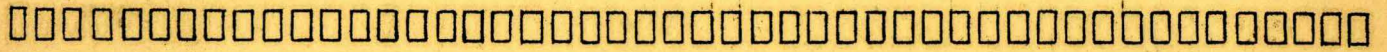


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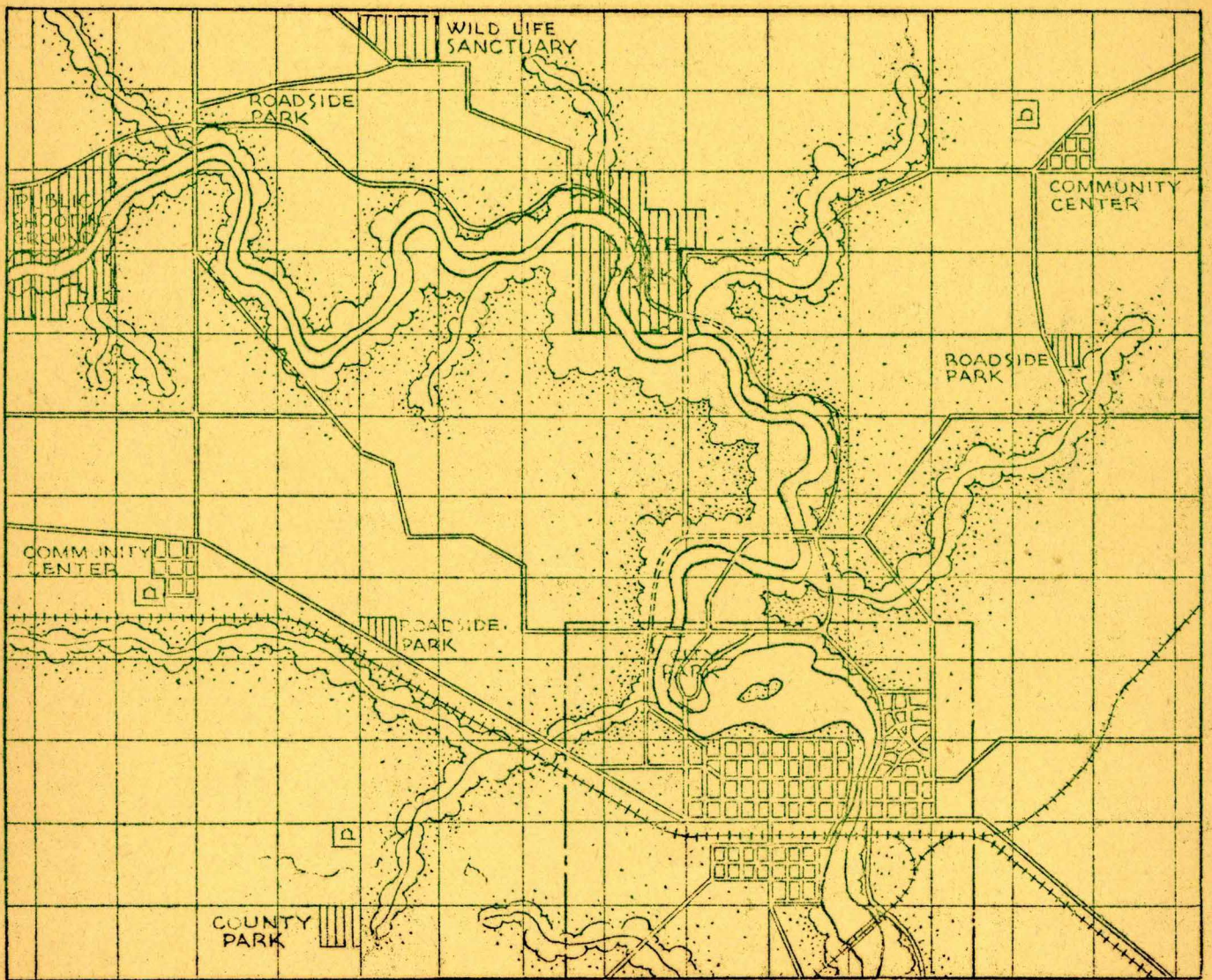
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A FEW QUESTIONS ON COUNTY PLANNING

TO ANYONE NOT ALREADY familiar with planning procedure and techniques, certain appropriate and logical questions arise when county planning is mentioned. What is it? What need does it fulfill? Has it ever been tried? Where has it been found successful? How does it function?

