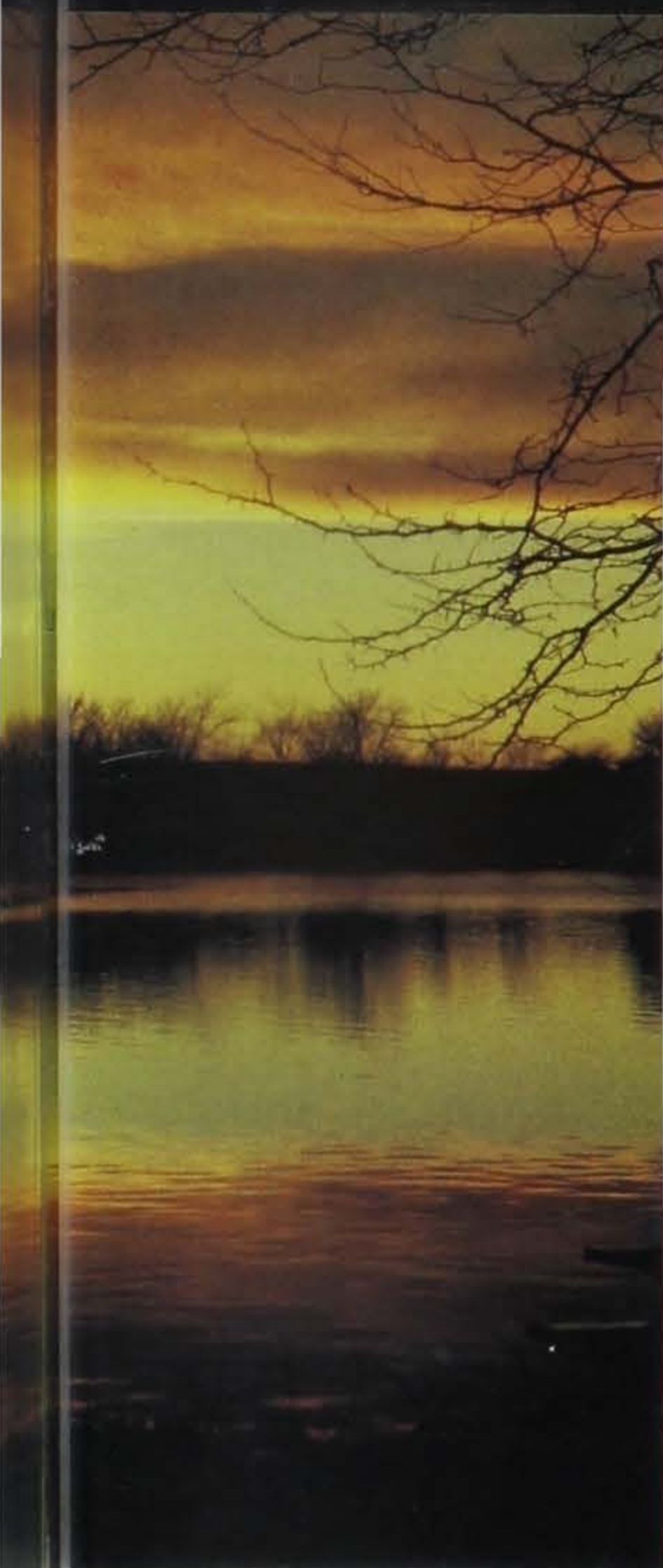
If you've never played frisbee golf, grab your frisbee and a picnic lunch and

come out and play 18 holes. After the game, take a stroll through the park and visit the 1859 log cabin, or join in the wildflower hikes conducted by the park staff in June. A lovely lodge can be rented for your family reunion.

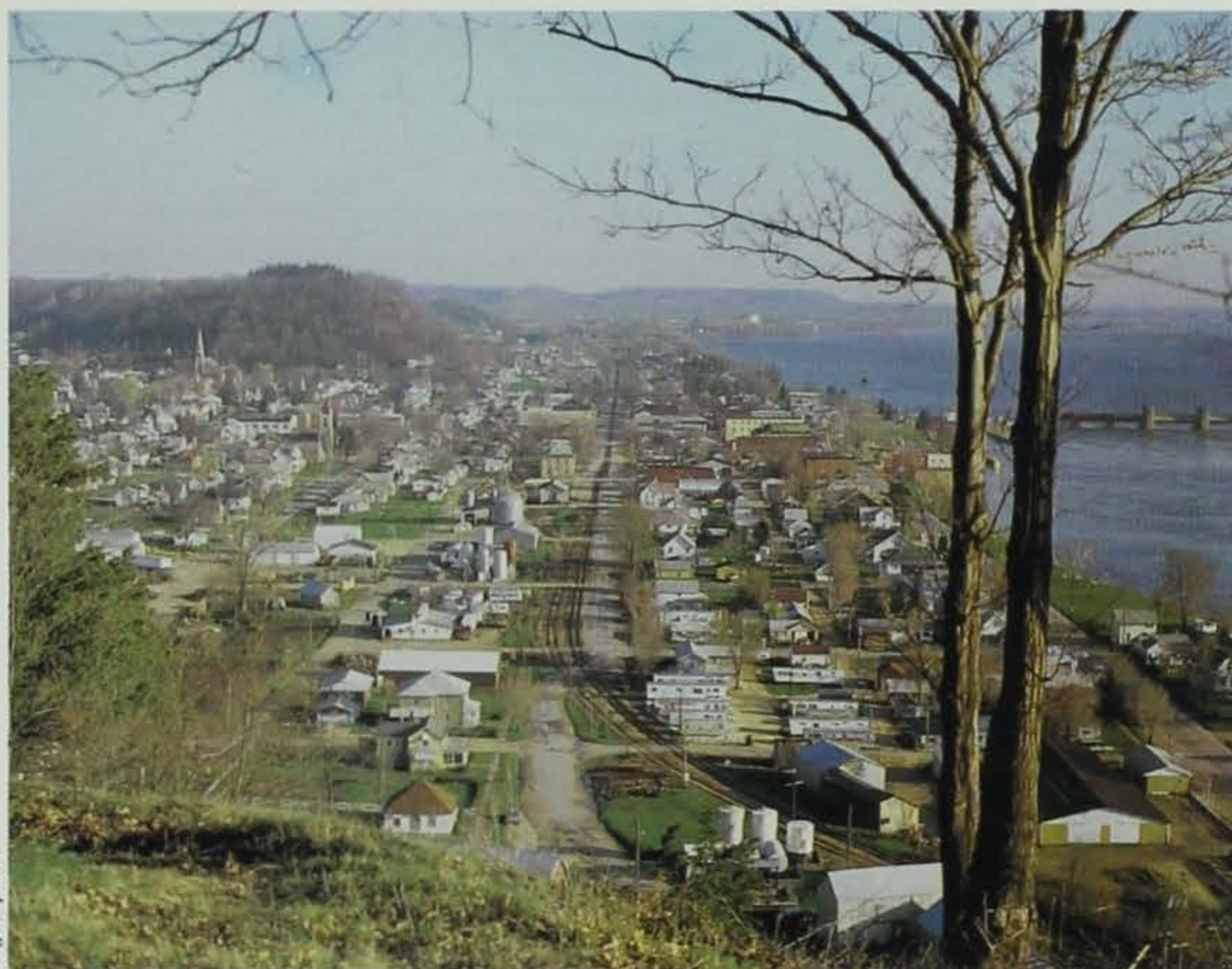
BELLEVUE STATE PARK — Jackson County

This park overlooks the Mississippi River valley. Whether you hike or simply drive through the park, take time to see the dramatic view from the cliffs towering over the Mississippi River. If you plan to camp, have a sunrise breakfast from one of the lookout points. The new interpretive center is well worth visiting.

Family programs are offered each month. An edible plant program was given in May and a basic photo seminar is planned for June 9, from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. If you are unable to participate in the family programs stop in at the visitor center or visit the butterfly gardens while the flowers are in bloom.

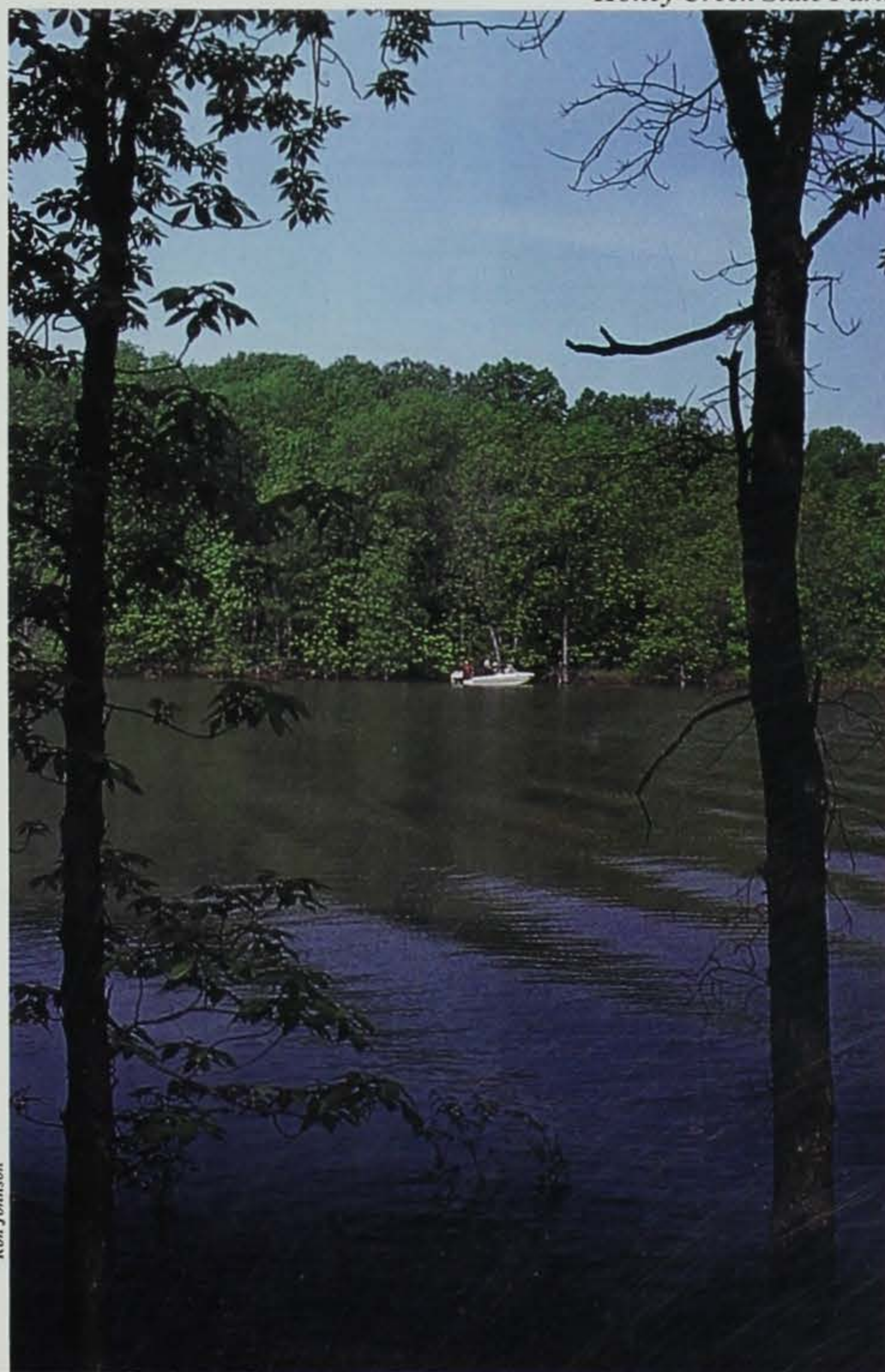


Roger Sparks



Bellevue, from Bellevue State Park

Honey Creek State Park



Ron Johnson

ELK ROCK STATE PARK — Marion County

A non-electric equestrian campground is available and the five-mile equestrian trail will be expanded this year. This area is located on Red Rock Reservoir and has excellent boat launching facilities.

Spring and fall is also an excellent time to see migratory waterfowl and pelicans or look for other wildlife along the self-guided nature trail on the north side of the park.

FORT DEFIANCE STATE PARK — Emmet County

Fort Defiance is located only 14 miles from Iowa's Great Lakes. The park is blanketed with lush vegetation including many species of trees, woodland and prairie flowers, and prairie grasses. The inviting shade of the many foot trails and bridal trails in the park offers a cool respite from the summer sun. It is a quiet get-away from the hustle and bustle of



Jerry Leonard

Lake of Three Fires State Park

the Great Lakes. There is a quaint lodge that can be rented for family reunions or rainy-day picnics.

HONEY CREEK STATE PARK —
Appanoose County

This park has a newly expanded campground with individual water hookups and a beautiful view of Lake Rathbun. Fishing is good for catfish, walleye and crappie, and there are fish cleaning stations near the boat ramps.

Hiking and snowmobile trails are available and a new self-guided nature trail is being planned for this summer.

LAKE OF THREE FIRES STATE PARK — Taylor County

In the 642 acres surrounding the lake picturesque woodlands are perfect for hiking, bird watching, and photography. Three areas for camping and picnicking are located beneath giant oaks. Cabins can be rented for an economical, quiet vacation.

The Native Americans used this area as a meeting place. It was known by the smoke of three fires that said, "This is where the meeting will be held."

PAMMEL STATE PARK —
Madison County

The tunnel through the limestone bluff is a unique attraction of the park. Ferns and wildflowers can be seen growing within the cracks of the rocks. Catfish and bullhead fishing is a favorite along the Middle River. Children enjoy wading the streams on a hot summer afternoon.

A fitness trail is also available for the more energetic visitor.

PRAIRIE ROSE STATE PARK —
Shelby County

This park received its name from a small town located in the area. The 218-acre, man-made lake is located in southwest Iowa. The lake was renovated in 1981 and a good fishing season is expected this year.

Wildlife food plots have been established along with ten acres of reconstructed prairie.

STONE STATE PARK — Woodbury County

This park lies within one of the most unique landforms of Iowa. The wind-deposited soil of the Loess Hills hosts

a variety of plants found nowhere else in Iowa.

The 25 miles of trails will take you through both prairie and wooded areas. Over 70 species of wildflowers have been recorded within the park.

WALNUT WOODS STATE PARK —
Polk County

Within these timbered boundaries remains one of the largest surviving natural stand of black walnut trees in Iowa. It is only a few miles from Des Moines and the Raccoon River meanders its way through the park.

WILDCAT DEN STATE PARK —
Muscatine County

A visitor can step back into time as he or she visits the old county school and the 1850 grist mill on Pine Creek. The grist mill is one of the few left in the country, and is used by school classes studying Iowa history. The facilities are open seven days a week during the summer.

Three to four miles of trails will take you to fascinating rock formations such as "Steamboat Rock," Devil's Punch Bowl, and "Horseshoe Bend."

WAUBONSIE STATE PARK —
Fremont County

For a quiet escape from the humdrum of daily life, try Waubonsie. It is a home for many unique plants and animals found only in the loess hills. The Native Americans ate the pawpaws which grow here. If you have a quick eye, you may see a great plains skink or the uncommon otoi skipper butterfly. Take the Sunset Ridge nature trail and watch for deer and turkeys.

Plan a mini-vacation this summer and share a few of these parks with your family. I intend to pack my camping gear and camera and head out for a few quiet, pleasant weekends.

Individual brochures for these parks are available from the Iowa Conservation Commission, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Wendy Van Gundy is an information specialist for the Iowa Conservation Commission. She has a B.S. degree in fisheries and wildlife biology from Iowa State University and has been employed in the conservation field for nine years.



Ron Johnson

Camping at Lake Darling

Some were acquired just barely into the age of the automobile. People wanted a nearby place to picnic or hold a family reunion. Later, many were bought because of their historic or geological significance. During the past decade, several have been purchased and developed under the multiple-use concept. Regardless of when or why they came to be, Iowa's state parks are, and always have been, "people places." As a whole, our parks, forests, and recreation areas constitute one fine system of outdoor enjoyment.

CAMPING

Campers of all kinds can do their thing in state parks or forests. Most areas have large campgrounds with individual pads, electrical hookups, showers and such. Good spots for the self-contained units and big R.V.s. But even those areas often

have quiet corners, normally without electricity and other comforts, where tent campers can get pretty lonely, if they so desire. And speaking of quiet places, state forests, Yellow River (Allamakee Co.), Shimek (Lee and Van Buren Cos.), and Stephens (Lucas Co.), have largely undeveloped campgrounds. These areas also have remote, backpack trails and camping spots. Great places for the back-to-nature set.

