

PLANNING NEWS

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IOWA'S STATE PLANNING PROGRAM

Current Activities Fall Into Two General Classifications,
Conservation Efforts and Other Research Studies

By R. H. Matson, Director
Iowa State Planning Board

The work of the Iowa State Planning Board has resolved itself into two related but distinctive phases. These may be described as (1) Conservation Activities, and (2) Research and Planning Studies (other than conservation).

It may be interesting at this time to review the program so that the above distinction may be apparent to the average citizen of the state.

The State Planning Board is well past its early organization phase and committee selection detail, and looks forward to the large opportunity awaiting it to pursue a program containing factors of greatest import to the people of Iowa.

Governor Kraschel recently made appointments to the Planning Board's committees, as requested by the Board, and from time to time these committees will meet to complete their organization and continue with studies within their separate and varied fields. These committees are:

Business Research, Chariton Basin Demonstration Project, Education, Farm Tenancy, Housing, Population and Social Trends, Public Service, Public Works, Recreational Resources, Soil Conservation, Transportation, Water Resources.

The following abbreviated description of each Planning Board project now operating or proposed will, it is hoped, give to the reader a clearer conception of the work of the Board.

In Group I, or Conservation Activities, may be found the following:

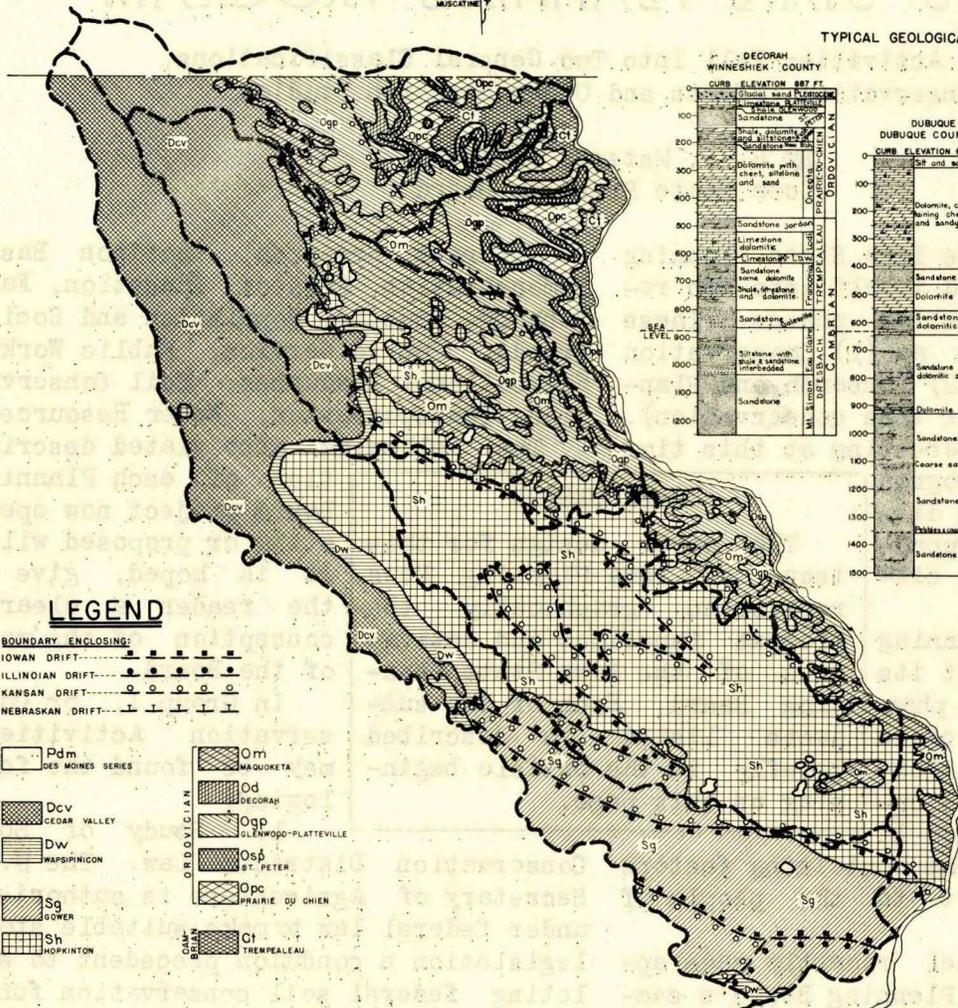
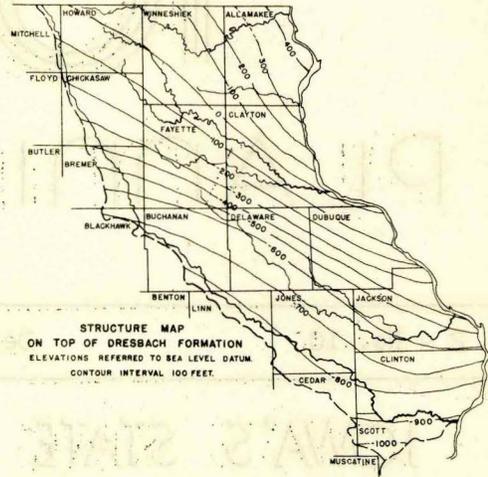
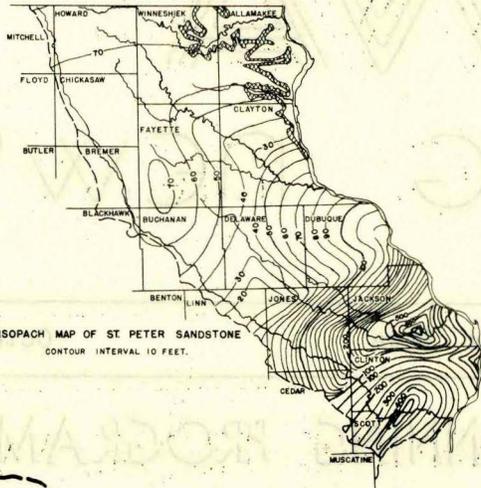
1. Study of Soil Conservation Districts Law. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture is authorized under federal law to make suitable state legislation a condition precedent to allotting federal soil conservation funds to any state. (Such state legislation would permit farmers to organize soil conservation districts and adopt land use regulations.) The study of proposed legislation has been referred to the

