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# IOWA

## PLANNING NEWS

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### INCLUDE IOWA IN YOUR SUMMER VACATION PLANS!

By John R. Fitzsimmons, Consulting Landscape  
Architect, Iowa Conservation Commission

WHERE WILL YOU SPEND your vacation this summer? Why not stay in Iowa which offers many opportunities for those days of relaxation -- opportunities of which many people are not aware.

Far away vacation lands many times seem more inviting than those which are near at hand. You would do well, however, to check up on the home state.

Iowa has its lakes, its wooded hills, rough gorge-cut and scenic river valleys. Her highways form a uniform network, well surfaced and beautifully aligned, which reaches to all parts of the state. Tours of short or long duration can be planned with ample assurance of comfortable travel, interesting sights, amusements, fun or study. Start where you will, plan a short vacation of one day or an extended vacation of several weeks and you will be delighted with Iowa's scenic, historic and general vacation assets.

Suppose we start our inventory with Iowa's oldest section at Dubuque. There the bluffs of the great Mississippi challenge extended exploration and re-discovery. You can settle in a rented cabin on the outskirts of Dubuque; either down by the riverside or on top of the bluffs, and fish, boat, swim, hike, explore the historic settlements on the river that extend back to the pioneer days, see the old colonial houses in close packed rows under large spreading trees, the shot tower, Eagle Point Park, the grave of Julien Dubuque.

You may take a short excursion to nearby points of rare interest. To the south, make a trip to NewMellery Abbey, the monastery\* of the Cistercian Monks which dates back to the early 19th Century. Here is a bit of the old world planted picturesquely in the wooded hills of Iowa.

To the south and east is St. Donatus on U. S. Highway #55, an early French village which still maintains its European characteristics. Over the bluff highlands on Highway 55 is the typical small river-front town of Bellevue. Here one of the famous fresh catfish dinners might be in order, or on the high bluffs to the south, the lodge at Bellevue State Park might be your choice for a picnic lunch. On your way to the park, see the pearl button-cutting and clay works. At the park the panorama of the great Mississippi will spread out before you in impressive grandeur and will long remain in your memory. If time will permit, take a jaunt to Paradise Valley a few miles west of town. It is a cool, peaceful, refreshing vale surrounded by jagged outcrops which are bathed by the crystal clear waters of the many springs.

Return to Dubuque by way of Maquoketa. Swim, dance, boat, lunch or hike near beautiful Lakehurst, and visit Maquoketa Caves State Park nearby. The natural bridge high above the valley floor, caves, caverns, deep gorges and cooling shade will offer many pleasant



hours. You can go north on a good county road over highlands and through deep valleys to Bernard and U. S. Highway #161 to Dubuque.

Other excursions out from Dubuque to scenic or historic places in this region should include trips to: Zollicoffer's Lake, Spar Caves, Cascade and Washington Mills, White Water Canyon and White Pine Hollow in Dubuque County, Eden Valley, Horse Thief Cave and Ralston Spring in Jackson County; Turkey River Indian Mounds, Balanced Rock, Gracie's Mound and the Lead Mines in Clayton County.

Before leaving the Mississippi River country a person should see one of the big dams now under construction. Do this at Dubuque, Guttenberg or any of the other locations. These are interesting as completed structures with their great locks, imposing structures; or, while under construction, the great coffer dams are quite impressive.

Northeast Iowa will satisfy the most diverse interests with its scenic grandeur and historic lore challenging an extended vacation period. Camps both in public parks, private areas, resort hotels, cottages and private tourist homes are accessible in nearly every locality. The influx of tourists has not reached the proportions of commercialization, and much of the native, rural simplicity is still preserved.

In leaving Dubuque, one pleasant route is over U. S. Highway #55 to Luxemburg then west on #10 to Strawberry Point through the native white pine forest and scenic beauties of White Pine Hollow west of Luxemburg; the deep gorges and ice caves of Bixby Park north of Edgewood and the many wonders of Backbone State Park south of Strawberry Point are worth while places for the vacationist to visit.

From Backbone as a vacation headquarters many tours are possible to outstanding scenic and historic places in Delaware, Clayton and Fayette Counties. Some especially recommended are: Foun-

tain Spring Mill near Greeley, Federal Fish Hatchery, Delhi Dam and Lake, and Woolen Mills near Manchester; Echo Valley State Lake and Preserve, Dutton's Cave, Falling Spring and Sowards Cave near West Union and Klemman's Mill, Motor Mill and Big Springs in Clayton County.