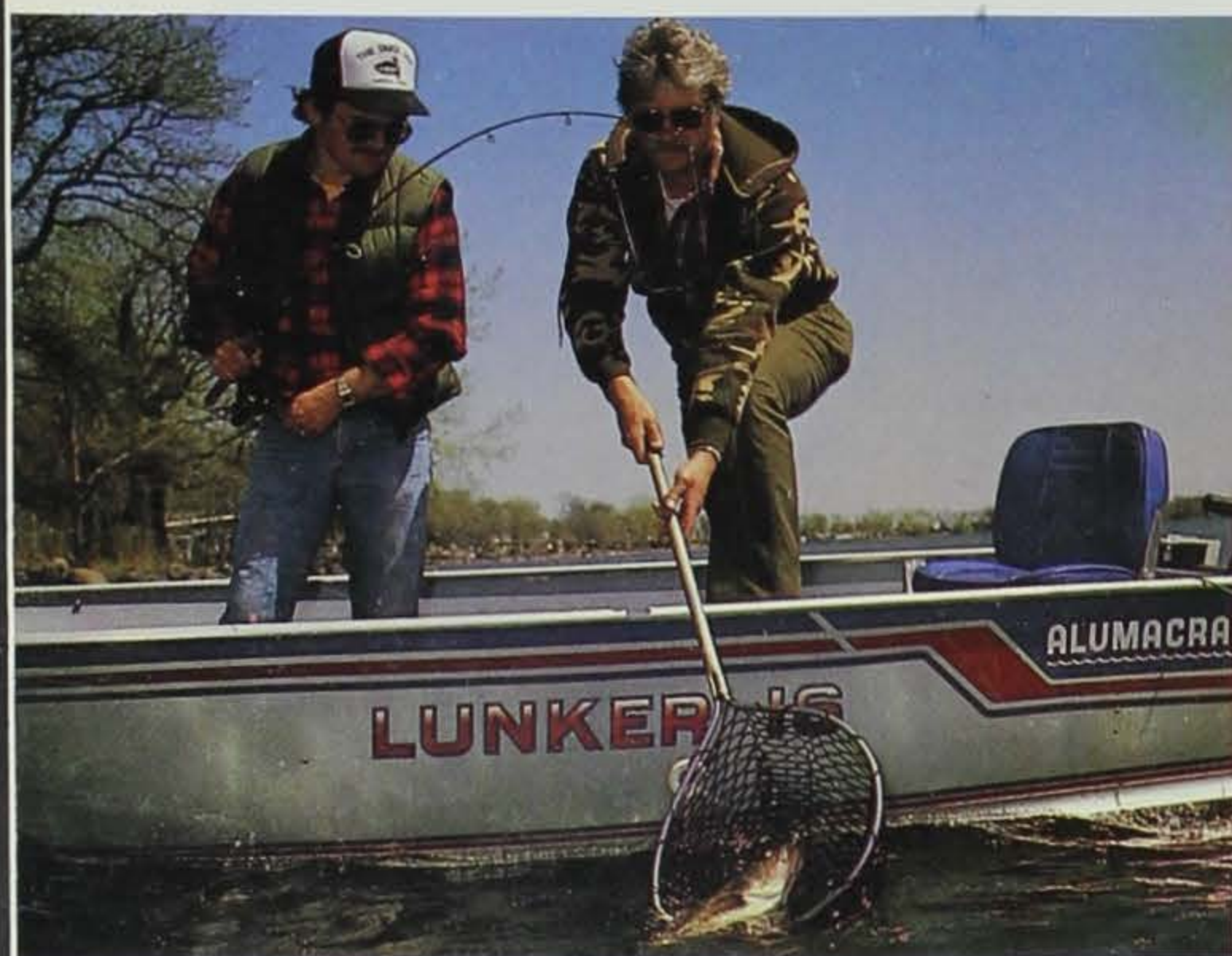
Starting July 1, fees will be five dollars for a non-modern area, six dollars for a modern area (has shower and flush toilets) and an additional two dollars for electrical hookup. Senior citizens can still camp for three dollars, plus two dollars for electricity. Friendly neighbors, Saturday night movies and other good things are free. One more thing — self-registration is now used in all areas and is working just fine, thanks to the cooperation of Iowa campers. *continued*

STATE PARKS

People Places

By Roger Sparks

Ken Formanek



Ron Johnson

Something for everyone at state parks — like the rustic lodge at Dolliver, walleye fishing on the great lakes, or roasting hot dogs anywhere.



Jerry Leonard

People Places *continued*

Overnight group camping facilities are available to organized groups at Dolliver (Webster Co.) and Springbrook (Guthrie Co.) State Parks. Groups are provided lodging and dining accommodations, including cooking utensils and dishes. Groups bring their bedding, pillows, towels and toiletry items. Reservation and rate information are available from the park ranger.

Lake Keomah State Park (Mahaska Co.) also offers group camping, without indoor overnight accommodations. Camping is allowed near the day-use building which contains a kitchen, rest rooms, and a meeting space. The ranger takes reservations.

TRAILS

Trails, trails, trails. Parks offer trails for hikers, bicyclists, nature buffs, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers and horseback riders (see stories on equestrian trails and the interpretive program elsewhere in this issue). All cannot be mentioned here, but a few good trails deserve some description.

The bike trail through George Wyth State Park in Cedar Falls is great for the pedal-power folks. It traverses varied country from downtown Cedar Falls to the park itself, including a pretty stretch of woods along the Cedar River. Plans call for lengthening the trail in the future. Every inch is beautiful and nearly all of it is dead level!

That is not exactly the case with the Pikes Peak State Park to Point Ann trail (Clayton County). Here we're talkin' six miles of pure up-and-down that would fairly test an experienced goat. It's worth it, though. The trail wanders past some of Iowa's most dramatic views of the vast Mississippi River Valley. Few scenes in this state can honestly be termed breathtaking. This trail has several of them.

Volga River State Recreation Area (Fayette Co.) has a fine trails system. It's a big area and has more than 20 miles of well-designed trails. Some of the heaviest use occurs during winter by snowmobilers and cross-country skiers.

Perhaps the best nature trail so far (they're still being developed in many areas) is the one at Stone State Park. A brochure available at the trail head is helpful.

Several parks have fitness trails. These have equipment at various stops to improve physical fitness. The trails are

popular at Keomah and Pammel State Parks.

SWIMMING

State parks offer their own brand of swimming. Sand beaches and clean, supervised swimming areas are typical in most areas. Some parks offer bathhouses with dressing rooms and showers, as well as food concessions.

PICNICKING

Nearly all parks and recreation areas offer tables and fire rings or grills for picnics. These refreshing spots are located along scenic streams or overlooking the lake or river. It is truly amazing how good the simple old hot-dog tastes, when surrounded by the cool evening air, 200-year-old oaks, and maybe a little mustard.

A number of parks have enclosed shelters. Most of these attractive old facilities were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. They have stoves, refrigerators, water and rest rooms. Rental fees are charged and the rangers at the following parks can take reservations: A.A. Call (Kossuth Co.), Bellevue (Jackson Co.), Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo Co.), Dolliver (Webster Co.), Fort Defiance (Emmet Co.), George Wyth (Black Hawk Co.), Gull Point (Dickinson Co.), Lacey-Keosauqua (Van Buren Co.), Lake Keomah, Lake Wapello (Davis Co.), Lewis and Clark (Monona Co.), Palisades-Kepler (Linn Co.), Pammel (Madison Co.), Pine Lake (Hardin Co.), Stone (Plymouth Co.), Walnut Woods (Polk Co.), and Wapsipinicon (Jones Co.), State Parks.

FAMILY CABINS

Family cabins, which sleep four comfortably, may be rented for a week or two in seven state parks, Backbone (Fayette Co.), Dolliver, Lacey Keosauqua, Lake of Three Fires (Taylor Co.), Lake Wapello, Palisades-Kepler, and Springbrook. Renters provide bedding, pillows, towels and toiletry items. Rangers handle reservations which do fill up fast.

BOATING AND FISHING

Most parks are on some body of water or contain a lake or pond. Fishing and boating are major attractions. Most Iowans know where to go to catch fish, canoe a stream, water ski or go sailing, but for the greenhorns in the audience, here are some favorites.

The natural lakes in northern Iowa have it all. Clear Lake is more than 3,600 acres and Clear Lake State Park has a major campground and beach. McIntosh

Woods has a newly renovated campground and also provides picnicking, hiking, swimming, and other activities, as well as the major public boat launching facility on Clear Lake. Clear Lake is an excellent pleasure boating area and fishing lake. It periodically provides good catches of walleyes, perch, white bass and bullheads.

West Okoboji (3,900 acres) and Spirit Lake (5,600 acres) are the cream of the crop of natural lakes in Iowa. These Dickinson County gems offer good fishing for walleyes, muskies, perch, small-mouth bass and other species. Pleasure boating, water skiing, sailing and swimming have made these lakes famous. A number of parks surround them. They provide a variety of facilities, historic sites and recreational opportunities. The areas are Isthmus Access, Gardner Sharp Cabin, Marble Beach, Mini-Wakan, and Pikes Point on Spirit; and Gull Point, Emerson Bay, Pillsbury Point and Triboji Beach on West Okoboji.

Federal reservoirs also have some good fishing and boating along with well-developed parks. Red Rock in Marion County has Elk Rock State Park, and Rathbun in Appanoose County has Honey Creek State Park. Red Rock fluctuates a great deal, but periodically yields jumbo crappies and white bass. Rathbun anglers catch crappies, catfish and occasionally, huge walleyes, when the lake is right.

Some of the best of all state fishing areas may be found in the many parks with small impoundments. Red Haw (Lucas Co.), Pleasant Creek (Linn Co.), Big Creek (Polk Co.), Lake Anita (Cass Co.), Nine Eagles (Decatur Co.), and Lake Macbride, (Johnson Co.) are just a few. Normally, bluegills, crappies, catfish or bass will cooperate. On lakes 100 acres or more in size, outboard motors up to ten horsepower are allowed, while on those smaller than 100 acres, electric trolling motors, sails and oars provide legal transportation.

Iowa's wonderful system of lovely parks offers other seasonal activities such as mushroom and nut gathering. An incredible variety of songbirds and other wildlife species as well as all kinds of wildflowers from common to extremely rare are found in state parks, to the delight of serious nature students. Most areas offer a variety of winter fun opportunities like cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, ice skating and sledding.

Still, right now it's hard not to think about a lakeside sunset and the smell of campfires, isn't it? Ahh, the hotdogs are ready.

Renovation of Prairie Rose Lake involved watershed work, like terracing, and a complete fish-kill before restocking.



Bruce Adair
Bruce Adair



THE ROSE BLOOMS AGAIN

By Bruce C. Adair



Ron Johnson

Prairie Rose State Park, located eight miles southeast of Harlan in Shelby County, was opened in 1962, a 422-acre area just begging for use by area residents and I-80 travelers. Nestled within the wind-formed hills in the center of the park is a 204-acre lake which is the hub of the park's recreational activities. Many thousands of anglers, swimmers, picnickers, campers, and hikers enjoyed the park after its inception.

During the late 1970s, however, the lake and its fine fishing appeared to be destined for the same fate as its namesake, the village of Prairie Rose. Once a thriving little community near the present location of the park, the town of Prairie Rose is now a part of history. Prairie Rose Lake, previously known throughout southwest Iowa for its fine largemouth bass, bluegill, catfish, and crappie angling, had in fact become populated by carp and gizzard shad. The few game fish that remained generally lacked good body condition and were no longer growing.

Even a casual look at the lake itself foretold problems. The water remained in a muddy condition during much of the open-water season. Even moderate rainfall within its watershed deepened the lake's chocolate appearance. Heavy rains brought in not only tons of silt but also corn stalks, bales of hay, even dead livestock. The name Prairie Rose somehow just didn't seem to fit this worsening situation.

As fisheries managers we recognized two problems needed to be solved. First, we needed to replace the existing rough fish populations with game fish, and second, we needed to improve water quality by reducing the silt load entering the lake from surrounding farmland. Only by accomplishing both measures could long lasting improvements be expected.

To gain control of the watershed of the lake is a complex and expensive process. Most of the Prairie Rose watershed was privately owned and intensively farmed. However, through funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Clean Water Program (RCWP), 1981 marked the beginning of many watershed control improvements. Cost sharing under the RCWP prompted landowners surrounding Prairie Rose to add approximately 43 miles of terraces, eight erosion control structures, and ten acres of grassed waterways. Even more are under contract for the future. In addition, the bridge crossing the southeast arm of the lake was replaced with a riser-tube,

turning the shallow area to the east into another sediment basin for the lake. The results of these improvements have been monitored since 1982 and the water clarity is vastly improved. The silt load entering the lake and the agricultural chemicals that accompany it are down substantially.

To renew the fisheries resource in Prairie Rose, the lake was drawn down 15 feet during the fall of 1981, and the remaining water treated with the fish toxicant rotenone to eliminate all fish from the lake basin and all streams entering into it. The resulting kill verified previous surveys which indicated an extremely poor sport fishery. Only about ten percent of the fish in the lake were game fish. Each acre of a given body of water such as Prairie Rose can support just so many pounds of fish, just as an acre of pasture land can graze a limited number of cattle. Prairie Rose Lake had been dominated by carp and gizzard shad.

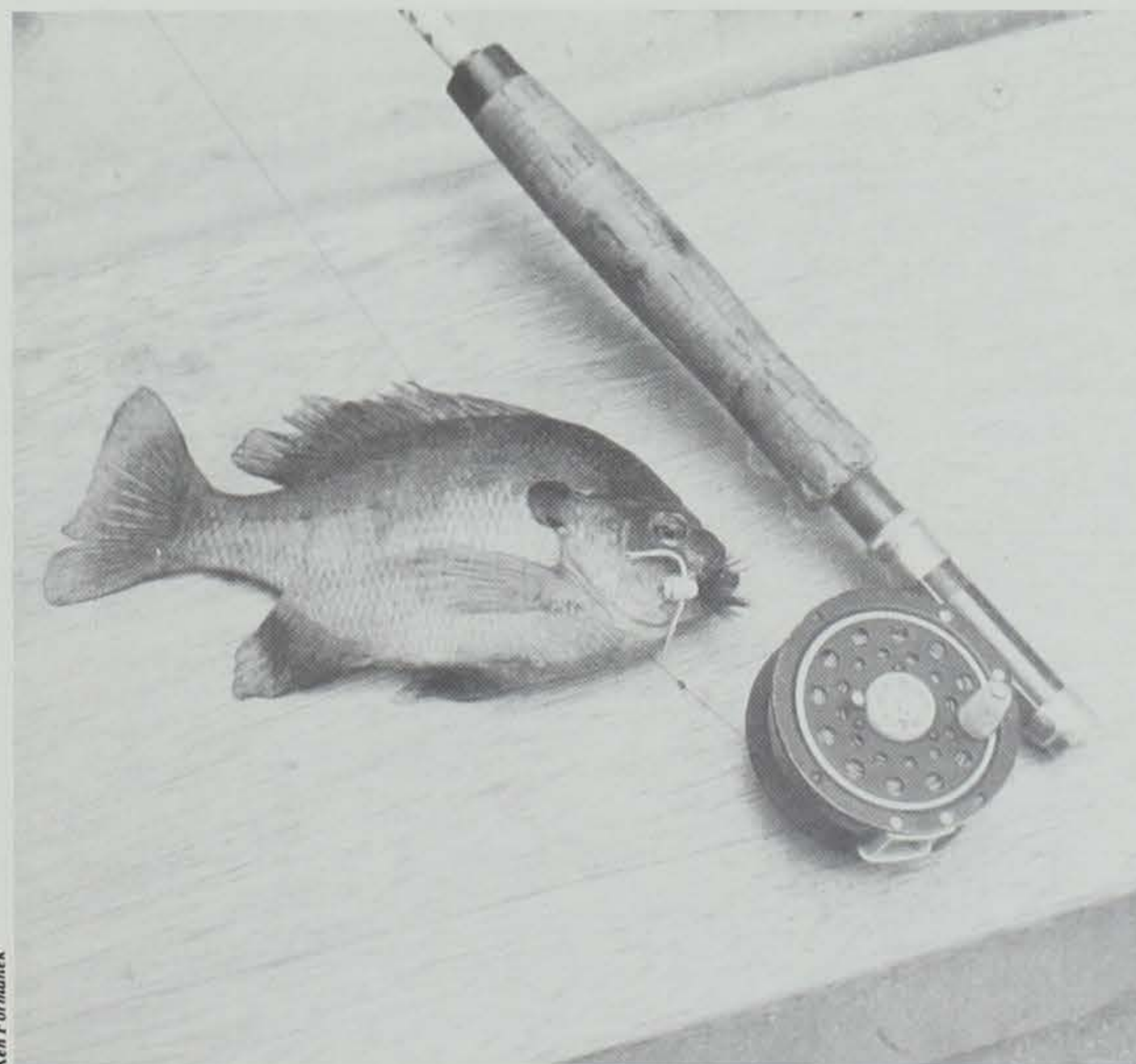
The actual renovation took place on September 15, 1981, and in October of that year, the first hatchery truck rolled into the park to begin restocking the lake. To date, 280,000 fish have been introduced into the "new" Prairie Rose. These included largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, bullhead,

tiger musky and white amur. The initial restocking was completed in June, 1983 with the second stocking of largemouth bass fingerlings. Maintenance stockings of channel catfish and tiger musky will continue as needed. Fish attractor structures, added to the lake by our own fisheries personnel and by area bass clubs during the draw-down will be used by all these species.