What is County Planning?

County planning is the process of discovering existing conditions and trends, estimating future needs and providing a plan or program of action which must be not static but continuously adjusted to changing requirements -- to secure economically for the inhabitants of a county the maximum of comfort, convenience, health and beauty in their environment and living conditions. That's a long sentence and it included in a general way about everything ordinarily covered by county planning (which in the past has been limited to physical planning).

County planning for the most part is done by a group of lay citizens, with such technical aid as they may need and are able to secure. County officers usually work closely with but do not serve (except in ex-officio capacities) on county planning commissions.

County Planning Problems.

A county planning agency primarily considers problems confronting the county. It seeks the answers to such questions as:

What are the greatest needs and the most obvious problems in the county? What is the extent and nature of stream pollution in the county? What agricultural practices are most common, and are they the best for the county in the long run? Are the approaches to our towns and cities attractive, or are they composed of auto graveyards, public dumps, etc.? Are many people moving into or out of the county, or is the population fairly stationary? What athletic and other recreational facilities are available?

What county highways carry the most traffic? Which roads should be further developed and which may be abandoned or changed? What is needed in the way of schoolhouse construction? What schoolhouses may be closed and pupils transported to other schools at increased educational efficiency and economy?

How adequate is rural electrification in the county? What industrial opportunities exist? Is the relief load higher or lower than the state average?

What public works are most needed? How does the county compare with other counties in quantities purchased per capita and prices paid per unit for comparable items of public consumption? How extensive is tax delinquency and what should be done about it? What industries might be established? What lines of business should be abandoned?

Another question may occur to the reader: Are there not established agencies and chosen officers to answer these questions and to take care of these problems?

What Need Does County Planning Fulfill?

County planning fulfills three needs, some or all of which are not met by other agencies in the county. These three needs are continuity, coordination and lay representation.

Elected officers seldom have assurance of continuity in office for a period of more than a few years. As a consequence their interests can rarely include long-time planning. A county planning commission, on the contrary, comprises members selected for long, over-lapping terms; continuity of policy and activity is thus facilitated.

Special agencies and officers are engaged in specific work to which, however well they may perform it, they often fail to relate equally important issues. (Highway planners and school planners, wildlife conservationists and health specialists who consider only their own fields--and often the requirements of their immediate work seem to permit no time for considering other interests emphasize this need. A county planning commission, on the other hand, is concerned with county problems which permit public planning, and is charged directly with the responsibility of harmonizing otherwise conflicting programs.

In the democracy under which we live it is customary for the voting public to elect small groups of single individuals to administer public programs. Public officials are citizens, to be sure, but they are a comparatively small group most of whose efforts are necessarily devoted to carrying out plans rather than making or coordinating plans.

The ideal of public efficiency encourages this arrangement. The ideal of democracy, however, encourages the making of general programs and plans and the formulating of policies (as distinct from specialized or detailed plans and policies) by as large a group as practicable of the lay public. In

other words, many citizens should help plan the future course they desire to follow.

Has County Planning Ever Been Tried?