By a very beautiful drive over rolling hills, pleasant green valleys, and canyon roadways, one may travel over #13 through Elkader to McGregor, a vacation resort of Iowa only recently discovered by the general public. The great river's scenery from excursion boats, roads or trails, McGregor Heights with the camps, cottages, hotels and wild life school, Pikes Peak, Point Ann, the extensive Indian Mounds, Bierbaum Woods and the Upper Mississippi Wild Life Refuge are here. Swim, hike, study, golf, row, paddle a canoe, dance, or just get a cabin and sleep, eat and rest; no matter what the choice you'll find it at McGregor.

Still farther north you may go through the so-called "Switzerland of Iowa". The river road #13 goes by historic Marquette, the old pontoon bridge of the railroad, the old military trail of early days, many great clear springs of which Allamakee abounds. Phinney and Stone House Springs north and east of Postville are typical. From Waukon take #9 to Lansing stopping enroute at Landmark Inn, a typical stagecoach inn of early days, and at the Ice Caves four miles north of Waukon. Lansing is in the heart of Mississippi River scenic beauty. Enjoy it from Mt. Hosmer and visit the fish rescue station and old Court House while there. North on #182 along the river you should stop at the Fish Farm Indian Mounds, two miles north of Kains Siding and the interstate boundary marker east of New Albin. From New Albin take County Highway "K" for an unforgettable scenic trip along the Upper Iowa River. Clear water rolls and leaps over rocky falls, canyons, crags and gushing springs add their charm



while broad expansive views over the most mountain-like section of Iowa complete the major inventory for this trip. A picturesque lunching place is the old town of Dorchester. It would be advisable to go south on #13 from Dorchester to Hanover and then take the country road to Sattre in Winneshiek County. Thence north and west to Bluffton and south along the river to Decorah.

The Bluffton Region has many outstanding palisaded bluffs, dense woods and winding, clear streams leading into the Upper Iowa River. Canoeing, excellent trout fishing and scenic drives are the chief asset of this section. Near Decorah are located Twin Springs and Sieverts Springs, both developed into extensive State fish hatcheries.

Decorah is another vacation center. Excellent accommodations in any price range are to be had. In addition to general scenery the following are points of unusual interest: Fort Atkinson, Dvorak Memorial, The Little Cathedral, Billy Brothers' Clock Works, and Running Spring Ice Cave.

Allamakee, Winneshiek, Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson and parts of Jones, Delaware, Buchanan and Fayette counties comprise a vacation land of clear streams, bluffs, canyons, the Mississippi at her best, and picturesque towns. Explore this section and know its grandeur.

Lakes with all the vacation activity they provide are plentiful in Iowa. Some of the most well-known and popular lake resort areas are: the Spirit Lake-Okoboji Region in northern Dickinson County, Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo, Blackhawk Lake in Sac County, Storm Lake in Buena Vista County, Twin Lakes in Calhoun and Pine Lake near Eldora in Hardin County. These contain the wide variety of vacation possibilities common to lakes. There are the quiet, secluded cabins along the wooded shores. One may rise early for fishing before the dawn when the air is clear, well washed with dew and all nature is awakening, or fish leisurely the whole day long from

shore or boat or cast near shore as the night closes in. Organized group camps, cottage colonies, tent camps and hotels are here.

Iowa has 63 state owned meandered lakes located in 23 counties offering varying degrees of lake vacation possibilities. She has also 12 state owned artificial lakes including: Echo Valley and Lake, Fayette County; Backbone Lake, Delaware County; Lake McBride, Johnson County; Lake Keomah, Mahaska County; Lake Wapello, Davis County; Duck Lake, Farmington and Forest Lake, Keosauqua both in Van Buren County; Bedford Lake, Taylor County; Lake Ahquable, Warren County; Springbrook Lake in Guthrie County; Pine Lakes in Hardin County and Beeds Lake in Franklin County. Camp sites are available at Lake Keomah, Backbone, Wapello, Lacey-Keosauqua, Farmington, Ahquable, Springbrook and Pine Lakes State Parks near these lakes.

Another unique and enjoyable vacation would be a tour of the Iowa State Parks. There are 55 such parks now accessible on surfaced roads. Camp sites, cabins, shelters, picnic facilities, drives, trails, golf, water sports, boating, fishing, nature study, historic remains and choice Iowa scenery may be had in these state parks.