College students have been employed the past two summers by our agency as creel clerks at Prairie Rose Lake. By counting anglers and by counting and measuring their catches, the developing fishery can be observed. The catch has been dominated by bullheads to date but their importance will continue to diminish as the bass, panfish, and channel catfish numbers expand.

The first few years of this decade have caused some inconveniences to be endured by Prairie Rose users, but as the new Prairie Rose blooms during the mid-1980s, watch this area once again become one of southwest Iowa's finest.

Bruce Adair is a fisheries management biologist at Cold Springs Management Station in Lewis. He is a graduate of Iowa State University and began employment with the commission in 1972.



Ken Formanek



A HISTORY LESSON IN COUNTY PARKS

By Dennis Carlson

A lesson in Iowa history, you ask yourself? What does that have to do with a county park?

Plenty, when you consider that many of Iowa's parks come into public ownership because of their ties to Iowa's past — ties to Native Americans, to the first white settlers, to the birth and death of towns and cities.

The Franklin County Conservation Board has several county conservation areas which invite you back into the past, sparking your imagination to consider the changes taking place in Iowa more than 100 years ago. You can walk where wagon trains rolled across the Iowa

plains heading westward, leaving only their dead behind. You can stand where small towns sprang up and died as the railroads passed them by. And you can view the steep river valley bluffs where Indians camped to hunt the wild game and made arrowheads and stone axes, struggling to survive the severe Iowa winters.

Ingebretson Memorial Grove, located two miles northwest of the town of Sheffield in Franklin County, is the site of an old pioneer cemetery. The grove marks the remains of early settlers who came to the area and stayed. As with many early cemeteries, a number of the

headstones mark the resting places of children who could not survive the harshness of the country.

This cemetery was thought to have 12 burial sites at one time. However, only one headstone remains today, that of a young boy who died at the age of one year, nine months and ten days on November 28, 1862. This solitary stone is all that remains of some of the earliest pioneers in Franklin County, but it is enough to invite you to sit in that place, close your eyes and imagine life so long ago.

A second stop might be at Mallory Park, thought to be the first campsite of white settlers in Franklin County. The park, located five miles south of the town of Hampton, is a 71-acre tract of oak-hickory timber with Maynes Creek flowing slowly over a rocky stream bed.

The first community get-together was held at this site, once known as Maynes Grove. It's said that Mr. and Mrs. Maynes heard a gun fired and discovered a neighbor, James Reeve, with a freshly shot raccoon. Such an event must have been reason enough to hold a celebration in those days.

A brass plaque marks the site and you can sit in the tall grass of Maynes Grove and dream of being one of the first settlers in the great wilderness called Iowa.

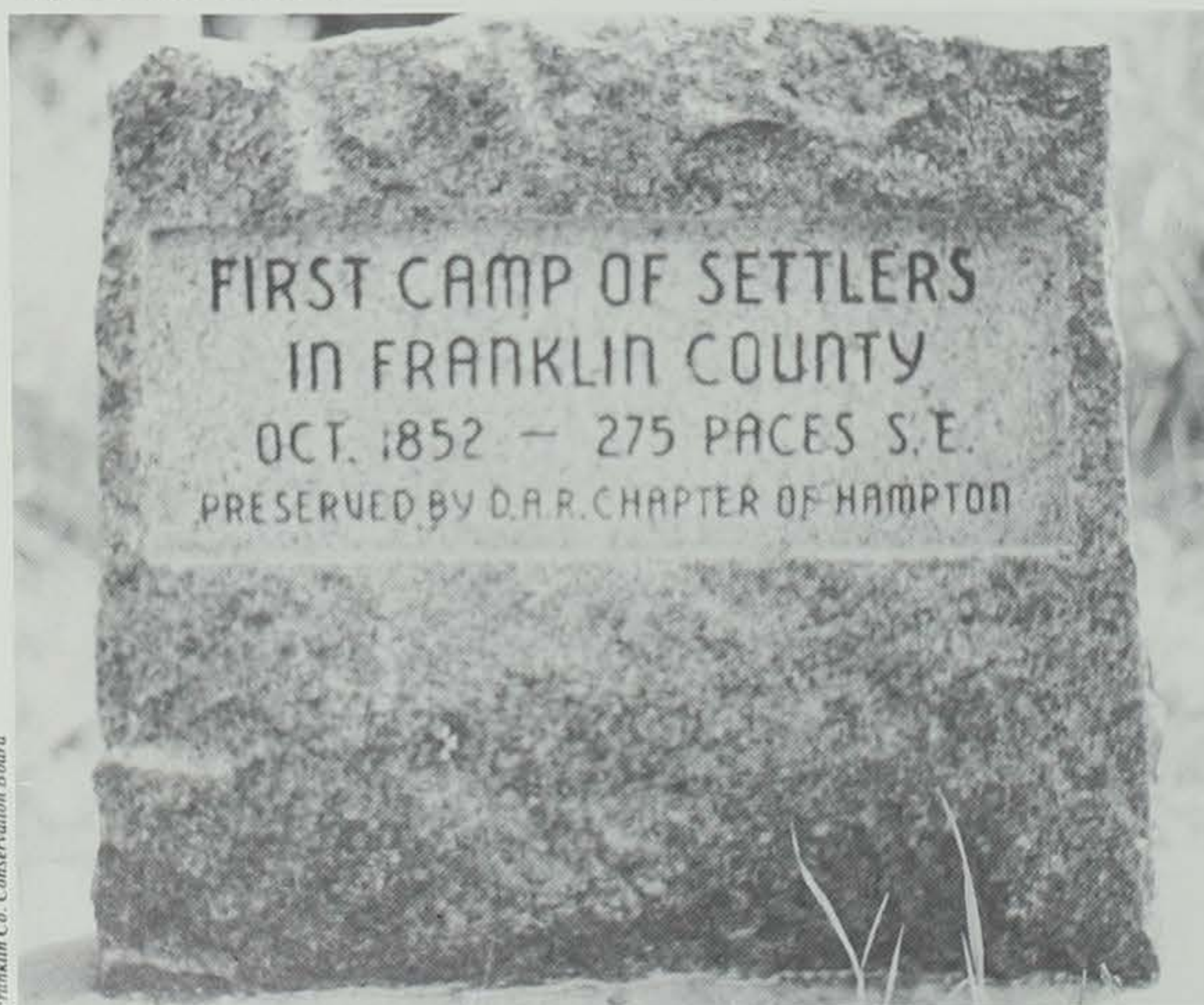
A visit to Popejoy Conservation Park, located one mile south of the town of Popejoy in southwest Franklin County, takes you one more step back into history.

When a county road grader sliced off the top eight inches of soil from a proposed borrow pit for a road project, it was obvious that the soil contained secrets from the past. Fire-broken rocks, projectile points and reddish broken rocks from fire pits revealed the temporary campsite of a woodland Indian tribe as they hunted and traveled along the Iowa River.

As you stand on the bluff looking toward the river, feeling the cool summer breeze, you can imagine the Indians hunting the river woodlands and traveling the rivers with the changing seasons.

The Franklin County Conservation Board urges you to enjoy your county parks this year and to learn to appreciate the ever-changing faces of nature. Who knows, you might even get an Iowa history lesson.

Dennis Carlson has been the director of the Franklin County Conservation Board for 13 years. He is a graduate of Iowa State University with a degree in Forest Management.



Franklin Co. Conservation Board



PARKS PUZZLE

LAGAACALLSELUORBMRDLAKEDARLING
 TSLUWIFDATAUQUASOEKEYECAL EODUER
 EREKLAKLRKOPMDVAJBHNL SYLIHOPE
 KNE LLSMERELKROCKIWPARKLEADCNE
 AOEEGIPAKEKALENIPAYHGFUJAEKLCN
 LCKDRAHOLSMANPWGHOEP ILOTKNOBT V
 SIORUQENILYASIRBJSSBBTAFUGTKIA
 DNORUTREONILQATLDMOSELENYHCKUL
 EIRAKRCLNOTFEUWAPKRALCDNASIWEL
 EPBMGOWDLIRCLAOCMDEHLQUJSNPYRE
 BIGCREEKCONPMGAKTHIDEWCUGNLKIY
 OSNIOFERVATYEKWH EJRVRRLURSSOR
 OPIRMELTIENTOTSEARTIGUMAEB CNPUT
 LARTCOEFIERCWDWPEAHEKBIVOWNCE
 TWPOILEKLGLPUWIKHARCEMBUBIRFS
 KESWND COEAAAERRLGPPAAYUUCMLGOV
 PARKTOEWKLKOKEBWDHLNUVAILFSLRD
 KOURODYPWSEERLECOLLEPAWEKALOROS
 EFOCSTIKBEKPOMMLYECKLSWSNINLOD
 EFG EHRWPRCELKCEANIAPSFOSENIMJO
 RQUVWOMHUKOZIAKONEFHGPFUFRCSXPO
 CBROOLNB SRMIFEA CRAYTIKLEAHL YBW
 TGF FROMWEHKAPKRLDRAWKBONCRZAGRT
 NVHGDADRYKH XIEPWAE EALOMPAENXSU
 ARSNSABXC CPOALKDESEOBMQETSDYT N
 SNUOSKRGRERRLMWQPMVKPAMMELDHEL
 AXLIYTHVERLEKHL EORCFBYRGIDWAAA
 ERLNXCPWEAYGEZABFAYKNEDTACDLIW
 LAGUPURNKWDKXKPSBHWAZ EKHGTL OYA
 PLSERI FEEERHTFOEKALVOLGARIVEROJ

Find the state parks listed below in this hidden-word puzzle set up by Jim Magirl, park attendant at George Wyth State Park.

A.A. Call
 Backbone
 Beeds Lake
 Bellevue
 Big Creek
 Black Hawk
 Bob White
 Brushy Creek
 Clear Lake
 Dolliver
 Elk Rock
 Fort Defiance
 Geode
 George Wyth
 Green Valley
 Gull Point
 Honey Creek

Lacey-Keosauqua
 Lake Ahquabi
 Lake Anita
 Lake Darling
 Lake Keomah
 Lake McBride
 Lake Manawa
 Lake of Three Fires
 Lake Wapello
 Ledges
 Lewis and Clark
 McIntosh Woods
 Maquoketa Caves
 Mines of Spain
 Nine Eagles
 Palisades-Kepler
 Pammel

Pikes Peak
 Pilot Knob
 Pine Lake
 Pleasant Creek
 Prairie Rose
 Red Haw
 Rock Creek
 Springbrook
 Stone
 Union Grove
 Viking Lake
 Volga River
 Walnut Woods
 Wapsipinicon
 Waubonsie
 Wildcat Den
 Wilson Island

State Park Employee of the Year



The first ever "State Park Employee of the Year Award" was presented to Rochelle R. Aneweer, park attendant at Big Creek State Park. The award was made through nominations from the field staff. The recipient was then selected by the parks supervisory staff.

Shellie worked at Big Creek during the summer of 1980 and 1981, as a conservaton aide. She began her full time career as a park attendant in late August of 1981. She worked for Al Gandy and was of tremendous assistance during his illness. She has served as "acting ranger" at Big Creek for at least six months in the last year due to Ranger Rod Sling's injury.

Shellie is very active in coordinating events at Big Creek including the Triathlon, voluntary work programs with area schools, maintenance and management of Margo Frankel Woods State Park and presentations at numerous schools in the surrounding area. She has done an excellent job of handling the Big Creek Area, personnel and visitors, both as an acting ranger and as a park attendant.

The award was presented by Director Larry Wilson at the State Park Annual Workshop in March.

Governor Proclaims Safe Boating Week

Governor Terry E. Branstad has proclaimed the week of June 2-8 as *Safe Boating Week* in Iowa.

The Iowa Conservation Commission along with the U.S. Power Squadron, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Red Cross have planned numerous activities in an all-out effort to promote boating safety in Iowa.

According to Sonny Satre, recreational safety coordinator for the commission, safe boating courses, courtesy motorboat inspections, water parades and other activities will place added emphasis on safe boating during this week and throughout the summer.

The commission has a cut-away boat which displays the required safety equipment. The exhibit will be displayed at various boat ramp locations throughout the state this summer. Red Cross officials are offering summer training in small craft operation. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct free courtesy motorboat examinations as well as other ceremonies across the state.

NEW OTTERS SEEM TO BE AT HOME

About two months after the introduction of 16 river otters from Louisiana to the waters of the Des Moines River southeast of Des Moines, biologists are optimistic that the stocking is a success.

Biologists have been tracking the otters by radio telemetry since the stocking.

"We have been able to find 10 of the 16 with little trouble," said Doug Reeves, nongame biologist of the Conservation Commission. "Four of the original radio transmitters we planted in the otters appear to be defective and two others seem to be working sporadically."

So far, the farthest movement has been about three and a half miles upstream from the release site near Swan, explained Reeves. He said most of the otters are still located near the release site, and they all appear to be paired up, male and female.

"We have received reports of persons seeing the otters eating fish, swimming and playing, and all appear healthy," said Reeves.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION HIRES LANDS AND WATERS CHIEF