Yes. County planning has been extensively promoted in the New York metropolitan region and in the states of California, Washington, Oregon, and Wisconsin. At least 17 states have some kind of county planning enabling legislation. In the New York region county planning has been concerned largely with the regional plan. In Wisconsin county planning has been concerned more with rural land use zoning for Agriculture, Forestry or Recreation. There the law permits the designating of certain submarginal areas as unsuitable for settlement; present occupants are not removed, but no additional settlement can take place in such areas. The economic importance of county planning and rural zoning in Wisconsin may be emphasized by pointing out that without it many families might move into submarginal areas, demand schools toward the support of which they could not contribute, and draw heavily upon relief funds.

No long-time test of county planning has been made, for the movement is yet young. It is a safe prediction, however, that wherever intelligent attention has been devoted to it, county planning will continue.

How Does County Planning Function?

County planning in Iowa can be carried on only unofficially until an enabling act is passed by the legislature. Suggestions for organization and procedure are made in a recent publication of the Iowa State Planning Board. This booklet ("Suggestions for County Planning Procedure") is available without charge.

County planning agencies systematically consider the problem confronting

their counties, but they need not work according to any rigid formula. One county differs from another in needs, resources, public interest and personnel. To a great extent the manner of functioning is up to the group itself, except insofar as the legislation under which official county planning commissions operate limits or specifies their activities.

DARLING INTERESTED IN COUNTY PLANNING

OF SPECIAL INTEREST to Mr. Jay N. Darling was the emphasis being placed upon county planning procedure in the program for the Lakes Region Planning Institute, being held at Emmetsburg, July 10.

Mr. Darling, a member of the Iowa State Planning Board and widely noted for his interest and activity in wild life and conservation affairs, gave encouraging suggestions to state planning board people who discussed with him the institute objectives a few days prior to the conference.

He was particularly of the opinion that the existing county agricultural planning committees, headed by Mr. Murl McDonald as state chairman, should form an excellent background for the extension of planning efforts into other fields than crop control, and for enlisting other citizens of each county in programs for greater consideration given to planning.

The Emmetsburg institute was expected to develop along very definite lines the state planning board's program of encouraging the organization of county planning organizations, wherein local people would unite with their neighbors in considering the future use and preservation of the resources of the community, and would sponsor fact-finding projects in order to determine the problems, resources and probable future trends likely to affect the locality.

MUNICIPAL PARK PROJECTS

THE CITIES AND TOWNS of Iowa, awakening to the possibilities of securing park projects through the emergency work programs, have petitioned FERA and WPA. These agencies have insisted upon suitable plans, realizing that the proper development of a park requires more than teamsters and grading equipment, trees and shrubs.

Earlier, in the haste of CWA, a few park projects had slipped through without adequate plans. The results stood as a warning to the FERA and WPA engineers. Accordingly, proper plans were insisted upon.

