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METEOROLOGY: A MAJOR PLANNING CONSIDERATION

by Charles D. Reed, Senior Meteorologist U. S. Weather Bureau

Planning implies forecasting. Forecasting is projecting crystalized human experience into the future. Human experience is no better than fickle and unreliable memory unless committed to writing on the spot and carefully analyzed over a long period of time.

One of the most fundamental things in all planning is weather and climate. Without a careful analysis of long-time weather records, it is possible to waste billions of dollars upon ill-considered projects. A shelter belt of trees or an irrigation or water or power conservation project can easily be located in the wrong place without adequate meteorological data and same and skillful analysis of these data.

Meteorology, though one of the youngest sciences, has accumulated rich stores of recorded data. True, these data were imperfect in the beginning for lack of facilities and lack of proved methods. However, Federal and State governments early aided meteorology. Starting with Army Post records early in the 19th century; records were continued by the Smithsonian Institution from about 1850 to 1870, then by the Signal Corps of the U.S.Army till 1890, when the present Weather Bureau was organized and placed in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The U. S. Weather Bureau has accomplished a thing hitherto unheard of in the world in its widely organized cooperative effort including nearly 5,000 citizens in daily observations of the

weather throughout the United States. Other organizations, private or public, that entered this field spent many times as much for the amount accomplished.

The demands of the public for meteorological services are far in excess of the ability of the Weather Bureau to supply them on the financial support which it receives. As a result, meteorology, instead of being concentrated in the United States Weather Bureau in a logical way, has been squeezed out into a score of other Federal, State and private activities. By this scattering process, much valuable meteorological information is buried in the files of restricted organizations where it serves a purpose for the moment only. This material should all be coordinated and published for the benefit of everyone. However, economy programs of the last 20 years have greatly reduced the data published by the Weather Bureau.

A single seed corn frost warning issued in Iowa a few years ago saved \$50,000,000 through the assurance of good seed for the next year's crop, according to estimates made by the farmers themselves. This was enough to run the whole weather bureau with double its present program for 10 years.

A single flood warning has saved millions of dollars and thousands of lives. A blizzard warning on the western ranges has saved one hundred dollars for every dollar that has been devoted to the study of the weather and meteorological conditions. Adequate re- Iowa had a historic period of heat and search will no doubt still further hei- drought. The rainfall in Bermuda that ghten the ability of the Weather Bureau summer was about two-thirds as much as to serve the country.

Our weather is the result of planetwide and possibly solar-system-wide influences, which puny mankind is powerless to promote or thwart. About the best man can do is to adapt himself to the vagaries of the weather and this adaptation can come only from a thorough analysis and study of the vagaries.

The magnitude of this adjustment is well illustrated by the extremes of the past two years in Iowa. The summer of 1934 had the most intense and prolonged period of heat in more than a century, followed in about two years by the most prolonged intensity of cold in the last 117 winters.

In Iowa, heat is the fundamental element to be considered. In the analysis have produced less than one-half inch of our weather, in my judgment, precipitation may be regarded only as a mathematical function of temperature. Unfortunately many people refer to our difficulties in 1934 as being caused by drought though the mid-summer rainfall the water area were doubled over what for the state as a whole was above nor- it was in the earliest historical times, mal and 17 other summers have been dri- it could not affect the precipitation er. and prolonged heat doubled the .water requirements of plants, animals, man ble since the greatest source of preci-and soil. Excellent crops have been pitation in Iowa is from the action of raised in many years with less rainfall a tropical sun on the vast water area than Iowa had in 1934. How easy it is of the Gulf of Mexico. to blame our trouble on the wrong element unless careful study is given to more quickly and securely sealed from the problem. negative correlation, particularly in any other form of conservation. In the summertime, between rainfall and temperature, and in the analysis, temperature may be regarded as the indepen- in Iowa was about twice as much as the dent variable. our attention to the futility of attempting to control our heat.

When we devote our attention primar- ficial lake. ily to precipitation, we are like a phy- streams by the slow process of percolasician who tries to treat symptoms and tion instead of by surface run-off, not causes of disease. The Island of floods are averted. This points clearly Bermuda had its most severe drought in to the management and conservation of

it was in Iowa in the summer of 1934. Bermuda is a little dot of land about 700 miles east of the Carolinas, in the Atlantic Ocean. There is no record that this drought in Bermuda resulted from efforts to drain the Atlantic Ocean.