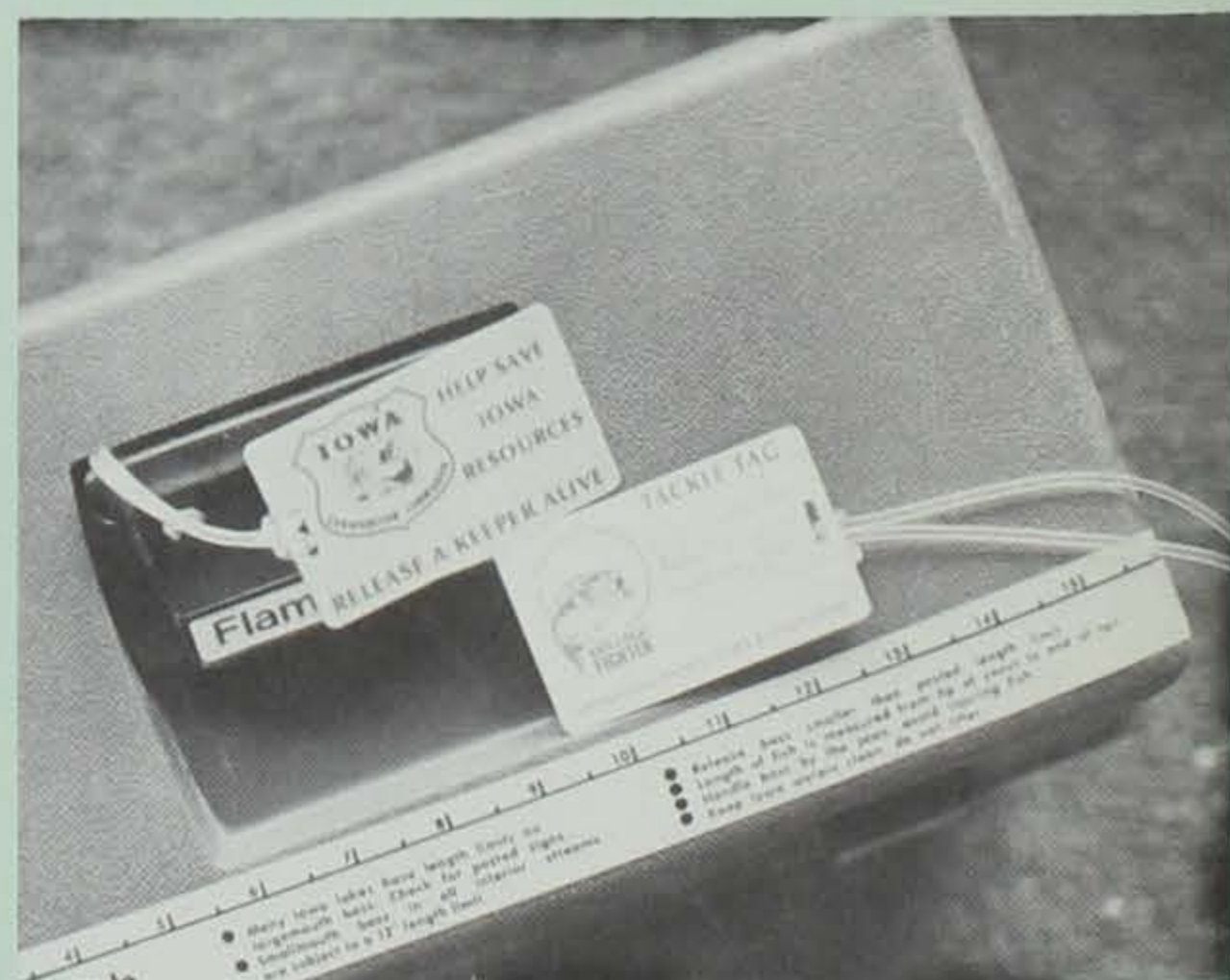
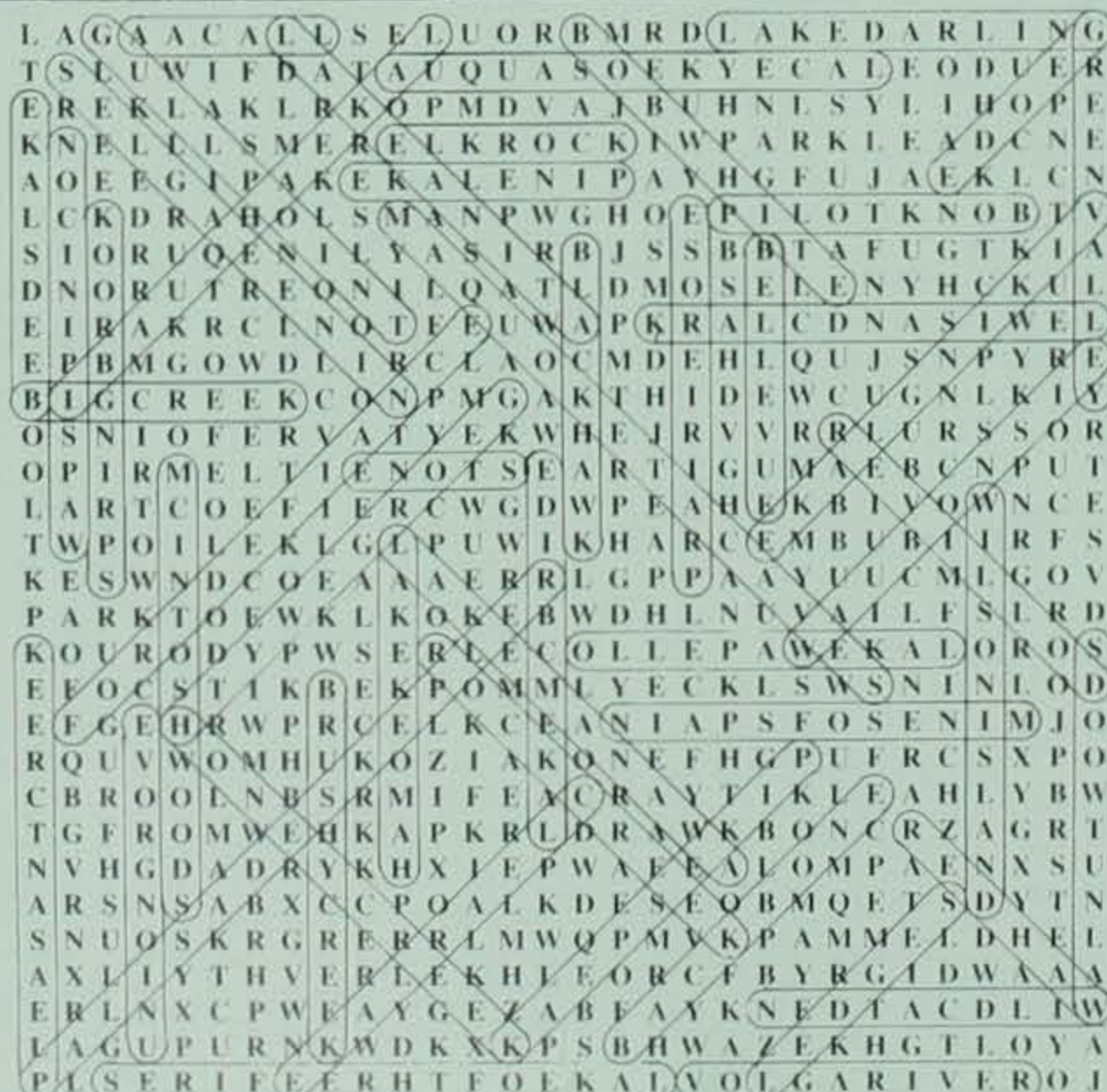
Iowa Conservation Commission Director Larry Wilson announced in March the naming of Michael Carrier to the position of Chief of Lands and Waters for the commission.

Mr. Carrier, 34, has been assistant director and chief of

operations for the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indiana Department of Natural Resources. In his new position, Carrier will have ultimate responsibility for Iowa's state parks, sovereign waters, state forests and certain recreation areas.

Originally from Kalamazoo, Michigan, Carrier was graduated from Western Michigan University and received a master's degree from Ball State. His major areas of experience have been in natural resource administration, fiscal management and planning. He will assume his new position on April 22.

Mr. Carrier is replacing John Stokes who has taken a new position with the commission.



Free tackle box ID tags are now available at central Iowa tackle shops and bait houses.

The tags are also available through the Conservation Commission by writing: Iowa Conservation Commission, Fisheries Section, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

The tag idea was proposed by the Mid Iowa Bassmasters and coordinated with the commission. Money for the project came from the proceeds of the 1985 fisherman's swap meet sponsored by the club. Ten thousand tags were printed.



Leaders in Conservation

DONATIONS

Anonymous	14 utility poles valued at \$250 for park and trail projects at Black Hawk State Park
Anonymous	20 loads of wood chips valued at \$450 for trail use at Black Hawk State Park
O'Hara True Value Hardware, Ottumwa	14 electric can openers valued at \$280 for rental cabins at Lake Wapello State Park
Grandchildren of John F. Zalesky	\$62 for waterfowl habitat maintenance at Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson County
Mrs. Evelyn Connell, Des Moines	\$480 memorial to William H. Connell, Sr. for fish and wildlife
J. Peter and Mary Gill Teschner	\$100 to Gorda Gill memorial for fish and wildlife
Cedar Rapids Audubon Society	\$150 to the nongame program

The following are donations for the State Park Mascot promotion:

Adventureland Inn, Altoona	One night's lodging and one day admission for a family valued at \$120
Jerry Gazaway and Assoc. and Miracle Recreation Equipment Company	\$100 savings bond
Rick Chase Chase Concessions, Solon	Two \$75 savings bonds
King Transfer Company, Onawa	16 truck rims valued at \$160 for fireplace construction at Lewis and Clark State Park
Berry Lumber Company, Onawa	Lumber valued at \$75 for birdhouse construction at Lewis and Clark State Park
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co., Inc., Waterloo	\$500 for shelter and fitness trail construction at George Wyth State Park
Inside Out Sports, Cedar Falls	Cross-country ski equipment valued at \$225 for trail patrol and public relations at George Wyth State Park
Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Equipment and labor valued at \$200 for location of underground lines at Lake Ahquabi State Park
Pierce Brothers Repair, Indianola	"I" beam valued at \$115 for road and parking lot maintenance at Lake Ahquabi State Park

William Dale Brentnall



Even though Dale Brentnall retired as principal of Fellows Elementary Schools, Ames, two years ago, his legacy of pioneering environmental education lives on, and on and on. Not only at Fellows where the school, parents and community leaders thought enough of him to erect a park — Dale Brentnall Park — in front of the school, but throughout the United States, the mark he has and continues to make on environmental education is quite visible.

Born of farming parents near the small southwestern Iowa town of Prescott, Dale graduated from Prescott High School in 1937. He received his BA in elementary and secondary education from Iowa State Teacher's College (now the University of Northern Iowa), and his MA in school administration from Colorado State College of Education. He began an illustrious, 40-year teaching and school administration career in 1938 in his home county of rural Adams County teaching kindergarten through eighth grade students. After a few years there, he taught fifth through seventh grades for a year at Nevinville. During the war years, Dale supervised arms manufacturing for Lock-

heed and was an aerial gunnery instructor in the Navy Air Corps. Back in his profession after the war, he added the responsibilities of Jr. High principal to his continuing work as a teacher at Dallas Center until 1953. From there, he moved to Ames where he was an elementary school principal for 30 years.

Natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation have always been an integral part of Dale. With his close association to literally thousands of impressionable youths, eager to learn about these captivating subjects, Dale has to be considered one of Iowa's foremost environmental education leaders...perhaps, THE foremost if an accurate measurement could ever be made.

Dale has been an "organization" man, usually taking his turn as chairman of committees and president of nearly all of the two dozen clubs and boards to which he has belonged. To most of these boards, he has and continues to bring a strong and persistent desire to educate the public in the ways of the environment. Currently serving as vice president of the National Izaak Walton League of America, his nomination papers are in for president of that large and prestigious organization in the coming year. With accomplishments too many to list, perhaps two of them serve as typical examples of Dale's involvement in environmental education.

Since 1967, Dale has organized and directly led all the sixth graders of Ames (once as many as 600) to a conservation camp — a two-day, overnight experience — at the 4-H camp north of Madrid. Teaching outdoor skills and environmental knowledge to perhaps as many as 8,000 students during his 16 years of camp leadership, you can be-

gin to see the importance of this man.

In 1971, Dale took advantage of a federal funding program to develop and implement Project ECO (Environmental Curriculum Opportunity). ECO started as an effort to plant native habitats around his new school building which had only two trees. He and his students, and many other cooperators, planted almost 3,000 shrubs and trees for a living laboratory, right outside the school door. As ECO evolved, Dale influenced the entire Ames School District administration to apply environmental education to all first, third and fifth grade students. Among other developments, he created an ECO van — a mobile environmental laboratory, and began taking those three grades of students out of the classroom every fall, winter and spring to witness and learn of the environment around Ames.

One last credit to add to the load: Last winter, Dale got the National Izaak Walton League to fund \$10,000, and he participated in the organization of the Midwest Environmental Education Consortium. This effort pulled into Iowa for a three-day conference about 40 representatives from ten midwestern states. Their purpose was to form an organization of environmental education leaders who would work together to improve one of the most important elements of education for all of our children. The meeting was a success, thanks in great part to Dale, and the new organization is prospering. With a remarkable vitality for life, Dale will be around for many more years to see this latest achievement eventually reach the students. No doubt he has a few more major projects up his sleeve. Too bad, now that he has retired, he has little time available for fishing.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June - August 1985

May 15-Sept. 1	Fishing Contest 20 fish \$100/ea.	Black Hawk State Park 712/657-8712
June	Boat Sailing Instruction Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Pine Lake State Park 319-263-4337
June 1-30	IOWA RIVERS MONTH local events throughout the state	
June 1-30	Photo Exhibit "Iowa's Natural Heritage"	Panora Museum Guthrie County 515-755-3061
June 6	Drawing for Prizes and Free Camping Certificates	Yellow River Forest Allamakee County 319/586-2548
June 7-9	Lewis and Clark Festival	Lewis and Clark State Park 712-423-2829
June 7	Pine Lake Wildlife Club Fish Fry	Pine Lake State Park 515-858-5832
June 7-9	Eldora Greenbelt Family Festival	Pine Lake State Park 515-858-5832
June 7-9	Trout Fishing Contest Awards Given June 9	Yellow River Forest Allamakee County 319/586-2548
June 7	Rare and Unusual Birds of Iowa 8:45 p.m.	Pioneer Park Page County 712/542-3864
June 8	Exploring for Birds/hike 7 a.m.	Five Ridge Prairie Plymouth County 712-947-4270
June 8	Tree Identification Hike	Whitham Woods Jefferson County 515-472-4421
June 8	Skunk River Canoe Trip	Story County 515-232-2516
June 8	Uncle Ike Nature Program Children's Fishing	Marshalltown Izaak Walton League 515/752-3150
June 8	Adult Canoe Workshop 9:30 a.m.	Camp Wesley Woods Warren County 515/961-6169
June 8	Canoe the Boone	Lake Cornelia Park Wright County 515/532-3185
June 8	"Reach the Beach" Extravaganza	George Wyth State Park 319/232-5505
June 8, 15, 22	Living History Programs With Tom Cornelius - 7:30 p.m.	Springbrook State Park 515/747-3591
June 8-9	Bow Fishing Contest 6:00 a.m.	McIntosh Woods State Park 515/829-3847
June 8-9	Iowa Interlakes Regatta	Red Rock Lake 515/627-5434
June 9	Huck Finn Fishing Derby 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Brauns Lake Woodbury County

June 9, 15	Devil's Backbone Nature Walk 2 p.m.	Pammel State Park 515-462-2188
June 9	Artists in the Parks Day 1 - 4 p.m.	Wildcat Den State Park 319-263-4337
June 9	North Raccoon River Canoe Float	Hobbs Park Carroll County 712-792-4614
June 9	Prairie Flower Walk	Ludwig Reserve Park Winnebago County 319-534-7145
June 9-15	STATE PARK WEEK special events and give-aways throughout Iowa's state parks	
June 9, July 14, August 11	Nature Walk	A.A. Call State Park 515/295-3669
June 9	Outdoor Photography Seminar w/Ken Formanek and Lowell Carlson	Bellevue State Park 319/872-3243
June 9	Bluegrass in the Breeze	Lake Cornelia Park Wright County 515/532-3185
June 9, 23 July 7, 21 August 4-18	Wagamon Mill Tour	Jasper County 515/792-9780
June 11	Outdoor Photography 6:30 p.m.	Cerro Gordo County 515-423-5309
June 11-18	Mississippi Annual Down River Adventure By Canoe (MADRAC)	319/752-6365
June 12	Four Seasons Quilting Workshop	Lewis and Clark State Park 712/423-2829
June 13	Pine Lake Country Club 4-Woman Golf Tournament	Pine Lake State Park 319-263-4337
June 14 to July 26	Junior Golf Program Friday mornings	Jester Park Golf Course Polk County 515-999-2903
June 14	Lodge Open House	A.A. Call State Park 515/295-3669
June 14	Urban Wildlife 8:45 p.m.	Pioneer Park Campground Page County 712/542-3864
June 14	Star Party 9:30 p.m.	Pickard Park Warren County 515/961-6169
June 15	Wild Edibles 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	McFarland Park Story County 515-232-2516
June 15	Kids Fishing Day	Q-Pond City Park Osceola Clarke County 515-342-3960
June 15	Youth Fishing Clinic	Lake Cornelia Park Wright County 515-532-3185
June 15	Volga River Rec Area Photo Contest Judging	Volga River Recreation Area 319-425-4161
June 15	Springbrook Bike Hike	Springbrook State Park 515-747-3591
June 15-16	Cruiser Regatta	Clear Lake State Park 515-357-4212
June 15	Fishing Clinic and Fly Fishing Seminars	Backbone State Park 319/924-2527
June 15	Wood Warbler Watch 7:00 a.m.	Walnut Grove Park Clinton County 319/847-7202
June 15	Conservation Volunteer Day 9:30 a.m.	Warren Co. Conservation Board Center 515/961-6169
June 15	Fishing Fun Day 9:00 a.m.	Wapsipicon State Park 319/462-2761
June 15	Dog Fun Match	Margo Frankel Woods State Park 515-984-6473
June 15	Exploring the Loess Hills/Hike 10:00 a.m.	Fire Ridge Prairie Plymouth County 712/947-4270
June 16	Father and Son/Daughter bluegill fishing contest	Lake Anita State Park 712-762-3564
June 16, 23, 30	Fishing Derby	Lake Meyer Nature Center Winnebago County 319/534-7144