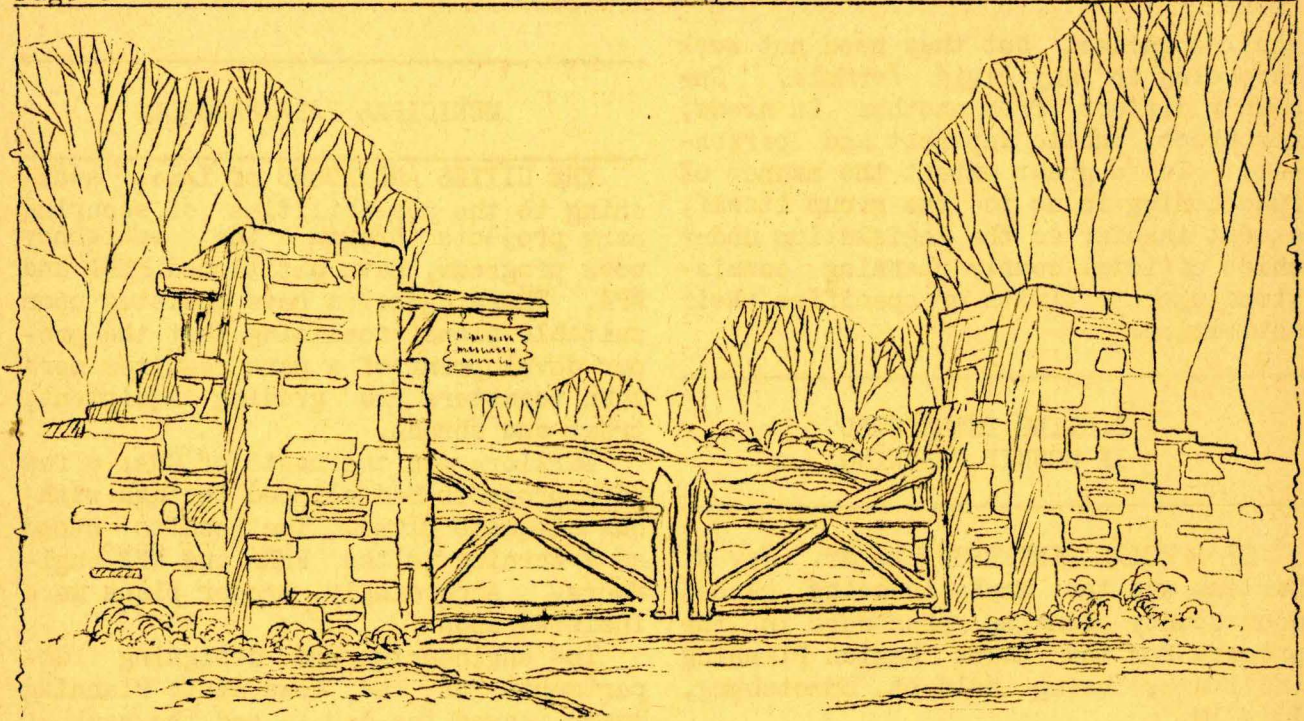
The engineering and designing departments of the Iowa State Planning Board saved the day -- and the park -- for many an Iowa community. Preparing topographic maps and landscape plans, the State Planning Board made possible the approval and construction of 27 projects in 22 cities under the FERA alone. These projects paid \$275,004.50 in wages, and produced 638,208 man hours of employment. Materials cost another \$51,265.39.

Under the WPA, some 30 additional municipal park projects will be operated, again made possible by the planning service of the Iowa State Planning Board. A number of state park projects increase the total under both FERA and WPA to approximately 70 projects.

IOWA PLANNING OFFICIALS ATTEND ST. PAUL MEETING

CHAIRMAN H. H. KILDEE, Director R.H. Matson, and Consultant P. H. Elwood, of the Iowa State Planning Board attended a Regional meeting of State Planning Boards, called by the Minnesota Board, at St. Paul on July 8.

Purpose of the meeting was discussion of future programs, and cooperation in the preparation of the forthcoming "Water Plan."



E. C. WORK IN IOWA PARKS

DURING THE PAST YEAR the Emergency Work Administration has operated from nine to fourteen CCC camps in Iowa, under the general administration of the National Park Service. This work has been in cooperation with the State Conservation Commission, which had sponsored the work in the State Parks for the State. Two additional camps under the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, have also worked in the State Parks during part of the period.

Funds provided by the Federal Government are used for general supervision in the camps and also for purchase and operation of equipment, and for purchase of material to be used in construction. These funds have been supplemented from a special appropriation by the last General Assembly. This fund is under the administration of Professor G. B. MacDonald of Iowa State College, who has operated as General Director of the ECW work in the State.

Plans for the work to be done in the Parks have been prepared partly in the camps themselves and partly in a Central Design Office, which has been ope-

rated in connection with the Procurement Office of the Department of Interior located on the college campus at Ames. These offices have been in general charge of W. O. Price, as Procurement Officer and also as State Park Authority for the Conservation Commission.

Among the outstanding pieces of construction under way during the past year are the following:

At Lacey Keosauqua State Park, the CCC force have constructed a dam to impound a lake. They have also completed the rebuilding of an existing lodge so as to make it much more useful and attractive. A home and service building for the Park Custodian have also been constructed.