Our state has not been called "Iowa the Beautiful" without justification. Her scenic assets are coming to be more and more known, appreciated and protected for recreative and vacation use. Not only is the state as a whole doing much in this program but local communities, towns, and counties are creating parks, building lakes and in general preserving those physical elements which provide the setting for vacations.

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According to the National Resources Board Report there are in the whole of the United States, 101,037,573 acres of grade I land. In Iowa 25,983,110 acres are listed as grade I. Thus it will be seen that more than one fourth of all the grade I land in the country is in Iowa.



## INTEREST GROWS IN EASTERN IOWA'S RIVER CANOE TRAILS

THE FIRST WHITE MEN to look upon an Iowa landscape traveled by canoe. Marquette and Joliet, on June 17, 1673, floated out of the Wisconsin river onto the broad waters of the Mississippi and beached their craft on the Iowa side.

Greeting them was a landscape which differed little from that through which they had traveled for days in their journey down the Wisconsin -- low wooded hills and occasional towering cliffs sweeping back from the water's edge.

With the coming of the railroad and later the automobile, however, Iowa rivers fell into disuse as arteries for travel and transport, and became more often the carriers of sewage and industrial waste.

Only an occasional nature lover and canoe enthusiast has made use of them as a medium for recreation and pleasure.

Today, the vast reaches of Iowa highways extend through a landscape of constantly repeated cornfields, broken only by occasional pasture lands and small grain fields. After the middle of July when the corn begins to tassel, even the attractive swell of the rolling prairie is hidden from the highways. And while loyal sons of the state may speak with pride of the "tall corn" when they are away from home, they usually spend their vacations elsewhere.

Popular conception to the contrary, notwithstanding, there are still to be found in Iowa spots of scenic beauty that have remained relatively untouched by the encroachments of intensive farming.

Many of these scenic areas are reserved for those who are willing to take a canoe to find them.

That the canoe trails of Iowa offer a type of recreation possible only for the canoeist is the conviction of Robert O. Bickel of Cedar Rapids, whose pet avocations are canoeing and amateur photography. One of the most popular

lecturers on the Speakers' Bureau of the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Bickel has shown his motion pictures and delivered his lecture "One Thousand Miles of Iowa Rivers" to more than 70 audiences during the last two years. This illustrated lecture is the result of a series of canoe trips made during 1934 and 1935 on the most picturesque of eastern Iowa rivers.

A canoeist himself since he was 13, Bickel undertook his filming venture two years ago with the idea in mind of stimulating interest in a type of recreation that has, he feels, been neglected.

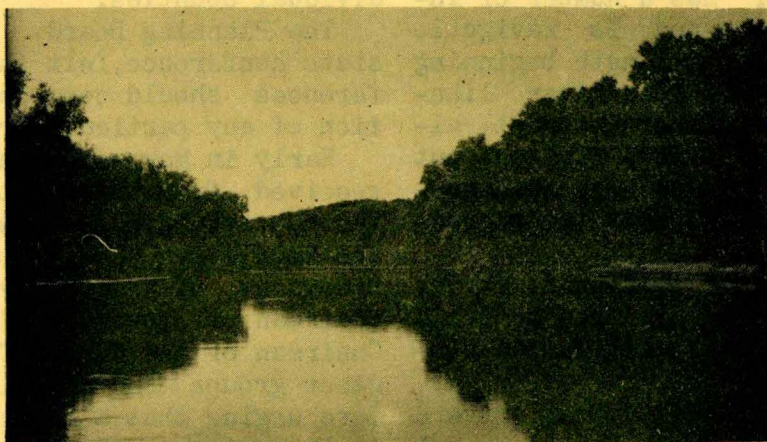
"With the highways becoming more and more crowded as time goes on, resulting in the increasing danger of accidents" Bickel declares, "it is a distinct relief to glide out to midstream in your canoe and begin your weekend trip with prospects of seeing not more than a dozen persons during the whole time. I have canoed in Iowa for an entire day without so much as seeing a single person other than members of my own party.

"Interest more people in our rivers," he states, "and there will be more of a demand for the cleaning up of pollution and the conservation of timber along the banks of the rivers. On some of these eastern Iowa streams each summer as I go back I find that more and more of the timber has been cut away. Some of this timber is virgin pine and birch. To cut down these trees seems to me a crime and a menace to our state. I hope to see the time when the State will own the timber on both sides of some of these most picturesque streams."