June 16	Governor's Canoe Trip Raccoon River	Walnut Woods State Park 515/285-4502
June 18	Prairie Walk	Marietta Sand Prairie Marshall County 515/752-3150
June 20, July 25, August 22	Prairie Walk 7:00 p.m.	Doolittle Prairie Story County 515/232-2516
June 21	The Sounds of Nature 8:45 p.m.	Pioneer Park Campground Page County 712/542-3864
June 21	Youth Canoe Workshop 9:30 a.m.	Camp Wesley Woods Warren County 515/961-6169
June 21-23	Southwest Iowa Lake Festival	Viking Lake State Park 712/829-2235
June 22	3rd Annual Canoe Race Middle Raccoon - 1:00 p.m.	Guthrie County 515/755-3061
June 22	Dawn Discovery	Wright County 515/532-3185
June 22	Bike Ride	Cinder Path Trail Lucas County 515/342-3960
June 22	Council Bluffs YMCA Triathlon	Lake Manawa State Park 712/366-0220
June 23	Bridgewater Centennial Celebration Black Powder Shoot	Mormon Trail Park Adair County 515/743-6450
June 23	Fishing Tournament	Big Creek State Park 515/984-6473
June 23	Prairie Caravan 2:00 p.m.	Hill View Recreation Area Plymouth County 712/947-4270
June 23	Guided Trail Walk	Elk Rock State Park 515/627-5434
June 23	Des Moines Iles Canoe Race Raccoon River	Walnut Woods State Park 515/285-4502
June 23	Sturgis Falls Volksmarch 6-mile walk	Hartman Reserve Nature Center Black Hawk County 319/277-2187
June 28	Nature Hike at Dusk 7:30 p.m.	Nodaway Valley Park Page County 712/542-3864
June 28-29	American Indians and Mountain Men with George Cantrell	Lake Wapello State Park 515/722-3371
June 29	Bug Identification 9-11 a.m.	Eden Valley Nature Center Clinton County 319/847-7202
June 29	Oskaloosa Community High School Touring Troupe	Elk Rock State Park 515/627-5434
June 29	Red Oak Junction Day Triathlon 8:00 a.m.	Viking Lake State Park 712/623-4821
June 29	Bass Tournament	Big Creek State Park 515/984-6473
June 29 July 6, 13, 20, 27	Observing Space Through Telescopes	Jasper County 515/792-9780
June 29-30	M.S. Bike-a-Thon	Waubesa State Park 712/382-2786
June 29	Second Annual Fish Boil	Red Rock Lake 515/627-5434
June 29	Turkey Foot Canoe Race	Black Hawk County 319/277-2187
June 30	Prairie Raptor Fund Inc. 2:00 p.m.	Lime Creek Nature Center Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309
June 30	Prairie Raptor Fund Inc. 2:00 p.m.	Lime Creek Nature Center Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309
June 30	Bass Tournament	Green Valley State Park 515/782-5131
July 1-2	Print Making	Jahway Area Buchanan County 319/636-2617
July 1-6	Sandcastle Contests 2:00 p.m.	Easter Lake Beach Polk County 515/243-9647
July 3	Independence Day Eve Exploration	Wright County 515/532-3185
July 4	Band Concert and Fireworks	Beeds Lake State Park 515/456-4375

July 4	Canoe Races, 1:00 p.m.	East Lake County Park Clarke County 515/342-3960	July 26-28	Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Gathering	Pocahontas County 712/335-4395
July 4	Heritage Day 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Hickory Grove Park Story County 515/232-2516	July 26-27	Governor's Day Weekend	Clear Lake State Park 515/357-4212
July 4	Smokey the Bear	Clear Lake State Park 515/357-4212	July 26-28	Bluegrass Festival and CCC Reunion	Backbone State Park 319/924-2527
July 4	Blue Lakes Fireworks Display 9:30 p.m.	Lewis and Clark State Park 712/423-2829	July 27-28	Mini-Rendezvous Buck Skinners and Black Powder Group	Bellevue State Park 319/872-3243
July 4	Council Bluffs Jacees Fireworks	Lake Manawa State Park 712/336-0220	July 27	Bike Hike-Trip 7-Miles, 9:00 a.m. - Noon	Grand Mound Office Clinton County 319/847-7202
July 4	Dam to Bridge Race	Red Rock Marina 515/627-5434	July 27	Nature at Night 7:00 p.m.	Otter Creek Park Warren County 515/961-6169
July 5-6	Canoe Trip on Grand River	Clarke County 515/342-3960	July 27	Oskaloosa Community High School Touring Troupe	Red Hawk State Park 515/774-5632
July 5-7	Tent and Backpack Displays	Polk County 515/999-2557	July 27-28	Jahway Jamboree Music and Crafts Festival	Jahway Area Buchanan County 319/636-2617
July 6	Oskaloosa Community High School Touring Troupe	Lake Darling State Park 319/694-2323	July 27	Art "Sail" in the Park	Clear Lake State Park 515/357-4212
July 6	Heaven's Heros	Clear Lake State Park 515/357-4212	July 27	Street Dance	Red Rock 515/627-5434
July 12	Iowa's Coldwater Cave 8:45 p.m.	Pioneer Park Page County 712/542-3864	July 28	Wilderness Run 5-Mile and 2-Mile (Registration Fee)	Lake Ahquabi State Park 515/961-2893-Karen
July 13	Free Boating Safety Inspection 8:00 a.m. - Noon	Nobles Island State Boat Landing Allamakee County	July 28	Hog Roast and Bass Tournament	Green Valley State Park 515/782-5131
July 13	Nature Program	Marshalltown Izaak Walton League 515/752-3150	July 29	Armchair Adventures for Kids	Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309
July 13	Canoe Float Trip Wapsipinicon River 8:00 a.m. - Noon	Syracuse Boat Ramp Clinton County 319/847-7202	July 31	Full Moon Hayride and Sing-a-Long 10:00 p.m.	McFarland Park Story County 515/232-2516
July 13	Bike Ride Around Warren County	Pickard Park Warren County 515/961-6169	August 2	Halley's Comet 8:45 p.m.	Pioneer Park Page County 712/542-3864
July 13-14	Oskaloosa Community High School Touring Troupe	Rock Creek State Park 515/236-3722	August 3	Fishing Clinic 10:00 a.m. - Noon	Upper Pine Lake 515/858-5832
July 13	Bass Tournament	Big Creek State Park 515/984-6473	August 3	Oskaloosa Community High School Touring Troupe	Honey Creek State Park 515/724-3739
July 13	Hawaiian Luau Beach Party	George Wyth State Park 712/657-8712	August 4	Coping With Problem Wildlife 2:00 p.m.	Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309
July 14	Kid's Water Fights with Anita Fire Department	Lake Anita State Park 712/762-3564	August 4	Tallgrass Prairie in Iowa 1:00 p.m.	Rolling Thunder Prairie Warren County 515/961-6169
July 14	Iowa Bowhunter's Association Warmup Archery Tournament	Pine Lake Wildlife Club 515/858-5832	August 5-11	Treasure Hunt Clues Given Daily	Lake Anita State Park 712/762-3564
July 14	Antique and Classic Boat Parade 1 - 2 p.m.	West Okoboji 712/337-3211	August 7	CCC Reunion (Company 1755)	Upper Pine Lake 515/858-5832
July 14, 28	Guided Walk	Elk Rock State Park 515/627-5434	August 7-11	Sidney Rodeo Week Special Events at Waubesa State Park	Waubesa State Park 712/382-2786
July 17	Beginning Taxidermy 7:00 p.m.	Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309	August 7	CCC Reunion	Pine Lake State Park 515/858-5832
July 19	The Basics of Birdfeeding	Pioneer Park Page County 712/542-3864	August 9-11	National Regatta	Clear Lake State Park 515/357-4212
July 20, August 23	Conservation Films	Lake Cornelia Park Wright County 532-3185	August 9	Iowa's Small Mammals 8:45 p.m.	Pioneer Park Page County 712/542-3864
July 20	Conservation Open House	Conservation Education Center Fayette County 319/425-3613	August 10	Pine Lake Men's Amateur Golf Tournament	Pine Lake Country Club 515/858-5832
July 20	Star-Lite Night Hike	Swan Lake State Park Carroll County 712/792-4614	August 10-11	Iowa Bowhunters Association Annual Fall Festival	Pine Lake Wildlife Club 515/858-5832
July 20-21	Water Carnival	Black Hawk State Park 712/657-8712	August 10-11	Oskaloosa Community High School Touring Troupe	Backbone State Park 319/924-2527
July 20	University of Okoboji Marathon Triathlon and 10K Run	Dickinson County 712/337-3211	August 10-11	Carp Days 10 Tagged Carp \$1000/each	Black Hawk State Park Sac County 712/657-8712
July 21	Lion's Chicken BBQ	Clear Lake State Park 515/357-4212	August 11	Canoe Float on Middle Raccoon River, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Swan Lake State Park 712/792-4614
July 21	Des Moines Bass Club Tournament 5 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Little Spirit Lake 712/337-3211	August 11	Stargazing 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Eden Valley Refuge Clinton County 319/847-7202
July 21	Bass Tournament	Green Valley State Park 515/782-5131	August 11, 25	Guided Walk	Elk Rock State Park Marion County 515/627-5434
July 23	Fishing Clinic 9:00 a.m. - Noon Ages 10-15	Nobles Island State Boat Landing Allamakee County	August 14-25	Frog Calling Contests Iowa State Fair	Polk County 515/999-2557
July 24	Fishing Iowa's Rivers 7:00 p.m.	Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309	August 15	Iowa's Natural Heritage 7:00 p.m.	Cerro Gordo County 515/423-5309
July 26	Iowa's Woodlands	Pioneer Park Page County 712/542-3864			

*Many state parks feature special campground programs Saturday and Sunday evenings. Check with the local park ranger.

Warden's Wife

By Ed M. Lawrence
State Conservation Officer

It's a cool fall morning, there's a knock at the door, a single light comes on and the door opens to a man dressed in hunting clothes. "I'm sorry to bother you, but I was told the warden lives here and he could tell me where the nearest boat ramp is on the river. It's 5:00 A.M. and I'm gonna miss the opening of duck season if I don't get out there." The woman replies, "My husband left an hour ago, but I'm sure you can use the public ramp three miles down the road." "Thank you."

The phone rings; the voice on the other end asks the hour of sunrise. She calmly gives the caller the time, hangs the phone up and rubs her eyes. Time to put the coffee pot on; no need to return to bed, there will probably be more calls.

Words have to be said about a few that get little recognition and deserve so much. I recall one such person in particular. She didn't wear a badge, write tickets or testify in court, but she was no less one of us. We all knew her. I wish all of you had. I would venture to say that over the years every warden in the state has been at her table at one time or another, as well as several wardens from other states. You couldn't leave her home without at least a cup of hot coffee and many times something fresh from the oven.

Several of our families were together on canoe trips, picnics, Christmas parties and much more. All looked forward to being with her. We were together at her home one fall day making green tomato relish. She was full of questions about our kids and how each was doing. I looked her in the eyes and said, "You really care, don't you?" She stopped her work, wiped the relish from her hands, put her arm around my shoulders and said, "I love them like my own, all of them."

We'll never forget that lady. We will all miss you, Joyce Hoilien. We are proud to have served with you. No finer person ever walked these woods and hills.

Joyce Hoilien,
Wife of Gerald I. Hoilien
Mother of Kathy, Julie,
Mary, and Gerald, Jr.
Loved by all who knew her.



Classroom Corner

By Robert Rye

Trees are valuable to many of us, as we look out of our shady homes. We awaken to sounds of animals as they sing, scold and run through the branches. Most of us have climbed trees ourselves or watched others enjoy this activity.

As you hike through a state park or forest you may notice many trees and how the wild animals react with them.

See if you can unscramble the ten woodland animal names and match them with their appropriate habits below.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| quirersl | 1. Drill holes in trees in search of insects. |
| noacrc | 2. Gnaws through tree trunks and large branches and leaves conical stumps. |
| arbitb | 3. Leaves splintered breaks on woody stems in winter. |
| rede | 4. Leaves on twigs, smooth slanting cuts which resemble knife cuts. |
| yrga xfo | 5. Leaves pellets of fur and bones under their roosting tree. |
| yrga grferote | 6. Feeds on nuts and buds and lives in tree holes or leafy nests. |
| ebaerv | 7. Nests in tree cavities near water, usually lays several eggs. |
| wol | 8. Feeds on small mammals, carrion and sometimes fruit and berries. Occasionally climbs trees. |
| owodecprek | 9. Feeds on rodents, insects, frogs, wild fruit, corn and washes its foods when near water. Den is often a hollow tree. |
| ddwoukoc | 10. Well camouflaged when clinging to back of rough tree trunks. Feeds on insects and has large suction cups on toes. |

ANSWERS:
1. woodpecker, 2. beaver, 3. deer, 4. rabbit, 5. owl, 6. squirrel, 7. wood-duck, 8. gray fox, 9. raccoon, 10. gray treefrog.

Nature Tale for Kids

REY, THE RED FOX

By Dean M. Roosa

The red fox goes by the scientific name *Vulpes vulpes*, but is often referred to as "Reynard" in tale and verse. It is noted for its cunning ways, and the phrase "sly as a fox" is not without merit. Iowa has its share of red foxes, but many, dare I say most, Iowans go through life without seeing one. Fortunate is the person who has heard the throaty bark of this secretive creature. Fewer people yet have had the luck to see the youngsters playing about at their den entrance. They locate their dens strategically, sometimes close to human habitation, sometimes in road ditches, sometimes in the middle of plowed fields, pastures or open woodlands.

• • •

The deep baying of the hound caused the two red foxes to stop and face the direction of the sound. The hair on their backs bristled slightly, for it was a sound they knew well, did not like, but knew how to respond. The big male departed in one direction, toward a herd of cattle where his tracks would be lost in a maze of other tracks and smells. The female headed for a dry, windswept ridge where she could see in all directions and thus keep an eye on the trailing hounds. As the hounds approached, they followed the tracks of the female, who was watching from high on the ridge; when they got quite close, she dropped down to the creek in the valley where she waded upstream for a quarter mile and then climbed to another ridge to watch the perplexed hounds try to unravel the mystery of her disappearing trail. She knew all the tricks — how to use barbed wire fence to discourage hounds, how to use water to disguise her scent, how to "hole up" when she became tired or the hounds got too close. Today was an easy victory — the hounds lost her scent at the edge of the stream and gave up the chase. Soon she was reunited with her mate, and they resumed their hunt.

It was late March and the female was in search of a suitable den for her expected family. Soon she found the perfect spot — a dry wooded ridge overlooking Keg Valley which had been left to "go wild" and now was a bramble thicket of multiflora rose, gooseberry, young trees and all the prey a fox family could want — rabbits, mice, ground squirrels, and

even a farm owned by an old man who still liked to raise a small flock of chickens. She and her mate settled down in this spacious den and waited for the "big day" when their family would arrive.

On May 1 three fox cubs were tussling at the den entrance; the female was sprawled out in the sun, proudly watching her youngsters. The male was nearby, keeping a sharp eye out for any trouble. Their den was in a remote part of the valley, so trouble was in scarce supply — the hounds were penned up until fall; young, unsuspecting cottontails were abundant in the valley; the valley was such a bramble patch that no humans walked through — in short, the three small cubs and two proud parents were enjoying the Iowa spring.

Two of the cubs were standard red fox cubs — playful, obedient, alert, cute — all that parents want. The third, Rey, was most of these things, but with the added attribute of, well... mischievousness. Had he been a school student, he would have spent a fair share of his time sitting in the corner. At the same time a joy and a worry to a mother fox, Rey was the first out of the den in the morning, last in at night. Often he was "unaccounted for," and his mother would wander down into the valley and chase the little scamp back to the den. Once a great horned owl swooped down and tried to pick up the cub. His awful shrieks brought both parents bolting from the den. Scratched but unhurt, Rey behaved very well for a few days. But soon he was again a victim of his old ways — hiding from his parents, wandering to nearby ridgetops, being a nuisance to the old woodchuck across the valley, causing his mother to age quickly.

Unknown to all, his movements were watched by the owner of the hounds, who figured a way to capture the little wanderer. Two days later, while Rey was sprawled out on his favorite spot across the valley from the den, an ingenious spring-loaded trap, sprung by a remote radio, captured the little cub in a strong net. His terrified shrieks brought both parents, two hounds and their owner. The parents scolded from the brush as the cub was unceremoniously stuffed in a gunny sack and taken to the farm at the head of Keg Valley. Rey was outfitted with a strong collar and leashed to the



Illustration by Rex Heer

clothesline where he could run back and forth. His first burst toward freedom ended as he flipped backward as he came to the end of the clothesline. Stunned, he soon learned the limits of his freedom. His mother would attempt to sneak in at night to feed Rey, but the constant vigil of the hounds discouraged her and soon she came no more to her captive baby.