As far back as there is any historical record in Iowa, not more than one per cent of its land area was covered with water surface from which evaporation could take place and it does not seem likely that with any kind of artificial impounding of water the area could be more than doubled overits pri-It has been calculated mitive amount. that if all the water originally exposed to evaporation in Iowa had been evaporated and reprecipitated it would of rain over the area of the state and this process would have to be repeated many times in the course of a summer to equal the variation that occurs between dry summers and wet summers. Even if The trouble was that the intense much more than two per cent and most likely its effect would be inappreciapitation in Iowa is from the action of

Water that sinks into the soil is In general, there is a loss by runoff and evaporation than by summer of 1934 the loss of water by evaporation from an open water surface This immediately turns average annual rainfall. Water in the soil is far more secure from loss than when exposed to evaporation in an arti-When water reaches the the summer of 1901. At the same time the soil as the foremost element in wa-

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ter conservation, and it is only by conservation that mankind can hope to improve the moisture situation since the forces that produce the original supply are wholly beyond his control. Since a saturated surface soil is useless for agriculture, conservation should seek to lower the rain that falls quickly to a water table four feet or more below the surface. Just how to accomplish this is a conservation problem to be solved, but susceptible of solution.

Impounding water at the low elevation of streams does not seem to be the most fruitful effort in water conserva-It would seem more logical and tion. certainly more useful, if practical, to do the impounding on or near the hilltops and elevated places where the soil is thin and crop production relatively poor. To impound the rainwater on ranges of hills would insure a supply of well water over a large area in thedriest of years. The engineering problems connected with such water storage would probably not be much greater than those connected with the construction of dams across the streams which in a good many cases would remove from cultivation the most fertile acres.

Until meteorology advances sufficiently to evaluate accurately the physical forces back of our major changes in weather, so that a summation of obvious current elements can be woven into a satisfactory prediction for future weather, the best that can be done is to search for cycles, frequencies and sequences - and who knows but that these elusive cycles, frequencies and sequences may be as important in the solution of these physical problems as Newton's observation of the falling apple. And even while we are doing this, there are certain applications that might be made that will improve a 50-50 guess.

For example, there is sufficient indication of temperature cycles of about 12 years by which it could be said with some certainty, after the mild winter of 1930-31, that there would be a succession of about 8 or 9 winters that would in general be progressively colder. With the winter records now available in Iowa, we have about 5 repetitions of this general type of cycle which should prompt us to make considerably more provision for fuel in the five winters following the winter of 1934-35 than was necessary for the preceding five winters. This points in the direction of increased mining activity starting in the late summer and continuing till the end of February each winter during the next few winters.

Householders could do much to distribute the labor load and the financing load and perhaps save themselves many anxious moments at the height of the blizzard season by increasing the capacity of their coal storage and filling that storage to its last inch of capacity early in December. Special plans could be made for providing for homes, schools, and other essential things in preference to less essential things at the start of the prolonged cold periods which most frequently start in the closing days of December and often last until February 20.

Likewise with the prospect of cooler summers indicated by our present position in the cycle, farmers could do well to engage more largely in the planting of cool weather crops such as the small grains, hay and potatoes, rather than the hot weather and soil depleting crops such as corn. It seems quite likely that we have ahead of us several seasons in which frosted corn will be more tracklesome than in the past several seasons. This points in the direction of an expanded livestock program to consume the corn rather than sell it for cash, and fortunately the expanded livestock program fits into the plan for more pastures and hay. With the coming of cooler seasons and the known negative correlation between temperature and rainfall, it is likely that the summer rainfall will be heavier, so heavy as to be troublesome in spring planting, cultivation of corn and curing of hay. Also, winters will probably be snowier than in the 5 winters preceding the winter of 1935-6. This calls for more bob-sleds

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and less gas transportation in agricultural Iowa, and more horses to consume more oats, hay and pastures.

Much has been said about our declining ground water level, but so far as is known to this writer there is not a well in the state of Iowa where an exact measurement has been or can be made, not influenced by artificial conditions. Fifty to one hundred such wells could be distributed over the state where cooperative observers of the Weather Bureau would gladly attend them.