Among the increasing audiences that have heard Bickel's lectures and seen his motion pictures there has been evidenced a growing interest in canoeing.

"Nearly every week", said Bickel, "someone calls up and wants to go on a canoe trip with me. Of course, I can't





PHOTOS BY ROBERT O. BICKEL



go with them all. But I try to encourage them to go on their own. Canoeing is not at all difficult."

This year the Cedar Rapids Sea Scouts, inspired by Bickel's trips, expect to make a week's canoe journey down the Upper Iowa River, Iowa's number one canoe trail. They will leave Cedar Rapids on June 6, starting their journey below Kendallville and continuing to the mouth. Along the river, between Kendallville and Decorah are to be seen the picturesque chimney rocks of northeast Iowa.

Next to the Upper Iowa river for picturesque scenery and good canoeing is the Turkey river which has its source not far distant from that of the Upper Iowa, but which enters the Mississippi many miles to the south. The choice section of the Turkey river, according to Bickel, is that which flows between Eldorado and Osterdock.

Third in order of suitable canoe trails is the Maquoketa river between Manchester and Maquoketa. The Pictured Rocks of the Maquoketa are acknowledged high spots among Iowa's scenic points.

The Wapsipinicon, or the Wapsi, is judged the fourth ranking river among the canoe trails, between Troy Mills and a point below Anamosa after the river has meandered through the Wapsipinicon State Park.

The Cedar River has a number of interesting features and is navigable throughout most of its length beginning above Waterloo. The Iowa River likewise has many points of interest although the terrain of Iowa flattens out as one travels south and west and canoeing has less to offer from the recreational standpoint.

All of the rivers mentioned above, are stocked with fish; trout, small mouthed bass, crappie, catfish and others.

"There are undoubtedly other rivers of the state that have stretches that would be interesting to the canoeist. The Des Moines I know has some attractive sections," Bickel states.

During his various canoe trips, Bickel has marked on highway bridges, rail-

way bridges and retaining walls, 16-canoe gages, by which one is able to tell at a glance whether or not the water is of suitable depth for canoeing. Four of these are on the Upper Iowa river, five on the Turkey River, five on the Maquoketa one on the Wapsi and one on the Cedar. Mr. Bickel also uses as a guide the water power plants along the rivers. If they are operating 24 hours per day, then the canoeist need have no fears about insufficient water.

Revival of canoeing as an art can do two things for Iowa. It can open up the possibilities, for many people, of a new form of diversion and recreation, and at the same time intensify the already growing demand that pollution of rivers and streams be stopped and denudation of the banks be replaced by restoration and reforestation.

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#### LAKES REGION PLANNING INSTITUTE CONVENES AT EMMETSBURG, JULY 10

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WHEN THE STATE CONFERENCE on planning (Ames, April 16, 1936) was decided upon by the Iowa State Planning Board, it was the hope that the conference would be the forerunner of other smaller conferences, regional in scope, perhaps confined in some instances to individual counties.

The Planning Board, following the state conference, felt that further conferences should come only upon invitation of any particular region or county.

Early in May, such an invitation was received from Palo Alto County, when the Emmetsburg City Planning Commission, the Emmetsburg Chamber of Commerce, the President of the County Farm Bureau, Chairman of the Corn-Hog Committee, Chairman of the Park Commission, and other groups and individuals sent letters urging that a conference be held in that city.

An executive conference was held May 28, when a group representing the State Planning Board met with a group representing several counties, at Emmetsburg. The result was the announcement that a



Lakes Region Planning Institute would be held at Emmetsburg, Friday, July 10.

Mr. J. N. "Ding" Darling of Des Moines, noted Iowa conservationist, president of the General Wildlife Federation, former chief of the U. S. Biological Survey and a member of the Iowa State Planning Board, has consented to be the principal speaker at the evening session. He is expected to discuss Iowa's wildlife and game conservation program, particularly as it relates to the northern Lakes Region.

The day's program, to be held in Emmetsburg High School Auditorium, will open with a conference for town officials at 10 a. m., when town planning and its varied problems will be discussed. Mr. Dwight G. McCarty, chairman of the Emmetsburg City Planning Commission and general chairman of the Lakes Region Planning Institute, will relate the story of "Twenty Two Years of City Planning in Emmetsburg."