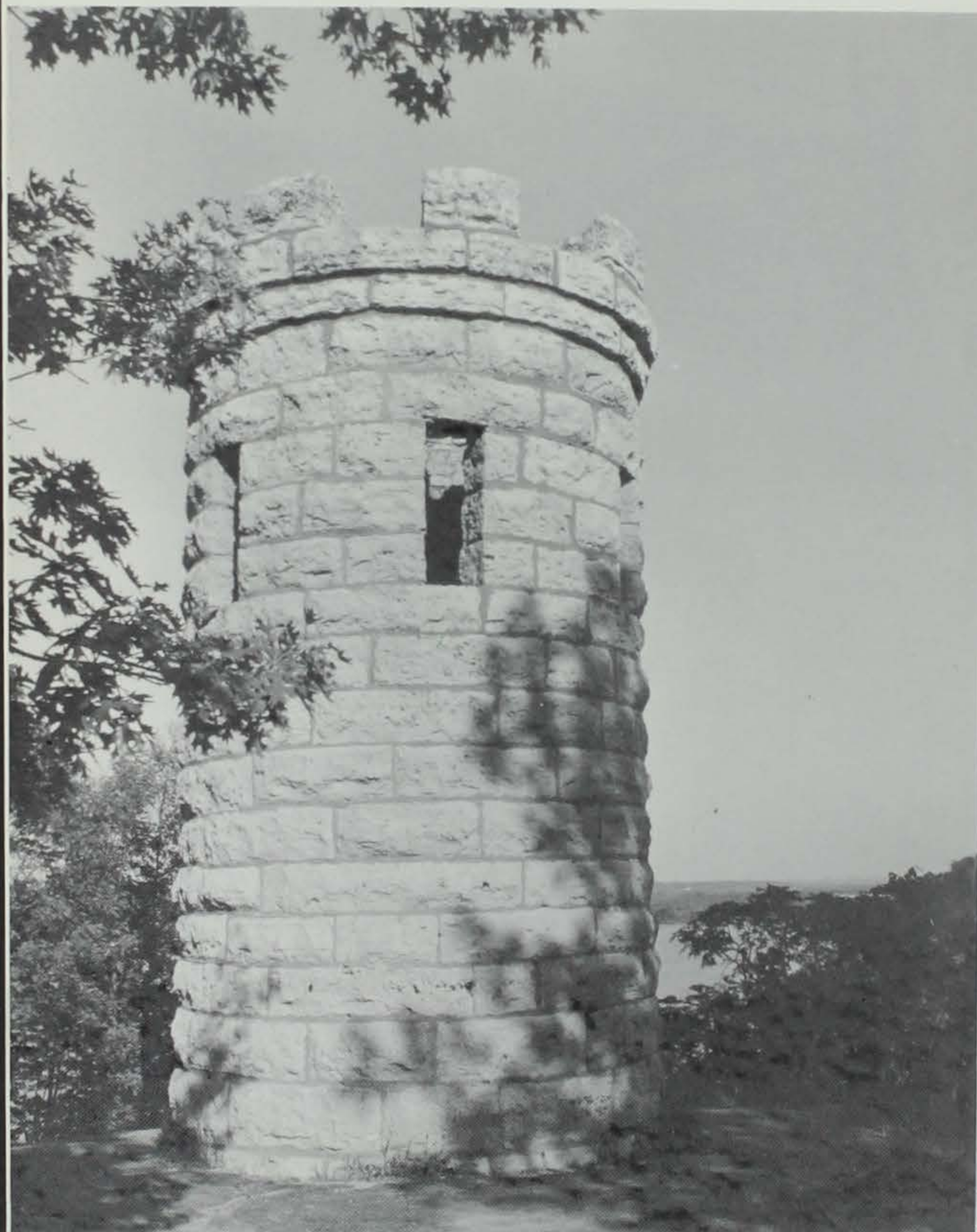
Rey hated his confinement, but soon hunger drove him to nibble at the food offered him. His family dispersed to the countryside, but one of the cubs was hit by a speeding car on the blacktop that cut through Keg Valley. Now the den was empty, the family split up, and Rey a lonely captive staked within sight of the hated hounds. He finally accepted his human environment, even allowing himself to be picked up on occasion. But he never liked it. After five weeks in

captivity, his collar was too small; while it was being changed, he saw his chance for freedom. A sudden jerk and leap and he was free! He ran past the barn, down into Keg Valley, back to the den of his babyhood.

In the days that followed, the little fox looked for his family, but to no avail. The lonely little cub learned to hunt, and gradually grew to adulthood, all the time with the memory of his captivity in his mind. The very sound of the baying hounds made him bristle all over; engines and slamming doors made him cringe at the memory of being held hostage. Rey lived a long life — his glistening coat became the envy of trappers. He delighted in digging up and springing traps, confounding hounds, and raiding every chicken flock in the region. He left Keg Valley and took up

residence in Sleepy Hollow, where, each spring, he and his mate selected a remote corner of the hollow for a den site. Each cub was taught to fear the sights and sounds that still haunted Rey and this contributed to the enrichment of the reputation of the species as being a sly and cunning species.

Probably no wild animal dies of old age and this was true of Rey. As he became an old fox, his senses dimmed, and the end came suddenly one night on the blacktop. A car that he could have easily dodged a year earlier hit the old fox and immediately ended his varied career. The next morning the old farmer from Keg Valley saw the beautiful fox lying along the roadside. He stopped his old pickup, walked to the road edge, and sadly shook his head as he recognized Rey.



Julien Dubuque Monument

MINES of SPAIN

A Treasure for Iowa

By Pat Nunnally

When the Iowa Conservation Commission acquired the Mines of Spain property in 1980, it got much more than another state park. The 1,250-acre tract just south of Dubuque is the site of the first documented settlement by whites in Iowa and is home to several of Iowa's endangered plant and animal species. The combination of cultural, historical, and natural attractions makes the Mines of Spain one of the most valuable areas in the state.

Under the management plan currently being worked out by the Iowa Conservation Commission, the Mines of Spain will remain primarily an educational and interpretive center rather than a recreation-oriented state park. While Commission managers recognize that people want to use their outdoor areas and that recreational activities such as hiking and bowhunting are compatible with the area's ecological needs, it also recognizes that not all human uses are compatible. The special characteristics of the Mines of Spain, features which have brought it to the attention of national conservationists, require unique handling.

The Mines of Spain, situated along the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, has been a focus of human attention for thousands of years. Archaeological records indicate continuous human habitation since around 10,000 B.C. By 1,100 A.D., 400 years before Columbus, native Americans had developed a culture that featured primitive industries such as lead extraction, and early rituals that left the burial mounds that are still visible today. The first documented white settlers in Iowa settled in the Mines of Spain area, made peace with the natives, and began mining the lead and shipping it downriver to St. Louis. Today, after all these years of human habitation, the area is being preserved as a historical and environmental interpretive center—a window into Iowa's past.

Two features of the area to which visitors are most likely to focus their attention are the Julien Dubuque Monument overlooking the river and the E.B. Lyons Nature Center. Soon a short footbridge will cross the creek that currently separates these two points of interest. Let's look at these areas and see why the Mines of Spain is indeed one of Iowa's treasures.

At the top of a bluff overlooking nine miles of the Mississippi River is a castle-like monument to the first permanent white settler in Iowa. Julien Dubuque, for whom the city was named, came to the area in the 1780's and immediately made friends with the Mesquakie tribe that was living there. These people respected Dubuque so much that they soon deeded all of the area mining operations to him. He continued to live in the area, marrying an Indian woman, until his death in 1810. By that time, white habitation in the area was established, although it did not extend much past the immediate mining area. The view from Dubuque's monument and grave site looks south down the river, the direction in which he sent so much lead that had been mined, smelted, and formed on the Mines of Spain property. Abandoned mine sites, both deep caverns that would hold several people and small shallow pits, still dot the site.

The E.B. Lyons Nature Center is the other major attraction in the area. The Dubuque philanthropist E.B. Lyons donated money for the city to build an interpretive nature center just outside of town. The facility that was constructed has a large display area, several smaller display cases for special exhibits, and a large workroom downstairs. Perhaps the most striking feature of this beautiful building, though, is the large picture window that takes up half of the wall space. This "window into the forest" looks directly into the forests that cover most of the area. The nature center is currently the center of programming efforts by the commission, and Mike Abel, area manager, indicates that many different kinds of programs, ranging from demonstrations, slide shows, and lectures, are planned.

When the state acquired the lease on the nature center in 1983, it also got 40 acres of woodland and prairie surrounding the main site. This part of the preserve is the former estate of Otto Junkermann, a 19th century Dubuque druggist. Junkermann missed the stately mansions and forests of his native Germany, so he set out to recreate a medieval German estate on his country property at the Mines of Spain. He built several huge barns, root cellars, wine cellars, and raised honeybees. He also planted a small orchard, through which a nature

trail winds on its way from the nature center to the Pine Chapel, the focus of his building efforts and the best preserved of any of them. This small building located on a hill overlooking prairie and woods, served as a retreat for the men of the Junkermann family. It is still preserved and is a highlight of any visit to the area. The root cellars, wine cellars, and other remains of Junkermann's ambitious building plan are found nearby.

The Mines of Spain is located in the Driftless Area, a geological label for the extreme northeast corner of Iowa and parts of southern Wisconsin that have a different geological history than the rest of the state. Instead of the characteristic Iowa rolling hills and vast prairies, the land in the driftless area is cut by steep ravines and sharp ridges. These ridges are often exposed rock that serve as pictures of how the area was formed millions of years ago. The combined action of water and glacier cut up the area and left many of the caves that dot the land. The soil in this region is often more conducive to forests than farming.

And forests are what the Mines of Spain has. Its dominant oak-hickory mature growth is rare in Iowa and attracts a diversity of both animal and human use. Acorns from the oaks fed many kinds of

wildlife while the trees themselves were attractive to the early settlers for building and for fuel. Although most of the area has been cut over at various times, the trees are large enough to provide shelter for a thriving understory of shrubs and wildflowers, as well as for animals ranging from field mice to deer. Woodland walks on the Mines of Spain are broken up by occasional small prairies. Although not as large as the famous tallgrass prairie of Iowa's past, these small patches are ecologically significant, and some, such as the hill prairies sometimes found on the south slopes of the ravines, resemble the loess hills in western Iowa.

Many of Iowa's rarest and most beautiful species are found exclusively in the Mines of Spain. Close observers along the nature trails may notice small deep-purple wildflowers nestled on cool sheltered slopes. These are the northern wild monkshood, found in fewer than 30 places in the entire country. Other flowers, though not so rare in North America, are more usually found farther north and east where the forest communities closely resemble those of the Mines of Spain.

Both the bobcat and the river otter are extremely rare in Iowa, and both, if seen at all, are most likely to be seen in the

E.B. Lyons Nature Center



Run Johnson

vicinity of the Mines of Spain. Birds more common to Minnesota or Wisconsin than to Iowa are found in the area because of the unique forest community that the land supports. Pileated woodpeckers, red-shouldered hawks, and, occasionally, the bald eagle, all help create a sense of "wildness" about the Mines of Spain area.

This sense of isolation, which can make visitors forget that they are near an urban area and are surrounded by intensively-managed land, is perhaps the main attraction for the area. The area serves as an oasis of the past, of Iowa's prehistoric, pre-settlement, and pre-industrial past, in the midst of the bustle and noise of the modern world.

Human management of an area like the Mines of Spain requires extremely careful handling and many considerations. The needs of the fragile ecosystem and the historical sites must be balanced against the desires of the human population for recreation and other uses. In cases where human use would be clearly detrimental to the natural and historical values that the area was designed to save, the humans should be able to adjust. Area manager Abel put the problem of management in this way, "We recognize the desire of area residents to come and use the area, and the area is designed for people to use. I think it is more compatible with low-impact uses such as hiking trails and nature walks than with other, more high-impact uses

that might erode the trails and destroy the vegetation."

Currently, Abel, his staff, and Angela Corio of the commission's planning office are focusing their efforts on developing a master plan for the area. Included in this plan are designs for some rough hiking trails and the development of more diverse programming through the nature center. Abel hopes to develop cooperative internships with local colleges and to create more varied interpretive programs for special groups such as school groups and scouting organizations. The development of a biological research station at the Mississippi River junction with Catfish creek has been mentioned, but no plan for that is certain at this time. As the master plan for the entire area becomes more definite, public participation and public hearings will be held.

Whatever the outcome of the master plan, and whatever the use pattern that evolves for the area, the Mines of Spain is a treasure for the people of Iowa. Only in a quiet, unhurried spot like this, away from the noises and reminders of the busy life of this world, can we be reminded of where we came from and what we used to be. The Mines of Spain is such an area and its preservation is important — for all Iowans.

Patrick Nunnally is a graduate student in American studies at the University of Iowa. He is specializing in park issues.

Pine Chapel



Patrick Nunnally

BEYOND C Iowa's State Pa

The saying, "Parks Are For People," has been around for a long time. Everyone "knows" what it means; but do they really? Many people think only in terms of what they can do in a park, rather than the park itself.

Iowa's state parks are more than just places to camp, swim, picnic, or fish. All harbor a variety of plant and animal communities. In addition, some of Iowa's most significant natural features are found in state parks and recreation areas. The "backbone" formation for which Iowa's first state park is named; the sandstone bluffs at Ledges; the dramatic loess hills at Waubesa and Stone; are just a few of the beautiful natural resources to be enjoyed.

One of the goals of the parks section is to help make visitors better aware of the natural features of their state parks. Knowledge can bring not only enjoyment, but also appreciation of the natural and man-made forces at work. Man has had a profound impact on the Iowa landscape. While state parks have often been successful in helping to conserve natural lands for public use and enjoyment, man's impact continues to be felt, sometimes in very negative ways. Vandalism isn't limited to man-made structures, and damage isn't always deliberate. Sometimes people just don't realize the damage they do when they ride their horses off of designated trails, climb a fragile sandstone formation, or pick an endangered plant species. Education through the interpretation of natural features can help visitors be better aware of the effects of their actions on the park environment.

In 1981, the parks section began a major emphasis on interpretation. Although no additional monies or staffing was available, the program kicked off that year with the development of six self-guided nature trails and the presentation of a number of campground programs in several of the larger parks.

By 1984, still pretty much on a "shoestring" basis, 28 trails were available for public enjoyment. Over 380 park programs and 117 guided walks were presented. The E. B. Lyons Nature Center at Dubuque's unique Mines of Spain Area enjoyed its first year of

ND CAMPING AND PICNICS

State Parks are More than Meets the Eye *By Jim Scheffler*

operation, and the South Bluff Nature Center at Bellevue State Park opened. Over 105,000 park visitors took advantage of Iowa's state park interpretive program opportunities in 1984. The program has been expanded for 1985. More nature trails are in operation now. In addition, each park has on staff a seasonal naturalist to assist in program activities (and to also help with the vital park maintenance needs). The Sagers Museum at Maquoketa Caves State Park is now open under Parks Section management. This museum features a very extensive collection of early Indian artifacts as well as pioneer tools and equipment.

We urge all Iowans to take some time and walk a nature trail or attend a state park interpretive program. You'll have a good time and also learn a little bit more about the parks.

Nature trails completed include:

Black Hawk	Lewis and Clark
Backbone	Palisades - Kepler
Bobwhite	Stone
Lake Anita	Pleasant Creek
Elk Rock	Volga River
George Wyth	Waubonsie
Gull Point	Pine Lake
Lake Macbride	Wapsipinicon
Lake Geode	Viking Lake
Lake Wapello	Green Valley
Lake Ahquabi	Maquoketa Caves
Ledges	Springbrook
Lake Keomah	Wildcat Den

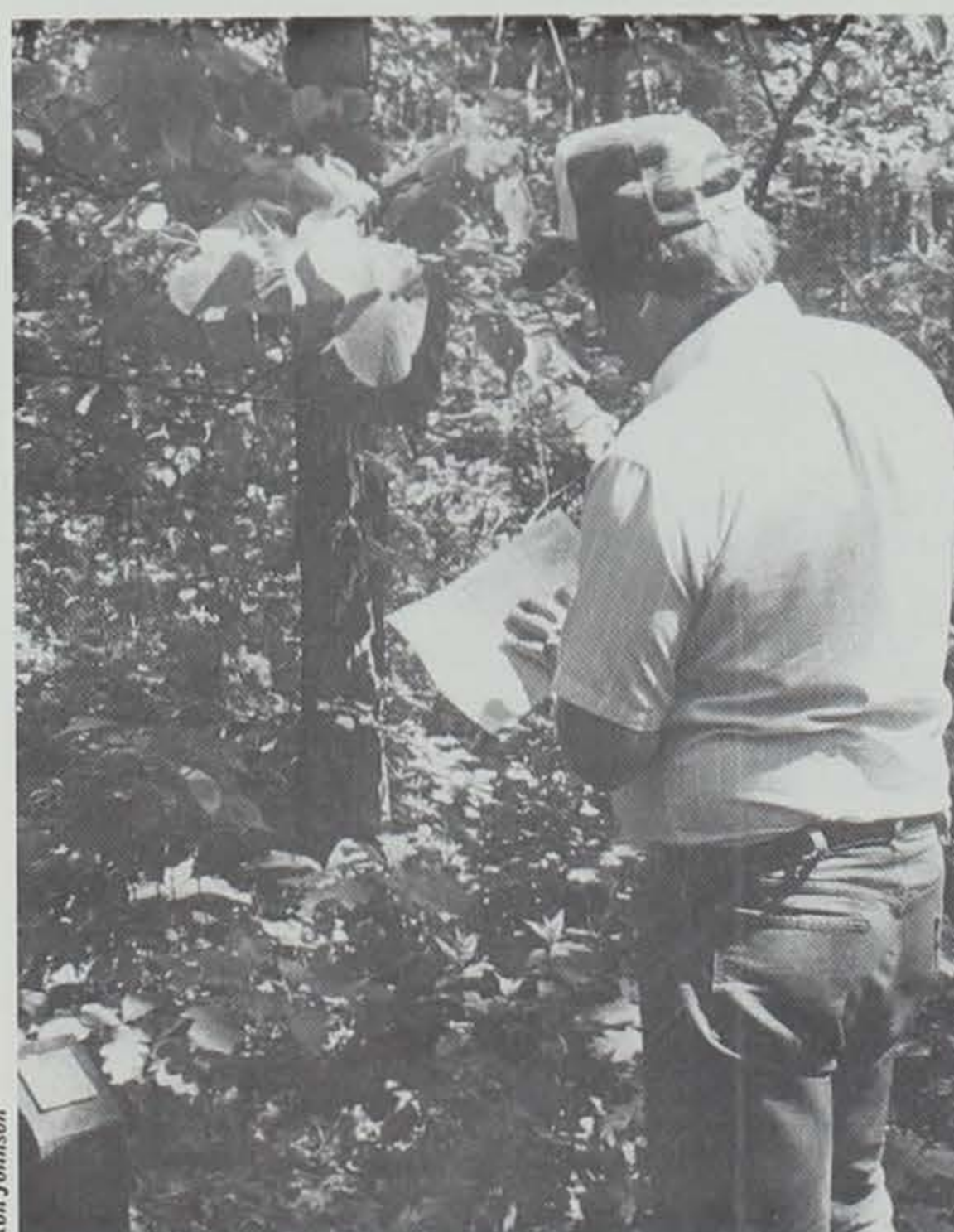
Trails to be completed in 1985:

Pilot Knob	Red Haw
Beeds Lake	A.A. Call

Jim Scheffler is associate supervisor of state parks. He holds M.S. degrees in park and recreation administration and forestry. He joined the commission in 1971.