These are given only as possible illustrations of how Iowa can become more wise and provident by simply taking advantage of the background of data that has been patiently accumulated by the Weather Bureau.

In Iowa we have about 120 stations where day by day, public spirited citizens, mostly unpaid, faithfully and patiently record the readings of their thermometers and measure the rainfall in their rain gages. More or less of this has been going on in Iowa since the beginning on October 22, 1819, so that we have nearly 117 years of records. These are in excellent form for use since 1890 and in pretty fair shape from 1873 to 1890, but there is a vast field for research in the records prior to 1873 when funds and trained Weather Bu- vising or checking township base maps reau personnel are available. Moreover, showing roads, electric lines, farmmuch expansion is needed in collateral steads, etc. It is under the supervilines of daily observation of evapora- sion of Eugene Griffith of Ames. The tion, soil temperature, wind velocity Population and Social Trends project at various elevations above the ground consists of an analysis of data already in free country exposures, phenology, gathered, and is under the supervision measurement of ground water level in un- and direction of Dr. Howard Bowen used wells especially designed for the lowa City. purpose, etc.

WORK BEGINS ON TWO NEW PROJECTS

THE OPENING UP OF TWO more projects within the last month brings the number ning Conference, held at Ames on April of Iowa State Planning Board projects operating under Works Progress Administration to seven. In addition the Board 99 counties and represented a wide dihas four projects operating under the versity of interest. Five out-of-state National Youth Administration.

Most of the projects are of basic, data gathering nature.

The Business and Industry project, under the direction of C. Woody Thompson of the State University of Iowa, consists at present of a state-wide tax survey to determine effects of proposed homestead tax exemptions. Verle McElroy of Iowa City is supervisor of the work.

Under the project for Urban Zoning and Planning Studies, directed by John Iowa State College, R. Fitzsimmons, city traffic surveys are being made in 9 cities and land-use surveys in 8 cities. A land use survey in Muscatine has already been completed. L.W. Murray of Ames, is supervisor of this project.

Two projects, designed to further conservation and preservation of wild life (Biological Survey and Lake and Stream Improvement) are under the direction of Jack Smith of Des Moines.

An analysis of farm statistics is proceeding under the supervision of Norman Strand, of Ames. Prof. T. W. of the Schultz is technical director project.

The two new projects which got under way within the last two weeks are: Public Service and Population and Social Trends. The former is a state-wide study to obtain data to be used in reof

REGISTRATION AT IOWA PLANNING CONFERENCE REACHES 250 TOTAL

AT THE GLOSE OF THE FIRST Iowa Plan-16, some 250 persons had registered. These people came from 42 of the state's visitors attended the session.

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A majority of those in attendance represented non-governmental organizations, lay groups interested in planning from the standpoint of the average man. These 158 persons came from women's clubs, Kiwanis clubs, Rotary clubs, Community clubs, Civic Improvement Associations and Civic league members, Farm and low income farm families on a firm Bureau members, County Agricultural planning committees, college faculty members and newspapers.

Among the representatives from governmental bodies were 7 mayors, 17 city and town planning commission members, 8 park board members, 14 county agents, and various other officials, city, county, state and federal.

For the benefit of those who were interested in the conference, but unable to attend, the proceedings are being mimeographed and will be available to those who request them.

I.S.P.B. PROVIDES COUNTY MAPS FOR R.E. COMMITTEES

THE IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD has furnished to eight counties, within the last few weeks, detailed maps showing the existing electric transmission and distribution lines within the county, and in most instances the farm homes connected to the lines. This information, which went to county agents, is for use by the Rural Electrification committees. Those counties receiving the maps thus far are: Benton, Des Moines, Fremont, Humboldt, Johnson, means whereby the farmer can support Jones, and Mitchell.

The Planning Board has in its files complete information on 36 of the 99 counties in the state. Field workers are at present gathering the necessary data to bring up to date township base maps on the remaining 63 counties in ing and intelligent land use which will the state. Upon the completion of this survey the Iowa State Planning Board against adverse economic conditions. will have the most up to date file of this kind of information on Iowa that cultural advice many a good farmer has is available for use by governmental been reestablished on a substantial opand private agencies.

RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION PLANS FARM REHABILITATION

IN ORDER TO REESTABLISH destitute economic footing, the Resettlement Administration has undertaken to do three things, according to Joseph L. Dailey, Assistant Administrator.

First: To see that the farmers have adequate land on which to farm.

Second: To see that they have adequate livestock and equipment with which to operate.

Third: To see that they have adequate technical advice in farm and home management.

Loans are made for the purchase of farm supplies, livestock, equipment and repairs in addition to human subsistence.

Repayment of these loans is partially assured by mortgages and liens on personal property and crops. However, the principal assurance which the Resettlement Administration desires is that these families have a permanent This assurbasis for rehabilitation. ance is furnished by the farm and home management plans which the farmer and his wife agree to follow. These plans are carefully worked out by the family with the help of the County Rehabilitation Supervisor and the Home Management Supervisor. The immediate aim of these farm and home plans is to provide a his family and pay his debts to the Resettlement Administration and to his other creditors. The broader aim or ultimate purpose of the plans is to furnish the farmer with a live-at-home program. A program of diversified farm-. in some measure insure the farmer

Through a small loan, and sound agrierating basis.

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FUTURE IOWA PLANNING CONFERENCES

ELECTED TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN at the Iowa Conference in Planning (held April 16 at the Memorial Union, Ames), Dwight G. McCarty recently announced his suggestions regarding future conferences. A second state-wide meeting should be held, he believes, within six months or preferably within three months, for the purpose of considering a permanent organization.

This organization, according to Mr. McCarty, should thereafter hold state and regional conferences to stimulate public interest in, and understanding of, planning programs. No dues would be required, no paid officers need be hired, and no office space maintained. The organization visualized by Mr. Mc-Carty would be a flexible, organic association of laymen and public officers interested in furthering the wise utilization and conservation of our human, economic and physical resources.

DWIGHT G. MCCARTY DISCUSSES THE "LEGAL ASPECTS OF PLANNING."

"EVERY CONSTRUCTIVE ACHIEVEMENT must be within the law of the land to be successful. It is important, therefore, to consider the influence of the law in the development of modern planning," Dwight G. McCarty of Emmetsburg, told an Iowa State College audience on April 30. McCarty, an attorney, delivered the address, "Legal Aspects of Planning", in the National, State, Regional and Town Planning series sponsored by the college.

Careful planning is a fundamental requirement for the success of any worthwhile project, Mr. McCarty said.

"Yet," he continued, "our public growth has been most aimless along many lines. Our development has been dominated too long by commercial interests.

igal in the use of our great natural resources."

After a discussion of the source of sovereignty in government and a review of constitutional history, Mr. McCarty pointed to the Police Power as the legal authority from which the power from planning authority must stem.

"The preservation of the right of property has come down through the centuries as one of the most fundamental and sacred legal principles. Along with the personal rights of man, property rights were most carefully guarded and protected. The ownership of property conferred upon such owner the right to do as he pleased with his own property so long as it did not violate the like rights of others. There was the rub. As isolated individuals became more and more rare, and the community of interest became more vital and more complex, the clash of rights became more frequent. How was this difficulty to be solved? Was the caprice of the individual to be held paramount, or was the public to prevail? Fortunately the police power provided the legal ·solution.

"The Police Power is the power inherent in a government to protect itself and its people. It therefore transcends the constitution, as it involves. the very right of self preservation."

Police Power is not to be confused with the right of Eminent Domain, speaker McCarty explained. When private property is taken for public use under Eminent Domain the owner is always entitled, as a matter of right, to just compensation for the property taken. But when property is regulated or destroyed under the Police Power it is for the public welfare and the owner is not entitled to any compensation, because the law considers that he will share in the general benefit from the change or else it is damnum absque injuria, that is, loss without injury. Where there is no injury the law will give no remedy.

McCarty pointed out that Iowa has satisfactory enabling acts passed by We have been negligent as well as prod- the legislature with reference to city

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planning, zoning, conservation, and housing. He pointed out the need for enabling legislation for County Planning and State Planning.