COVER DESIGN

The cover design for this issue of Iowa Planning News represents graphically the present functions and activities of the Iowa State Planning Board. Each of the subjects listed is described briefly in the article beginning on this page.

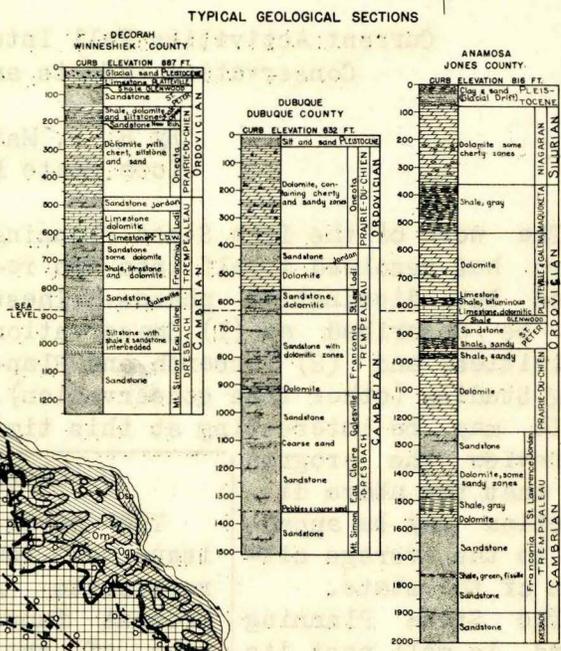
(Cont'd on Page 3)

UNDERLYING ROCK FORMATIONS & GLACIAL DEPOSITS



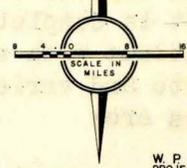
LEGEND

- BOUNDARY ENCLOSING:**
- IOWAN DRIFT
 - ILLINOIAN DRIFT
 - KANSAN DRIFT
 - NEBRASKAN DRIFT
- PLEISTOCENE**
- DEVONIAN**
- Dcv CEDAR VALLEY
 - Dw WAPSIPINICON
- SILURIAN**
- Sg GOWER
 - Sh HOPKINSON
- ORDOVICIAN**
- Om MAQUOKETA
 - Od DECORAH
 - Ogp GLENWOOD-PLATTEVILLE
 - Osp ST. PETER
 - Opc PRAIRIE DU CHIEN
- CAMBRIAN**
- Cl TREMPLEAU



NORTHEASTERN IOWA RIVER BASINS

PREPARED BY THE
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF THE
IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD



W.P.A.
PROJECT
9-6-2

FIG. 22

IOWA'S STATE
PLANNING PROGRAM

(Cont'd from Page 1)

State Planning Board, which first will obtain the opinions of farmers and agricultural experts throughout Iowa, then, after reviewing their recommendations, will prepare a report for the Legislature.