Ron Johnson



Ron Johnson

Sign posts match descriptions in brochures along nature trails throughout state parks system.

Trivial Pursuit Treasures

By Darrell Arntzen

I wonder how many picnics will include a game of Trivial Pursuit this summer? A close look at Iowa reveals an infinite variety of cultural and natural 'Trivial Pursuit' treasures. One entire category, in fact, could be devoted to historic sites within Iowa's state parks system. There is no way all the historic sites could be discussed here, so a few important areas have been selected. These state areas have seasonal staff members on hand to interpret the site and to answer questions such as:

Plum Grove

727 Switzer Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa
Phone 319/351-9500

Question: Why is this home called the "Mount Vernon of Iowa"?

You would have to be a real history buff if you knew the historic parallels of that question. It was on July 4, 1838 The

Territory of Iowa was born with Robert Lucas being its first Territorial Governor. Plum Grove was built by Lucas in 1844 and it remained his residence until his death in 1853.

The original farmstead of eighty acres was located on what was the southern edge of Iowa City. In 1940 the State of Iowa picked up a 4.2 acre option with Plum Grove being in a bad state of repair. World War II hindered restoration, but in 1946 the Governor Lucas home was dedicated as a Historic Shrine. Over the years, the National Society of Colonial Dames of America has meticulously refurbished the house with period furnishings.

Plum Grove is open from mid-April through October, Wednesday through Sunday. Tours are given from 1:00 to 4:30 P.M. For special group appointments or information about Plum Grove, call 319/351-9500.

Plum Grove



Fort Atkinson

Fort Atkinson, Iowa
Phone 319/534-7543 or
319/425-4161

Question: What is the historical significance of Fort Atkinson that makes it unique?

In 1840, the soldiers stationed at Fort Atkinson had an unusual assignment: to protect the Winnebago Indians from the Sioux, Sauk, Fox and Ioway tribes. The Fort was abandoned in 1849 and was acquired by the State of Iowa in 1921. The officers' barrack was restored to be used as a museum.

The Iowa Conservation Commission and the people of Fort Atkinson sponsor an annual rendezvous the last full weekend of September. This is a re-inactment of life at the Fort during the 1840's and has given the public an excellent opportunity to relive those days gone by.

A tour of Fort Atkinson and Plum Grove on a summer weekend would provide an excellent 1840-era history lesson on Iowa.

Cedar Rock

The Walter Residence
Quasqueton, Iowa
Phone 319/934-3572

Question: Why is a 35 year old Quasqueton home on the "National Historic Site" register?

Blended in complete harmony with the landscape, Cedar Rock, the Walter Residence, is contiguous with a limestone bluff over-looking a bend in the Wapsipinicon river. This impressive home was designed by the famed architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, in 1945 and completed in 1950.

Frank Lloyd Wright was quoted as saying, "Every great architect is... necessarily... a great poet." A visitor doesn't have to be an architect or poet to appreciate the architectural integrity and historical significance of the Walter residence. Cedar Rock is considered by some to be his greatest work.

When Lowell Walter died in August 1981, he and his wife Agnes left Cedar Rock to the people of Iowa. A trust fund was provided to assure the preservation and interpretation of their dream home.

Cedar Rock is open for free tours from May 1st through Nov. 1st. The hours are 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Tuesday thru Sunday, with Friday hours extended to 9:00 P.M.

Mines of Spain

Julian Dubuque Monument

E.B. Lyons Nature Center

RR 2, Old Bellevue Road

Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Phone 319/556-0620

Question: What is the historical significance of the Mines of Spain to the Revolutionary War?

The answer might be found in the old lead mines that lace this beautiful area just south of Dubuque.

The whole historical scenario centers on lead mining. At the time of the Revolutionary War it is speculated that a French Canadian, Jean Marie Cardinal, might have traded the Indians for lead to help fight the war. Years later, in 1788, Julian Dubuque got the permission of the Indians and the Spaniards who controlled the area to mine lead. At the Julian Dubuque monument are the graves of Dubuque, his friend, Fox Indian Chief Peosta, and the daughter of the Chief, Petosa. Petosa is assumed to be Julian Dubuque's wife.

At the height of the lead mining, the Dubuque area was providing 10 percent of the world's supply of lead. The last mining activity on the Mines of Spain area ended in 1936.

The seasons of time have made most of these mine shafts inaccessible due to cave-ins and vegetative camouflage. The area has 1,300 acres of rugged topography that is now preserved for the following:

1. The lead mines
2. Julian Dubuque's grave
3. Chief Peosta's grave
4. Petosa's grave
5. Numerous Indian Mounds
6. Junkerman's Pioneer farm and chapel
7. Several Indian village sites
8. Endangered plant and animal species
9. Significant geological and archaeological disciplines

The Mines of Spain's interpretive planning and programming is coordinated year around through the E. B. Lyons Nature Center. One of the highlights of the year is the annual Mines of Spain fall seminar.

Mines of Spain, Plum Grove, Fort Atkinson and Cedar Rock are just pieces of an effort to bring a colorful, vigorous Iowa history alive while providing us a meaningful way to enjoy our leisure time.

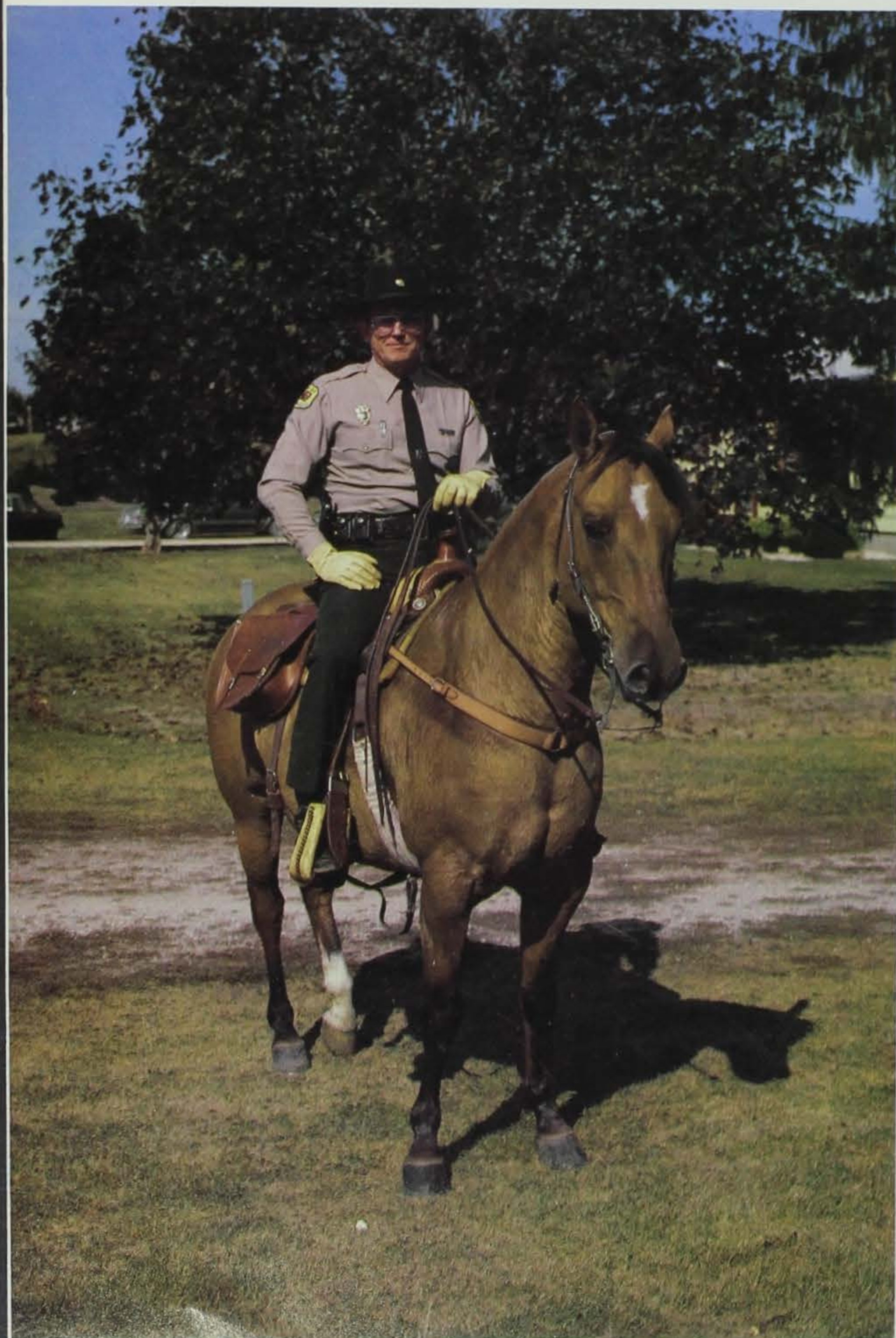


Top: Fort Atkinson. Middle and Lower: Cedar Rock, famous home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Darrell Arntzen is a district park ranger for northeast Iowa. He holds a B.S. degree in biology and has been with the commission since 1969.

By Lowell Washburn
A PREMIER EQUESTRIAN AREA

Brushy



Darrell Arntzen

I'll bet there were some raised eyebrows and lively conversations on the morning that Bill Bird's purchase order arrived in the Iowa Conservation Commission's Des Moines central office.

But then it isn't every day that one of the commission's employees puts in a request for two honest-to-goodness, real live horses. In fact, the commission probably hadn't received such an order since back in the 1930's when horses were still being used to mow grass at some of Iowa's state parks.

However to Bill Bird, the acquisition made perfect sense. Bird is the officer in charge of managing Brushy Creek Recreational Area, a massive 4,200-acre tract of land located southeast of Fort Dodge in north central Iowa. Brushy Creek is the state's largest recreation area, and for the most part consists of steeply rising, timbered ridges, interspersed here and there with patches of native prairie.

Like many of our state's park and recreation areas, Brushy Creek contains beautiful woodland scenery and affords the outdoor enthusiast ample opportunities to observe and photograph numerous species of wildlife. Other popular uses include camping, hiking, skiing, and mushroom hunting.

But what sets Brushy Creek apart and makes it most unique is the fact that it has recently developed into Iowa's premier equestrian area. All told, the facility contains a network of over 40 miles of trails that draw horseback riders and saddle clubs from all parts of Iowa as well as from a number of other states. On a good weekend, up to 350 riders may be present on these trails, which brings us back to that purchase order.

Bird, who formerly served as a waters officer at Clear Lake, noted that back in his lake patrol days he routinely used a boat as a vehicle to conduct his duties. Consequently, he felt that patrolling Brushy Creek's remote back trails, where no machine can go, would reasonably call for the use of horses. The idea sold, and in the summer of 1982 the Iowa Conservation Commission purchased its first horses in nearly a half century and Bill Bird became Iowa's only mounted ranger.

y Creek

During the past three years the mounts have proven to be an effective mode of transportation for negotiating the steep terrain of Brushy Creek. Furthermore, the horses have indeed created the good will that Bird had hoped they would, making numerous appearances at Iowa parades, the state fair, and other special events such as the Fort Atkinson Rendezvous. But life isn't all glamour for the commission mounts who often spend their hours putting in an honest day's work engaged in such activities as clearing away deadfalls which may have fallen across a remote section of some back trail.

Likewise not all of Bird's time is spent in the saddle chatting with trail riders or drinking in the scenery. Instead, most of his days are centered around the tasks which involve the management and development of the area. One of the most recent of these developments has involved the construction of a special 150-unit equestrian campground. Here, each unique campsite comes complete with its own hitching rail and a spot for that evening campfire. For the most part the campground is primitive, offering only ten electrical hookups. Water is available for both two- and four-legged guests. Although other campgrounds are provided for 'non-horse' folks, Bird notes that many families prefer to camp with the trail riders in order to enjoy the activity and admire the animals.

Although trail riding has long been a popular outdoor activity in Iowa, probably few people have considered taking their horse on a weekend camping trip. If you're one of those folks, perhaps you should consider Brushy Creek. Who knows, Old Paint might just enjoy a little vacation, too.

The following is a list of other Conservation Commission areas that provide equestrian facilities:

Lowell Washburn is an information specialist located in Clear Lake. He has worked as a naturalist for two Iowa counties and as an outdoor writer.



Bill Bird



Rod Priesth

AREA	TRAILS	EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUNDS
Elk Rock (Red Rock)	X	X
Fort Atkinson	X	
Lake of Three Fires	X	
Margo Frankel Woods	X	
Pilot Knob	X	
Pleasant Creek Recreation Area	X	
Shimek Forest	X	X
Stephens Forest	X	X
Stone	X	
Swan Lake	X	
Volga River Recreation Area	X	X
Walnut Woods	X	
Waubonsie	X	X
Yellow River Forest	X	X

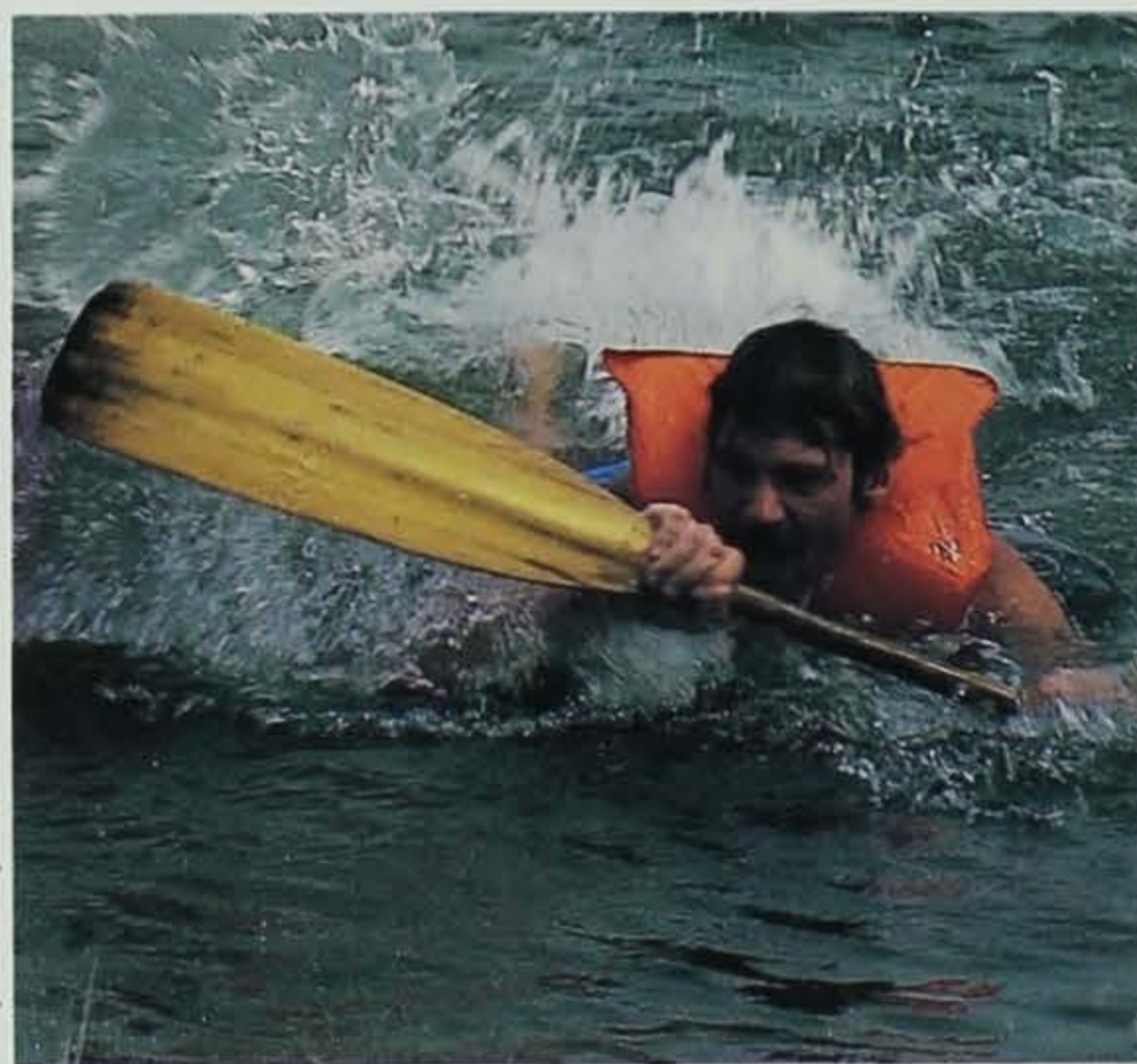
Park With An Urban Flavor

By Lee Niblock and Jim Magirl



Wendy Van Gundy

George Wyth now offers a variety of fun things to do, from swimming on a well-managed beach to tube races.