At Lake MacBride in Johnson County, the work has consisted largely of construction of roads, beach and a bathhouse, which is now partly completed. The Lake itself is impounded by a dam which had been constructed by CCC force earlier in the program.

At Palisades State Park near Mount Vernon, the principal construction last

year before the camp was abandoned was a dam in the Cedar River, designed to raise the water level in the river for better appearance in the Park.

At Lake Wapello in Davis County a commodious bathhouse and picnic shelter has been finished, together with several fish rearing ponds and roadways. Lake Wapello is a 300 acre lake, made possible by a dam previously constructed by the Fish and Game Commission.

A custodian's home and service building, picnic shelter, bathhouse and cabin group have been constructed at Lake Ahquabi, which is located south of Indianola in Warren County. The dam which formed this lake had been constructed earlier in the program, largely by CCC labor. An interesting feature of the stone construction in this Park is the method of quarrying the stone, which is comparatively soft sandstone, taken from a hill in the Park. This stone hardens after exposure to the air. The quarrying and preparation of the stone is entirely the work of the boys in the camp, as is also the case at a number of the other parks where stone construction is under way.

A camp is maintained at Stone Park near the northwest limits of Sioux City. This park was previously the property of the City, but was turned over to the Conservation Commission about a year ago. The park is located in the bluff land overlooking the Big Sioux River and is of a different type of landscape than is the case in most of the other parks in Iowa. Improvement of roads and service areas has been the first work undertaken. One of the features of this park will be a three to four mile trail or bridle path in which there is considerable interest in that vicinity.

At Beeds Lake, northwest of Hampton in Franklin County, a concrete overfall dam about 35 feet in total height has been practically completed between two stone hills and will impound a lake of about 150 acres. This dam has a crest length of 170 feet and is entirely faced with stone, which is quarried within a few miles of the Park. This is

a new area which has not been heretofore used for park purposes.

One of the outstanding features at this park is the large number of pine trees which have been set in the park, making it distinctive from other parks in the State. It is planned to build a bathhouse and bathing beach.

Several areas have been improved near Decorah in Winneshiek County — the outstanding one being at Sieverts Spring, located a short distance southeast of Decorah. Fish rearing ponds have been constructed and are now in operation. This is said to be the most extensive system of rearing ponds for propagation of bass located anywhere. A residence and service building for use of the custodian and some small picnic facilities have been built. The CCC enrollees quarried the stone for these buildings nearby.

At the Backbone State Park in Delaware County, a number of general improvements have been made, including roads, trails, spring improvement, and other general work. Previously a dam had been built by CCC labor together with a bathhouse and beach and several bridges. This is the most extensive park in the State.

At Lake Keomah near Oskaloosa, a lodge and picnic shelter has been built and bath and boat house are nearly complete. A custodian's residence is also under construction. Limestone from a nearby quarry is used in all of these buildings. The dam had been completed in an earlier part of this program and the lake is nearly filled.

Mention has not been made of landscaping and planting which has been done in all of the parks as one of the major activities of the CCC organization. The same is true of water supply and of sanitary provisions necessary for use of the public.

A July meeting of the Iowa State Planning Board will be held at the Hotel Ft. Des Moines, in Des Moines, on July 14. Opening session will be at 10 a. m.

MAVERICK MAKES PLEA
FOR SOUND PLANNING

IN A RADIO ADDRESS, and in two addresses from the floor of Congress, Representative Maury Maverick of Texas, a short time ago, made an eloquent plea for a more intelligent and planned use of the natural resources of this country.

Said Mr. Maverick, "Seventy years ago a writer named Marsh, raising the question of whether the United States would be a permanent country, said that most countries of hilly or rolling surface and seasonal rains gradually lost their fertile soils and in the course of time became nonproductive and like deserts. No one in the United States paid any attention to his question. We went on cutting down our forests, turning under our sods, letting rain wash topsoils into the rivers and oceans, letting crops and erosion sap the fertility of our soils. Seventy years later we awaken to the fact that Marsh was a prophet, and that destruction of resources has gone so far that if we are to save ourselves we must act promptly and vigorously.