Prof. P. H. Elwood, Jr., Consultant to the Iowa State Planning Board and head of the department of landscape architecture at Iowa State College, will speak on "Problems, Procedure and Possibilities of Town Planning Under Iowa Laws." There will be brief reports of planning activities in various towns in the Lakes Region, and a round table discussion. This session will be followed by a luncheon for visiting town officers.

Afternoon and evening sessions will be open to the public.

Dean H. H. Kildee, chairman of the Iowa State Planning Board and head of the division of agriculture, Iowa State College, will discuss "The Meaning of Planning" at the opening of the afternoon session. He will take this opportunity to relate the history of governmental planning and of the organization and program of the Iowa State Planning Board.

Dr. T. W. Schultz, head of agricultural economics at Iowa State College and a well known economist, will dis-

cuss "Land Tenure in Its Relation to Human and Land Resources," dealing with the growing farm tenant problem and its effect on agricultural planning and soil conservation.

Prof. Murl McDonald, assistant director of the agricultural extension service at Iowa State College, a well known speaker before Iowa farm gatherings, will speak on "Coordinating Rural and Town Interests in County Planning." This subject was one of the most popular at the state conference where Prof. McDonald discussed it. He is appearing at the Emmetsburg Institute at the special request of representatives from counties in the Lakes Region.

A special feature of the institute, one which is expected to be particularly valuable to all who attend, will be an open forum following the afternoon addresses. The speakers and other experts in specific fields of rural rehabilitation, soil conservation and planning, will join in the "Question Box" hour to help answer questions submitted from the audience.

Two addresses will be presented at the evening session. Prof. J. R. Fitzsimmons of the landscape architecture extension service at Iowa State College, consulting landscape architect of the Iowa State Conservation Commission, and a technical advisor to the Iowa State Planning Board, will speak on "Recreation Planning." He will be followed by Mr. Darling who will discuss "Conservation Planning."

Invitations to attend the institute are being extended throughout 20 counties in the Iowa Lakes Region. Public officers, citizens interested in civic affairs and the general public will be invited. Particular effort will be made to obtain a large representation of rural people, as the problems to be discussed will be largely rural.

There will be no evening dinner session, but instead it is being suggested that visitors take advantage of the intermission between afternoon and even-



ing sessions to hold picnics on the shores of Lake Medium where so much of the planning of the Emmetsburg City Planning Commission has come to fruition.

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#### REGIONAL PLAN PUBLISHED FOR PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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A COPY OF "Regional Planning- Part I Pacific Northwest" has just been received at the Iowa State Planning Board office.

This is the first of a series of reports on regional planning activities in different parts of the United States to be published by the National Resources Committee. It may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents at Washington, D. C. for fifty cents. Other volumes in the series will be completed soon.

This report is in response to a request from President Roosevelt, for a special investigation of the regional planning problems in the Pacific Northwest. The construction of the Bonneville Dam and of the Grand Coulee Dam, and the necessity for early decisions concerning arrangements for marketing Bonneville power brought to a focus questions of regional organization and questions of regional organization and planning.

What should be the policy for future planning in the great area drained by the Columbia River? How can the enormous resources of water, forests, and minerals, in that area be best utilized and conserved for the benefit of the present and future generations? How can these resources be organized for the benefit of the whole region?

The Pacific Northwest Regional Planning commission studied these problems and made the report which is published by the National Resources Committee, together with the recommendations of this Committee itself.

The Pacific Northwest Regional Planning Commission is composed of the chairmen of the State Planning Boards of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, with the district chairman of the

National Resources Committee as chairman.

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#### COUNTY PLANNING IN MISSOURI

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ACCORDING TO THE MAY ISSUE of the Missouri Planning Digest there are 32 county planning boards in that state, 24 of which have been organized since January 1, 1935. The Missouri State Planning Board, "realizing the need and value of these boards, has been active in the formation of most of them.

"It is interesting to note," the Digest states, "that originally county planning boards were those of the metropolitan county but that in recent years the trend has been toward the organization of boards in counties that are rural in character or with only small urban communities.

The boards of counties containing large metropolitan centers were usually organized for the purpose of coordinating public programs and plans of common highway program. Jackson and St. Louis county planning groups are of this type. The first of the planning boards of the more rural type was that of Franklin County.

"County boards," concludes this report, "are invaluable in assisting in the formation of public works and work relief programs of their county, in the development and conservation of natural resources, and in the social and economic problems of the locality....."