2. Farm Tenancy Study. Passage by Congress of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act marked a definite start toward solution of the national farm tenure problem, and therefore definite progress toward partial solution of the soil conservation problem. State action in ways most effectively handled by the state appears necessary to supplement the national program. The problem of studying and reporting on the Iowa situation has been referred to the State Planning Board. The objective of this study is to develop plans for state and local participation, in cooperation with the federal government, in the solution of the farm tenure problem.

3. Chariton Basin Demonstration Project. The Chariton Basin Planning Board includes about 250 committee members representing the six counties touched by the Chariton River Basin, namely, Appanocse, Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Monroe and Wayne. The Basin Planning Board's objective is to obtain through its own efforts and with the cooperation of governmental agencies maximum benefits through coordinated application of various programs, with particular emphasis on agricultural conservation and rehabilitation. To the six-county organization the State Planning Board is supplying an information, consulting and correlating service, and is maintaining contacts between the local,

state and federal agencies.

4. Water Basin Studies. Studies of Iowa's water resources, and recommendations for their conservation and development, are included in a series of six reports prepared by the State Planning Board at the request of the National Resources Committee. Four of these reports have now been published; the final two will be completed very soon. Conservation of soil as well as water is a major consideration in these studies. A revision has been requested by

FROM WATER REPORT

The illustration of "Underlying Rock Formations and Glacial Deposits" in Northeastern Iowa, shown on the opposite page, is taken from Volume IV "Water Use and Conservation in Iowa," a series of reports prepared by the Iowa State Planning Board and submitted to the National Resources Committee. The completed series will include six volumes, covering all watersheds in the state. Conferences were under way this month studying a revision of these reports requested by President Roosevelt, to be submitted by December 1.

the President through the National Resources Committee, and Planning Board engineers and technical advisers are at this time busy on that project.

5. Recreational Resources Survey. (WPA Project) This study will provide part of the material necessary to bring the "Twenty-five Year Plan" for conservation in Iowa up to date. The final report of this study will be submitted to the National Park Service to meet their request for states to provide this

information.

6. Lake and Stream Survey. (WPA Project) Surveys of dry lake beds and artificial lakes to determine the boundaries of state-owned areas, made under this project, will expedite the fencing program of the State Conservation Commission.

7. Special Engineering Studies. (Requested by State Conservation Commission) (a) Investigation of the possibility of establishing bass ponds on the Iowa Islands at Guttenberg, Clayton County; (b) survey of old Indian trails, Indian mounds, canoe trails, etc., in the state; (c) investigation of seepage from Spirit Lake; (d) investigation of the feasibility of diverting water from Little Sioux River into Spirit Lake.

In Group II, or Research and Plan-

ing Studies other than conservation may be found the following:

1. Analysis of Graduated Land Holdings. (WPA Project) A study of corporate and other large scale land holdings in Iowa, trends in land transfers and other factors relating to agricultural prosperity, is being made as an aid to legislative consideration of current problems.

2. Analysis of Agricultural Data. (WPA Project) Trends in cropping and marketing practices, farm sizes and livestock quantities are being studied by counties. Present work also includes studies which will lead to the formulation of a sample agricultural census, permitting more frequent and economical analyses of agricultural trends.

3. Study of Educational Opportunity. (WPA Project) At the request of the State Department of Public Instruction, a study of the availability of high schools (geographic location, transportation, type of school organization, etc.) is being made as an aid to the Department and to local school boards in consideration of future school reorganization needs and in the equalization of educational opportunity for children in the public schools.

4. Highway Accident Analysis. (WPA Project) Tabulations are being made in cooperation with the State Motor Vehicle Department to throw light on the circumstances and causes of highway accidents (especially fatal accidents), thus to aid in planning for reduction of the annual automobile death toll through corrective legislation and other means.

5. County Base Maps. (WPA Project) In accordance with the delegation to the Planning Board of the duty of preparing and maintaining a file of base maps, such maps are being drawn for all counties. As a special service to rural electrification groups, maps showing the location and type of existing lines are prepared on order.