"Thinking that there would be plenty of new land for everybody, we have robbed instead of conserved the fertility of our soils. Now there is no more free land; we must preserve what is left and restore what we can. We have cut the best accessible timber, and have carelessly permitted fires and overgrazing to destroy the seedlings that would have reestablished it in nature's way. By cutting the forests and turning under the sods we have exposed and abused our soils and have permitted waters to rush more quickly to the sea unused. In their course they have washed the fertile top soils out of reach and use by man, and have increased the horrors and destruction of the floods. We have rushed them to the sea so fast that they have not had time to soak into the ground. In that way in some areas the

store of water in the ground has been depleted so that now there is a shortage for farm, factory and household use.

As a cure for the many abuses and wrong uses of our resources, Mr. Maverick advocates sound planning measures and the establishment of a permanent National Resources Board.

State Representative Maverick, "Mr. American, this country must be preserved by systematic, intelligent planning, whether the work "planning" is pleasant to some people or not. When I hear people denouncing planning I wonder if they know what they mean. We are told that this is socialism, this being a vague accusation that planning is wicked. Is it sensible to let this country wash away? We know it is not. We know, moreover, that business cannot exist on any scale understood by Americans, if the productivity of the soil is destroyed and erosion goes unchecked and floods left uncontrolled.

"I think it plain that planning and saving our lands is the opposite of being wicked or sinister, and that democratic government will cease to exist unless we save the soil."

DES MOINES PLAN ADVANCES
UNDER EMERGENCY PROGRAM

THE CITY OF DES MOINES illustrates very well the carrying out through emergency construction programs of developments planned in advance. Following the Bartholomew plan of a decade ago, the city has taken advantage of CWA, PWA, FERA and WPA to effect rapid but sound progress from paper designs to steel, stone and concrete results.

Included among completed or nearly completed projects are: widening of 20-21st street; Euclid avenue bridge; Park drives; swimming pool; Mahaska parkway; rebuilding of two golf courses; play shelters; wading pools and park improvements; and the river walls.

In addition to the foregoing, three projects are under contract for bridge and viaduct construction, and one for street grading.

LAND USE MAPPING BY STUDENTS

SPONSORED BY the land use committee of the Washington State Planning Council and the Lewis County Planning Board, land-use mapping as a high school project was introduced into Washington State in 1934. In 1935-36 a total of 1,000 students in 27 schools in six Washington counties participated in securing field data for land use maps.

In the mapping work, students become more familiar with the ideas of land planning, and begin to realize the value of land classification. They become interested in land uses of the past, and in mitigating the evils resulting from unsound land policies.

BOOK REVIEW AND COMMENT

ONE OF THE MOST interesting and useful books to appear in some time is the publication, "Little Waters," which is issued in combination by the Soil Conservation Service, Resettlement Administration, and Rural Electrification Administration.

The full title is "Little Waters: Their Use and Relations to the Land," and in a style that is lucid and extremely readable it sets forth the complex relationships of land, water, and man.

As the title indicates, this is not a book dealing with mighty rivers, which overflow their banks at flood time and carry countless millions of tons of soil to the ocean. It is rather an examination of what goes on before the waters reach these great arteries and so pass out of man's control. It approaches the problem from the standpoint of the millions of tiny rivulets and streams which first begin their course to the mighty rivers, as runoff and ground water, and first disturb the small particles of soil and plant food.

Man must control the "Little Waters" the book states and proves. And in the control of these little waters, it is the duty of every hamlet, individual community, and individual farmer to do its or his part.

The book is well illustrated with excellent photographs and simple, attractive charts. It should be in every school, in every library. Everyone should read it, both for instruction and enjoyment.