As a hopeful sign in controlling billboards, the Emmetsburg attorney pointed to changing public opinion."The automobile has revolutionized our methods of life and made us all more outdoor-minded and more beauty conscious. Public opinion has made a notable advance along these lines. The active fight on the billboard nuisance is a characteristic example.

Speaking of the difficulties encountered by various planning ventures, Mr. McCarty said, "The law is naturally conservative and accepts an innovation only when it becomes plain that it is not only beneficial to society but is also right and just. This fact is important in explaining the difficulties encountered in planning attempts."

NEW YORK TAKES TO PLANNING

SUPPORTED BY PRIVATE FUNDS and subscriptions to its "Information Bulletins", the New York Regional Plan Association has been for the past several years a potent force in the physical development of the nation's largest metropolis. Insisting on logical and comprehensive consideration of every major highway, viaduct or other construction program, the Association has made traffic studies, financial studies, population studies and plan studies----then recommended what it concluded to be the best solution of the problem under consideration.

The principle that a non-political planning agency works to the best interests of the community has been given valuable support by the work of the Regional Plan Association. Further recognition of this principle is found in the recent recommendation of the New York City charter revision commission, chairmanned by former Judge Thomas T. Thacher. As described by columnist Walter Lippmann, the essential idea---leaving out the details----is to leave the management of city affairs in the board of estimate and apportionment (comprising the mayor and two others elected by the whole city, and the presidents of New York's five boroughs). The three citywide officials would have three votes apiece, and the borough presidents the votes they now have. All this is as at present.

But in addition the new charter would create a city planning commission, appointed by the mayor for long terms. No recommendation of the planning commission could be overridden by less than twelve votes of the board of estimate.

It would be the duty of the planning commission to suggest the public works program for the New York City region. Although it could not enforce its plans directly, the plans could not be disregarded except by the votes of all the city-wide officials and some of the borough presidents, or the votes of all the borough presidents and some of the city-wide officials.

Log-rolling would be difficult under this form of municipal government. Long time planning would be in the hands of a long time commission, relatively independent of local political consideration.

While such a device as a planning commission cannot itself produce good government, it does make it easier for intelligence and public spirit to prevail. It will be interesting to see what action is taken upon the recommendations of New York's charter revision commission.

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The per cent of total population in Iowa, 65 years of age or over is 7.46. This is as compared with 5.40 per cent for the United States as a Whole. Only three states in the Union have a greater percentage of old people than Iowa. They are Maine, New Hampshire and .Vermont.

RICHMOND CONFERENCE HEARS ELWOOD ON COUNTY PLANNING

IN AN ADDRESS BEFORE the joint conference of the American City Planning Institute, The American Planning and Civic Association, and the American Society of Planning Officials, at Richmond, Virginia, on May 4, 5 and 6, P. H. Elwood, consultant to the Iowa State Planning Board, outlined an "approach to county planning."

Centered about the recently released Iowa State Planning Board report, "An Approach to County Planning - Appanoose County, Iowa, "Professor Elwood's address was an appraisal of the county as a planning unit and a suggestion as to the methods to be followed.

Said Professor Elwood,"It is my firm conviction that the next planning development in this country will be concerned chiefly with the county as the basic planning unit. The county must initiate the planning program and carry it out.

"The State Planning Boards should help the counties in their planning efforts, serving as fact-finding, coordinating bodies providing facts and consulting personnel in a manner similar to the procedure followed by the National Resources Committee. Technical advisers and lectures should be available for service in the counties.

"One of the first and most important facts to bear in mind concerning county planning, especially in agricultural states like Illinois and Iowa, is the interdependence of rural and urban interests within the county.

"In its final form the Plan must be the plan of the people most concerned. They must decide what disposition is to be made of the resources they possess.

"It is in fostering, guiding, advising and assisting county planning boards that the State Planning Boards can best serve the interests of our movement in the future", Professor Elwood stated in conclusion.

WATER CONFERENCE IN IOWA CITY

H.F. THOMSON OF ST. LOUIS, member of The National Resources Committee staff, met in Iowa City on May 8, with members and technical advisers of the Iowa State Planning Board, for the purpose of discussing the work of the water resources committee in the preparation of Iowa's part in the National Water Plan.