6. Urban Land Use and Traffic Surveys. (WPA Projects) Assisting county

and municipal planning agencies is another duty of the State Planning Board. To aid communities interested in zoning and in street and traffic planning, studies of land use areas (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.) and of traffic flow are being made in several Iowa cities. Many of these have been completed and reports furnished the cities involved. Others are coming to completion.

7. Survey of Public Health Resources. (WPA Project) First suggested by the Brookings Institution in its Iowa survey (1933), and later requested by the State Department of Health, a study is being made of public health facilities and programs maintained by Iowa's communities, schools and civic agencies. The results will be of great value and use to the Department of Health in planning its cooperative local and district health programs.

8. Trade Area Survey. (WPA Project) Information is being collected on areas of "influence" or service for retail trading centers. Results will be available to merchants, newspaper publishers and others in local communities. By analyzing their relative situations, the communities of Iowa may find and maintain their places with greater stability based on a more realistic outlook. The new study, utilizing a different method of gathering information, will be tied in with former trade area studies of the state, reports of which have been issued for several sections.

9. Analysis of Community Service. (WPA Project) This study includes the analysis of information previously gathered (under FERA work projects) on services, institutions and programs offered in the various communities of Iowa. Results, combined with those of the trade area surveys, will constitute a guide to the Iowa small town in determining and making the most of its opportunities.

The following projects have been referred to the State Planning Board by
(Cont'd on Page 12)

"A WORTH WHILE GROUP"

Cedar Falls Record: The Iowa State Planning board has proved its worth. There is no doubt about that. Government is so complicated these days there is need for an impartial group like it which can apply the methods of science and sociology to the study of the need for reform.

Governor Kraschel has approved research by the board into four problems which are likely to become legislative issues in the 1939 session: (1) Farm-to-market roads, (2) insane hospital reform, (3) teachers' pensions and (4) truck taxation.

No one would argue that the Planning board should be given the final decision on these matters. The whole theory of democracy is that the law-making shall be done by representatives who are a cross-section of the people they represent. They are supposed to be neither experts nor scientists, but intelligent men working for the welfare of the state.

But the intricacies of government today are so involved that no law-maker can hope to make an independent research into each of the endless problems which confronts him. In the old days when the town fathers met to decide whether the village needed a new meeting place or whether Hiram Smith should be allowed to graze his cow on the village commons, the legislator did not need expert advice.

But today he does. Each of the above four problems is one requiring a vast amount of independent research. Each legislator would soon be lost if he could not depend on some trustworthy source for information.

That is the function of the Planning board. If it remains entirely independent and composed of men who worship facts and not political advancement, it will perform a noteworthy task for the state of Iowa. It should examine all sides of the questions, assemble complete data on each one, gather the results of legislation in other states, and present this material to the legis-

lator.

Then the law-maker can perform his function. With the facts before him he can decide what is best for his constituents. After the cynics have had their say, the truth remains that facts are the most impressive propaganda in the end. It is this kind of impressiveness which has made the Planning board a success.

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"REGULATED LAND USE"

Philadelphia Bulletin: Continued forecasts of a building boom provide the American Society of Planning Officials with the occasion for suggesting the urgent need for better regulation of land use and subdivision in American cities. They quote the National Resources Committee, which declares that a rational urban land policy should afford private owners and developers adequate opportunity for wise and profitable land use, while curbing the forms of speculation that have proved calamitous to the investing and taxpaying public.

It is estimated about thirty per cent of all urban and suburban area of the United States consists of vacant lots which are probably destined for a long time to come to remain vacant and there are said to be enough subdivided lots to house more than double the nation's 69,000,000 citizens who live in cities. This means that thousands of miles of streets and facilities of various kinds have been installed in areas that may not be inhabited to capacity for years.

Though many of the losses consequent upon such overdevelopment must have been written off by those whose hopes have outrun their judgment, there remains a heavy and continuing toll of interest and maintenance charges. The planners, who believe that very few cities are taking the necessary precautions against further afflictions of this sort, are timely in their warning.

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RELATION OF LAW TO PLANNING

Courts Beginning to Recognize Aesthetic Considerations In Interpretations of Zoning and Planning Codes

By Dwight G. McCarty

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Dwight G. McCarty, of Emmetsburg, Iowa, is a lawyer who has done considerable research work into the legal aspects and phases of planning and zoning. He discussed this subject quite comprehensively in a lecture in the planning lecture series presented by Iowa State College early in 1936. He also discussed the subject at two conferences on planning, last summer. A copy of the original lecture may be had without charge by addressing the Director, Iowa State Planning Board, 314 West 8th Street, Des Moines.