Issued first in November 1935, "Little Waters" was so popular that a second edition in April 1936 was necessary.

The book was written and compiled by H. S. Person, with the cooperation of E. Johnston Coil and Robert T. Beall. A copy may be obtained by writing to your congressman.

Edgar M. Hoover of the department of Economics at Harvard University has asked permission to reprint in a forthcoming book, one of the maps of Iowa Trading Areas as determined by the Iowa State Planning Board's committee on Business and Industry.

A few copies of the June issue of the Iowa State Planning News, containing John R. Fitzsimmons' inventory of vacation areas in the state, are still available for persons interested in obtaining them.

WHO! WHAT! WHY?

IN RESPONSE TO popular demand the Iowa State Planning Board has published a pamphlet, "Who, What, Why," which explains the program of the board, its membership, and the way in which it is financed.

These pamphlets are for distribution to persons interested in the planning program, and will be sent out upon request without charge.

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

Tax Survey

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

Field work completed in 23 more counties, leaving operations in 20 counties.

Tabulations nearing 50 per cent completion.

Urban Land Use and Traffic Studies

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

Field work completed in Webster City, Marshalltown, Cedar Rapids and Ottumwa during June. All field work now 80 per cent complete. Tabulations 43 per cent complete.

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 service, etc.

Field work approximately 11.1 per cent complete on a state-wide basis; District 4, spot checking is 72.5 per cent complete; District 5 - 8.3 per cent complete. Work was begun in 5 new counties during the month. Checking completed in 7 counties.

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 to determine employment and unemployment in the state.

Under old age study, editing schedules, transcribing answers, checking

transcriptions, coding and checking code, 100 per cent complete. Punching cards 92 per cent complete and checking cards 90 per cent complete.

Under employment study, editing 86 per cent complete, transcribing 75 per cent, checking transcriptions 72 per cent, coding and checking 68 per cent. No cards punched yet.

Analysis of Farm Statistics

(See May Report for statement of purpose of Project.)

Approximately 12 per cent of project considered as a unit, completed during June, bringing amount completed to date to about 30 per cent.

Three hand Monroes, seven electric Monroes and two comptometers are being operated on project.