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THE TEACHING INDUSTRY is the first that should be expanded in connection with any state, city, or town planning program. The main distinction between barbarism and civilization is this: Civilized people, by means of education, pass along the torch of experience so that each generation can begin its development where the preceding generation left off. If our children are to advance in material and spiritual wealth, they must stand on our shoulders. Only education can put them there. -- Roger W. Babson.



PROGRESS REPORT OF IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS  
as of June 1, 1936

Tax Survey

State-wide tax survey to determine effects of proposed homestead exemptions on tax revenue of the state.

Field work is 94 per cent complete, and tabulation 37 per cent complete.

Results of tabulations may be released for individual counties as completed. (See Map for County Progress)

Urban Land Use and Traffic Studies

City traffic surveys in 9 cities, land use surveys in 9 cities.

Field work is 70 per cent complete, tabulation 37 per cent complete.

It is intended that the Marshalltown Report shall be ready by August 1, 1936. (City Progress indicated on map)

Base Map Survey

State-wide survey to obtain data to be used in revising or checking township base maps showing roads, electric lines, telephone lines, farmsteads having public services, etc.

Field work 7 per cent complete on a state-wide basis; 25 per cent complete in two districts where project is operating.

(See Map for location of project)

Population and Social Trends

Analysis of field data gathered by I.S.P. B. field workers under I.E.R.A., to determine composition and characteristics of Iowa's population over 65 to determine number of individuals in need of and eligible for old age assistance, and determine employment and unemployment in the state.

Editing schedules and transcribing answers for old age division, 100 per cent complete. Checking transcription 86 per cent; coding 85; checking code 80 per cent; punching cards 53 per cent

and checking cards 52 per cent. Employment division, editing schedules 15 per cent complete.

Analysis of Farm Statistics

Three separate studies are in progress. (1) Data compiled by farm size and tenure to determine influence on cropping systems. (2) Determination of trends in acreage and yield of major Iowa crops by townships. (3) Determination of effects of several leasing systems on Iowa crop and livestock systems and on the distribution of income and expense between landlord and tenant.

Work on project considered as a unit was 20 per cent complete; study (1) tabulation 40 per cent, computation 10 per cent complete; no analysis possible as yet; study (2) and (3) 20 per cent complete.

Biological Survey

Preliminary surveys and supervision of development work on constructive conservation projects.

Work this spring has consisted mostly of planting winter game cover on 14 state-owned dry lake beds. Plantings consist of various types of conifers, willows, ash, black locust, elm and choke cherry and grape -- all of which have been obtained at State Nursery in Ames.

Lake and Stream Improvement

Re-survey and establishment of permanent boundary lines on state-owned tracts of land such as dry lake beds, etc.

To date, surveys have been completed on Jemerson's Slough (Dickinson County), Mud Lake (Clay County), and work is being rapidly completed on Hottes Lake (Dickinson County) and Cheever Lake in Emmet County.







I O W A   S T A T E   P L A N N I N G   B O A R D

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T. R. Agg . . . . . Dean of Engineering, Iowa State College  
Walter L. Bierring . . . . . State Health Commissioner  
J. N. Darling . . . . . President, General Wildlife Federation  
Mrs. Henry Frankel . . . . . Chairman, Iowa State Conservation Commission  
P. F. Hopkins . . . . . Director, Iowa Public Works Administration  
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Agnes Samuelson . . . . . State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
A. C. Trowbridge . . . . . State Geologist  
Fred White . . . . . Chief Engineer, Iowa Highway Commission

\* \* \* \* \*

R. H. Matson . . . . . Director  
A. H. Wieters . . . . . Secretary

\* \* \* \* \*

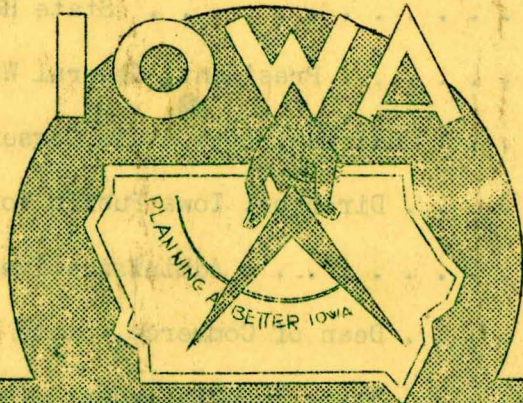
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