SPORTSMEN COOPERATE WITH BIOLOGICAL SURVEY PROJECT

LOCAL SPORTSMEN AND CITIZEN groups in various parts of Iowa have demonstrated their support of the Iowa State Planning Board's biological survey program by turning out enmasse to assist on the projects and by contributing funds for supplies and materials to be used on them.

At Crystal Lake in Hancock county where a fieldman from the Biological survey unit is supervising W.P.A. labor an interested group of sportsmen have donated about \$500 to provide a truck and materials for riprapping the shores of Crystal Lake.

The Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors have been donating the use of four trucks and drivers to transport the men to the project where the trucks are used to haul dirt and rock to the shore of Silver Lake near Ayrshire.

In Emmet County W.P.A. labor under Planning Board supervision is developing several dry lake beds for game production. The county is furnishing a truck and driver to transport the men and materials to the project, as well as tools used on the project.

The work at present consists of planting trees and shrubs on the lake bed to furnish game cover. To augment the W.P.A. labor the Emmet County Dilg League, an active group of sportsmen, have cooperated on two successive Sundays by coming out and working themselves. One Sunday about 40 sportsmen showed up. May 1936

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HIGHLIGHTS IN FIRST IOWA PLANNING CONFERENCE

Dean H. H. Kildee

structures are ever changing. Therefore, planning and initiating programs of action constitute a long time program. Planning is progressive and never finished. It is not the work of a few years or of one generation.

State Planning Boards in more than thirty other states have been legalized by legislative action. The Iowa State Planning Board has not been made official by a legalizing act of the General Assembly of the state. Instead of predicting the future may I express the hope that enabling legislation may be passed creating an official State Planning Board to carry on the coordinating, fact finding, plan making, advisory work of this present board, and authorizing the appointment of official County Planning commissions.

Dr. Walter L. Bierring

The newer knowledge of public health concerns itself not only with the control of communicable diseases and environmental sanitation as in the past, but with the individual as well. It is interested in the individual before birth and in early infancy, seeking not only to regulate the environment, the nutrition, and the habits during childhood and adolescence, but to obtain for the adult individual a longer, happier and healthier life.

President C. E. Friley

Engineering (physical) planning is vital, but we must have in addition a definite program of social planning covering the larger and more general questions which are admittedly more difficult of solution. It involves the highly complex question of large scale unemployment, personal security against the accidents of life, adequate production and distribution, and a reasonable

The physical, economic, and social measure of freedom from arbitrary regulation and regimentation. On this higher level we must think consistently and intelligently about our future, our class relationships, our place among the nations, the idea of plenty, and our cultural ideal.

L. S. Hill

Planning, whether it be by the individual, a business group, a corporation, a community, a state, or a nation is a primary factor in any successful stride twoards success.

In other years, when we were too busy making money, and while we were wasting the tremendous resources God gave to Americans, we didn't have time to plan. Really--we had the time, but we selfishly ignored the necessity. Our experience in the last five years, when we wandered desolate and panic stricken in an effort to find out what had happened to us, impressed upon the thinking people of the United States an imperative demand for an ordered system of national life.

Walter H. Blucher

The up-to-date administrator, the man who is alive to present conditions and who is interested in giving his community that kind of government and administration which we must have if we are to avoid chaos, realizes that we can no longer continue to carry on the functions of government by individual departments which do not relate their work to the work of the other departments. The up-to-date administrator, and I am glod that we have many already and that the number is increasing, knows that there is no single agency which can assist him in developing that rational program which he desires in a better fashion than can an alert and honest and adequately staffed planning department.



AN APPROACH TO COUNTY PLANNING

Shown above is a map of trading areas in Appanoose County as determined by an Iowa State Planning Board survey. This is a sample of one type of data necessary to a comprehensive county planning program. Trading and marketing habits, population density and present tendency, available resources, past history, etc., need to be known in the planning of highways, recreation facilities, water supplies, conservation and other programs.

In a publication just released by the I.S.P.B. under the title "An Approach to County Planning -- Appanoose County", there have been gathered together various data that are believed essential to comprehensive planning in any county. Appanoose County has been used as a demonstration area.

These reports (109 pages of text, 78 illustrations) may be secured from the Iowa State Planning Board office, Ames, for one dollar, postpaid.