Biological Survey

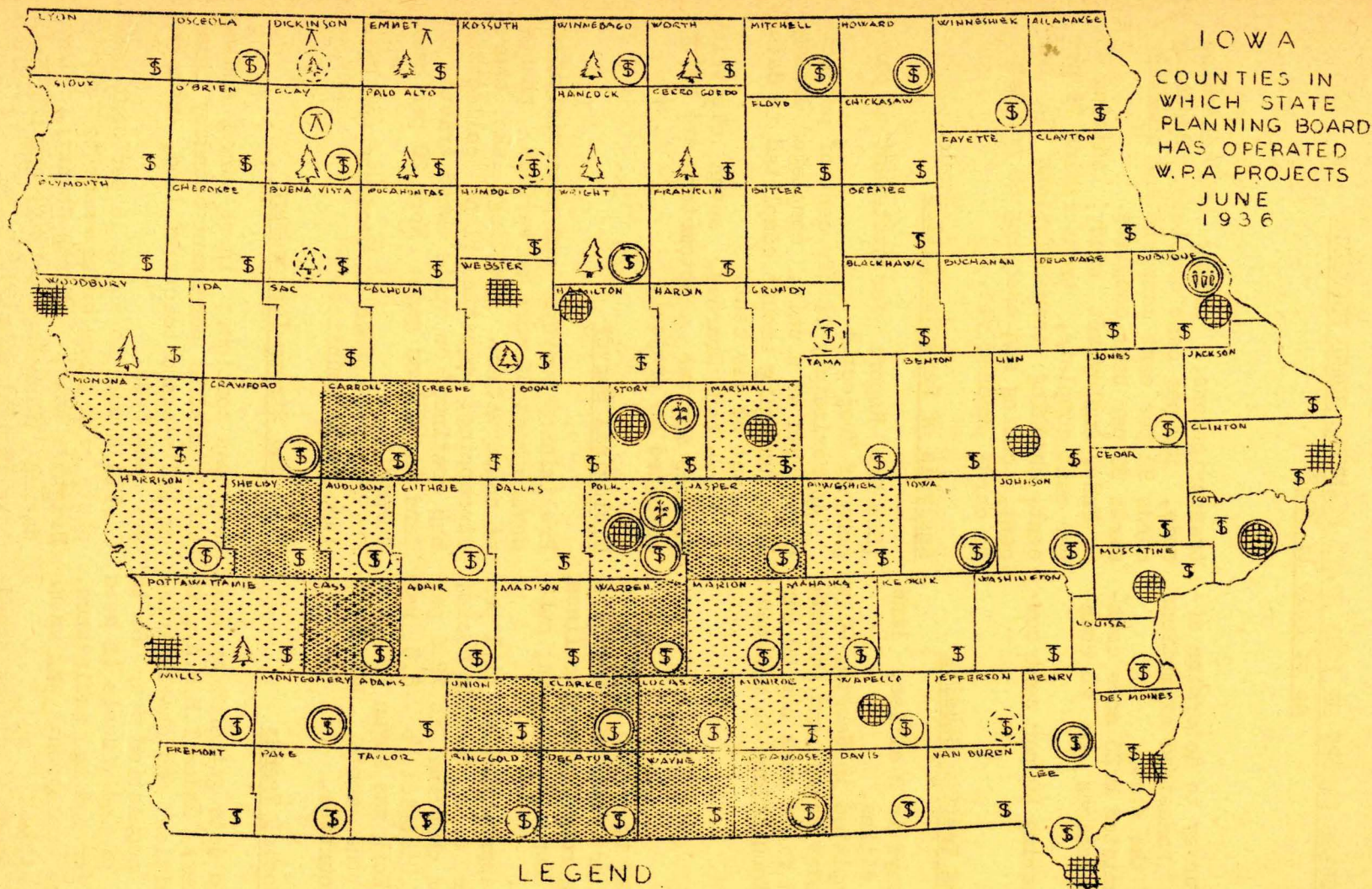
Preliminary surveys and supervision of development of work on various phases of conservation. Planting, lake shore riprapping, aquatic plant collection has continued on state owned tracts of land for upland game. Work 20 per cent complete.

Projects opened in Woodbury and Pottawattamie counties.

Lake and Stream Improvement

Work has continued in re-survey and establishment of permanent boundary lines on state-owned tracts of land, namely, dry lake beds.

Field work is about 15 per cent complete with plans being made to survey Bright's Lake, (Worth County), Lake Harmon (Winnebago County) and Big Wall Lake (Wright County).



LEGEND

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|---|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|--|
| ⌘ | TAX SURVEY | Λ | LAKE AND STREAM IMPROVEMENT | ○ | FIELD WORK COMPLETED |
| ⊖ | POPULATION AND SOCIAL TRENDS | ⊘ | URBAN LAND USE TRAFFIC STUDIES | ⊖ | FIELD WORK INTERRUPTED (TO BE CONTINUED) |
| ⊕ | ANALYSIS OF FARM STATISTICS | ⊘ | BASE MAP SURVEY | ⊙ | TABULATING OFFICE |
| ⊕ | BIOLOGICAL SURVEY | ⊘ | BASE MAP COMPLETED | | |

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
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Mrs. Henry Frankel Iowa State Conservation Commission
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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

* * * * *

C. M. Moderwell, District Chairman National Resources Committee
P. H. Elwood, Jr., Consultant National Resources Committee

Material in the "Iowa Planning News" is assembled, edited and published, without review by the members of the Iowa State Planning Board itself. Additional items, corrections or new addresses for our mailing list will be welcome.