Wendy Van Gundy

During 1853, William Fisher and his wife Nancy came from West Virginia to homestead the area that is now George Wyth State Park. They purchased 45 acres in 1875 from the State of Iowa, and lived with their nine children in a log cabin next to the lake still known as Fisher Lake.

In 1940, this area was included in the 175 acres of timber along the Cedar River between Waterloo and Cedar Falls which became "Josh Higgins Parkway." In May of 1956, Black Hawk County petitioned the Iowa Conservation Commission to name the then 419-acre wooded tract, George Wyth Memorial State Park. The park was so named June 13, 1956 to honor the late George Wyth, Cedar Falls founder and first President of Viking Pump Company, and for years an ardent supporter of local and state park programs.

In 1972, George Wyth was one of five existing state parks that were recommended for priority redevelopment. About this time, the Iowa Department of Transportation was proceeding with plans to relocate and reconstruct U.S. Highway 20, near the park. The two state agencies cooperated in their projects, creating a new 51-acre man-made lake in the park. In addition, the new lake and other park facilities were now visible from the busy highway, causing an increase in park use. Several more years of planning followed until in April 1980, contracts were awarded and reconstruction began.

All of the work and planning that went into the park seems to have been justified. In 1973, visitation at the park was placed at 181,275. During 1983, visitation at George Wyth was 504,220, representing an amazing 278 percent increase in park use in just 10 years!

The new facilities at George Wyth make the park one of the finest in the state. The redevelopment included pav-



ing of the roads, construction of 26 paved parking lots to handle 794 vehicles, and installation of a city water and sewer system. Four new boat ramps were constructed, the beach was relocated, and construction began on three new modern restrooms. These much-needed improvements gave the park a well-deserved face lift, and made the park itself better able to handle the rapidly increasing number of people using the facility.

The new George Wyth State Park provides for several distinctive areas of outdoor recreational activities. Some of the more attractive use areas in the park include the beach, campground, Canfield Area, shelter/picnic areas, and the bike and hiking trails.

Certainly the beach area is one of Northeast Iowa's most popular. A private concessionaire, operating from the recently completed beach building, provides a window concession service, complete with snacks, and beverages. Certified lifeguards patrol the beach dai-

ly from 11:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. Paddleboats and canoes are also available on George Wyth Lake and nearby Fisher Lake. A new concession offering during the 1984 summer season was tube rental for float trips on the Cedar River. "Tubers" were bussed to a drop off point up stream and allowed to float to the Cedar River boat ramp over three miles downstream. Here they were picked up and returned to the beach or bussed upstream for another chance to "tube the Cedar."

One special event held at the beach in 1984 was the "Reach the Beach" extravaganza. During this day-long beach party there were a number of fun competitive events ranging from paddleboat and inner tube races to sand castle building and bathing suit contests. Numerous prizes were awarded and participants and spectators alike thoroughly enjoyed the activities. This popular event will be held in June and August during 1985. In July a new promotion, "Hawaiian Luau Beach Party" will be held. Roast hog,

tropical fruit, shirts, leis, and of course Hawaiian music should be plentiful.

While swimming, tubing and beach events are popular pastimes at George Wyth, water enthusiasts have several other choices. Fishing, on 51-acre George Wyth Lake, on Fisher Lake the 38-acre oxbow, or along the several miles of Cedar River shoreline, is also popular. Nice catches of bluegill, crappie, channel cat, largemouth bass, and bullhead are possible. Boating is also popular and nearly every day sailboats or windsurfers glide across the surface of George Wyth Lake. Boats are restricted to electric motor propulsion.

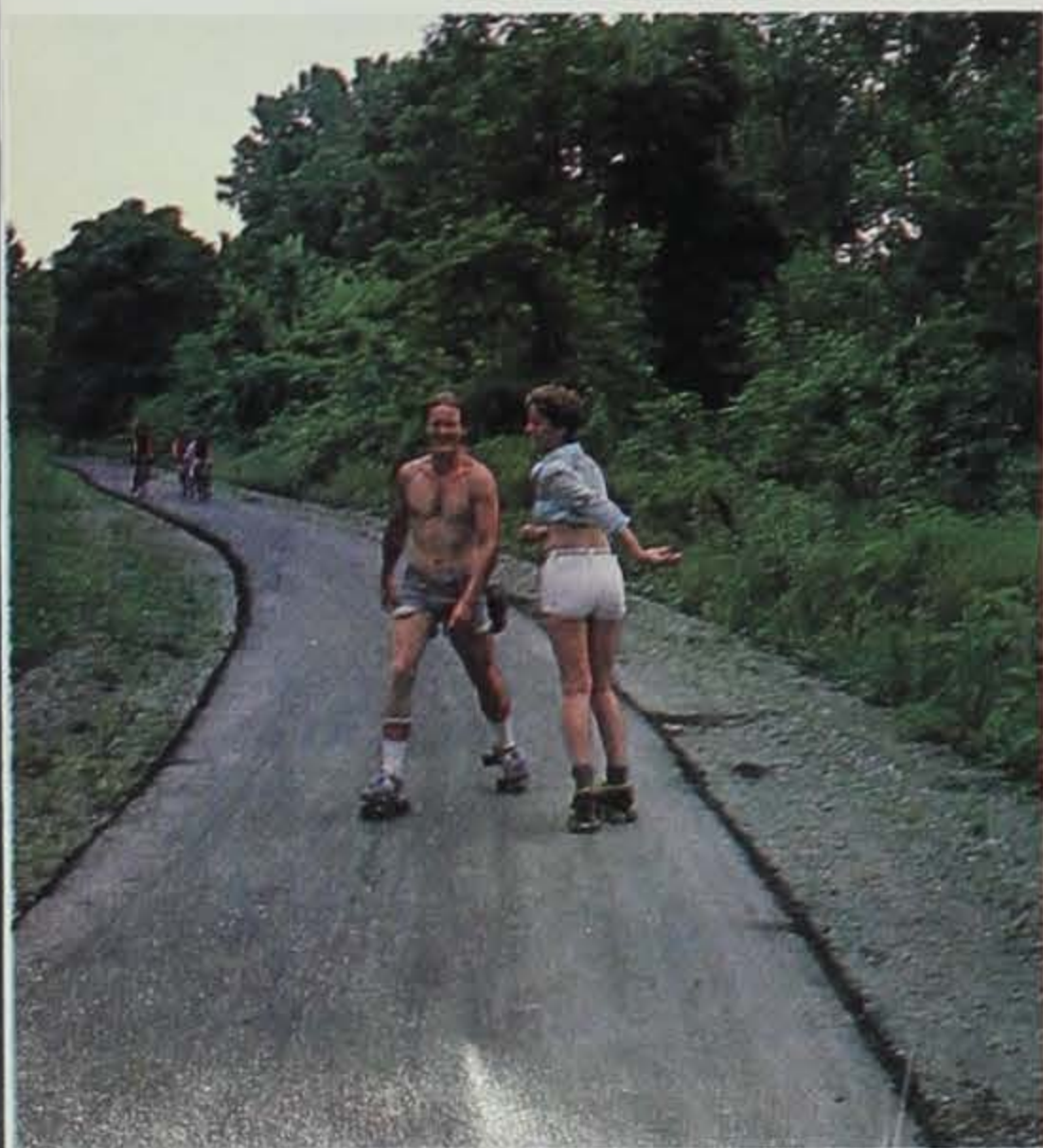
The 64-site George Wyth campground is located adjacent to the Cedar River and is moderately wooded. Campers have an opportunity to choose one of 21 non-electric campsites or any of the 43 electric sites. All registered campers have access to the modern shower unit. Campers have the added convenience of self-registration, so now an individual can register for and occupy the chosen

campsite upon arrival at the park.

Within walking distance to the campground is the Canfield Family Recreation Area, a county-owned, state-managed property on the east edge of George Wyth Park. This area, when completed during 1985, will offer a variety of recreational opportunities. During 1984 extensive vegetative management occurred, to enhance the attractiveness of this area to the park user. Included in this area are an open shelter, latrine facility, planned fitness trail, drinking water, planned playground, and a hard-surfaced bikeway.

Located throughout the park are three open shelters and one enclosed rental shelter. The open shelters are available free to any groups or individuals wishing to use them. Competition for these shelters is keen and those interested would be well advised to arrive early on the day of planned usage. The rental shelter is available through the park ranger for a fee of \$40.00 per day. The construction of the shelter at the Canfield Area was made possible by donations from those organizations and businesses interested in a quality state park system. All across Iowa, park section personnel have received a multitude of donations. Over 230 donations valued at \$8,500 were received in 1984. When we refer to donations at the park level we are not just referring to cash but any item or service that can benefit outdoor recreation. In many cases, the donation of an item or the volunteer of labor has done much to improve a specific park.

George Wyth features one of the states finest biking (and skating) trails.



Rod Slings

Residents in Northeast Iowa are blessed with one of the finest hard-surfaced bikeways in Iowa. It is possible to bike from the UNIDOME in Cedar Falls through the park on five miles of designated bikeway. An additional one and one-half miles of bikeway may be completed during 1985. Starting at the west end of the park, bikers and hikers can enjoy the 19-site interpretive trail. Also, located adjacent to the bikeway are four of the five wildlife foodplots at George Wyth. Wildlife enthusiasts have found that these corn plantings allow an extra opportunity for wildlife viewing. The food plots also serve as effective cover for several species.

While winter weather may be harsh many Iowans look forward to outdoor winter activities. Several forms of recreation are provided at the park. The park boasts some of the best cross-country ski trails in northeast Iowa. These are used by numerous competitors during the annual Black Hawk County Cross-Country Ski Classic. The event planned for late January 1986 will encompass a weekend and "Cabin Fever Daze 1986" should be two days of winter fun for the whole family. Other winter activities include ice fishing which is enjoyed by thousands each winter on George Wyth and Fisher Lakes. Several hardy individuals have tried winter camping as the electric campsites are functional year around. When winter temperatures approach the freezing mark, hikers enjoy the wooded trails.

In the future, continued development will increase the participation in George Wyth State Park's many activities. Planned highway construction in the George Wyth vicinity may well result in even more surface water, park land area, and bikeway expansion possibilities. Additionally, strong special event promotions will enhance the public's awareness of what one of Iowa's favorite state parks has to offer.

Lee Niblock is a park ranger located at George Wyth State Park. He holds an M.A. degree in recreation administration from the University of Iowa. He began his career in conservation in 1975.

Jim Magirl, park attendant, attended the University of Northern Iowa until 1974, majoring in physical science. He has worked at George Wyth State Park full-time since 1976.

Profile of a

By Dean M. Roosa and Bill Pusateri

Cleft Phlox

It's spring — a time when a botanist's mind turns to the detective work of tracking rare plant species. There are several species which we are concerned about this season. One of the most interesting is called cleft phlox (*Phlox bifida*). As a member of the Phlox family, Polemoniaceae, it has several characteristics which make it easy to identify.

Like most members of this family, it has five petals which unite to form a long tube-like structure at the lower end of the flower. The tube flares out to form five distinct petals to simulate a trumpet-like form. But look more closely at the photograph of cleft phlox and you will soon realize why this species is distinct and called "cleft." Each petal is divided by a deep notch; giving the casual appearance of not five, but ten petals. The petals (collectively called the corolla) varies in flower color from white (in some rare individuals) through shades of pale and rose lavender to a pale purple hue.

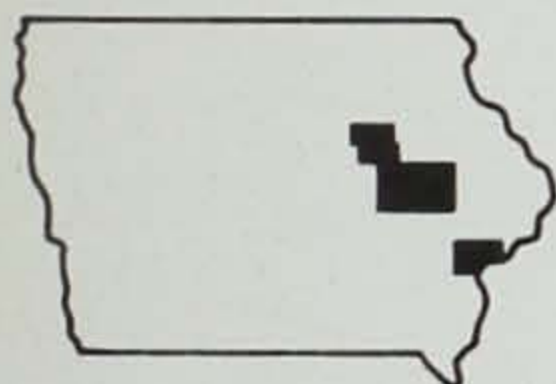
One other unique character of this low-growing, creeping perennial is that the thin linear leaves, stems, sepals and fruits are covered by conspicuous gland-tipped hairs which possibly function to



Bill Pusateri

Endangered Species

attract pollinating insects. A few southern states are known to harbor a variety of cleft phlox which has no gland-tipped hairs, but this variety has never been reported in Iowa. A few recent reports have confused our Iowa species with cultivated escapes from old cemeteries where it was once common to plant a cultivated form of phlox in order to promote a ground cover over rocky surfaces.



In the United States, cleft phlox has a scattered range from Michigan to Iowa, south to Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma. Here in Iowa, this plant is historically known from four counties and is known to occur in only five sandy prairie communities distributed across Black Hawk, Benton, Linn and Muscatine Counties.

If you get a chance to do some detective work of your own this spring and run across cleft phlox, please notify us "botanical flat feet" here at the Iowa Conservation Commission.



Linda Gucciardo

Wildflower of the Month

Jacob's Ladder
Polemonium reptans

By Dean M. Roosa and Bill Pusateri

If you have read this month's "Profile of an Endangered Species" you already know that this month's wildflower is closely related to the rare and unusual cleft phlox. Unlike its rare relation, Jacob's ladder (sometimes also known as Greek valerian, bluebell or skunk-weed) is found scattered widely throughout moist Iowa woodlands, especially ungrazed wooded floodplains. Nationally this species is distributed between New York to Minnesota, and south to Oklahoma, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi.

Plant names of many wildflowers are sometimes descriptive of the plant and may be useful for identification. Not so in this case. The Greek word *polemonium* is thought to either honor Polemon, an ancient philosopher, or is derived from the word "polemos," meaning "war." (Botanists have been known to go to "war" over who named a plant first!) The last portion of its name, *reptans* is Latin, for "creeping." The only problem is that it does not have a creeping habit!

The leaves of this species are divided into leaflets, much like miniature ash leaves. This arrangement of opposite leaflets on either side of midvein is reminiscent of a primitive ladder-like structure — thus the name — "Jacob's ladder."

Petals of the flower flare out like deep bluebells. The white-colored stamens in the center of the flower provide an interesting color contrast to the blue petals. After pollination the flower gives rise to a dry fruit called a capsule which usually produces three seeds.

There are no known uses of the plant as a food source, but a well known Missouri botanist, Julian Steyermark, indicates that the root was used as a diuretic and as a curative for kidney ailments.

This year spring has arrived early in Iowa. We first saw the young leaves of Jacob's ladder in southern portions of the state as early as March 24. Blooms should appear about mid-April in the northern parts of its range. Like all of Iowa's wildflowers, enjoy their beauty, but don't pick, let future generations of Iowan's appreciate their beauty as well.