Every constructive achievement must be within the law of the land to be successful. It becomes important, therefore, to consider the influence of law on the planning movement.

Protection of the personal rights of men and preservation of the right of property are two sacred and fundamental legal principles which have come down through the centuries. The ownership of property conferred upon the owner the right to do as he pleased with his own property so long as he did not violate the same rights of others.

As isolated individuals became more and more rare and the community of interest become more complex and vital, the clash of rights became more fre-

quent.

How was this difficulty to be solved? Was the caprice of the individual to be held paramount, or was the public interest 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 involves the right to pass such laws and regulations as will promote order, safety, health, morals and the general welfare of society.

Every owner of property holds it under implied liability that his use of it shall not be injurious to the general enjoyment by others of their own property and

not injurious to the rights of the community.

The police power should not be confused with the right of eminent domain. When private property is taken for public use under eminent domain, the owner is 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.

There is a tremendous volume of court decisions dealing with the police power and its application to the health, morals and safety of the people as well



as to the broad ground of the public welfare. It was early determined that unreasonable interference with property rights, unmoral practices, unsavory odors and harsh discordant sounds were proper objects for the exercise of the police power.

Eye Had No Standing

But, strange to say, those things which merely offended the eye had no standing in court. The law regards this matter as one of luxury and indulgence rather than of necessity, and so the courts have clung tenaciously to the doctrine that purely aesthetic considerations will not justify the exercise of the police power.

The application of this rule is illustrated most vividly in the billboard cases. No matter how glaring or offensive billboards might be or how much they might interfere with the beauty of parks or boulevards or scenic attractions along the highways, they could not be removed without some showing that they were unsafe, a fire hazard, detrimental to health, or conducive to immorality or crime.

On some of those grounds the courts in recent years have been upholding most of the reasonable ordinances and regulations that have come before them. The rule against aesthetic consideration, however, is still fixed in the law.

Billboard Problem Unsolved

This leaves still unsolved the problem of unsightly billboards, signs, hot dog stands, automobile graveyards and other monstrosities that deface the vicinity of our parks, lakes, scenic highways and recreation grounds.

If the old rule persists, there is not much hope for legal redress. Fortunately, conditions are changing.

In a far-reaching test case in Massachusetts (General Outdoor Advertising Company vs. Department of Public Works (1935) 193 NE 799) the court sustained the refusal to renew the license for a big electric sign overlooking Boston Common and the State House on the sole

ground that it impaired the dignity of the State House and grounds. The case also upheld the right to bar billboards and signs from the highways and exclude them from scenic and historic places on the ground that "to preserve such landscapes from defacement promotes the public welfare and is a public purpose. . . . Even if the regulation did not rest upon the safety of public travel and the promotion of comfort for travelers, we think that the preservation of scenic beauty and places of historic interest would be a support for them. Considerations of taste and fitness may be a proper basis for action in granting and denying permits for advertising devices."

Old Rule Broken

This is an historic precedent. For the first time the old rule against aesthetic considerations has been openly set aside. In its place appears a commonplace acceptance of conditions as they are and a recognition that beauty and fitness promote the comfort and public welfare as much as many other physical facts.

The states of Maine, Idaho and a number of others have passed acts designed to promote and protect historic and scenic places from commercial exploitation. This tendency of the law is developing rapidly and is clearing the way for more rational planning development.

In Iowa, the establishment of restricted residential districts in municipalities was upheld in the case of Des Moines vs. Manhattan Oil Company (193 Iowa 1096, 184 NW 823) as a reasonable regulation and enacted within the sphere of the police power for the promotion of the general welfare.

Rights of People Upheld

In the recent case of Peck vs. Olson Construction Company and the Board of Conservation (216 Iowa 519) the Supreme Court of Iowa sustained the contention that the State assumes a trusteeship for the public on the lake and that therefore the rights of the State are

paramount to the riparian owner's right of ingress and egress.

These decisions and others in this State show that the trend here is toward the larger view and that private individuals and commercial interests can no longer trample on those rights that are for the public welfare.

Enabling Acts Passed

In recent years very satisfactory enabling acts have been passed by the Iowa Legislature providing for the establishment of city plan commissions, park boards, river front commissions; the adoption of zoning ordinances; restricted residence districts; housing laws, as well as more general powers to our city councils and commissions in such matters.

In addition to this we now have a law giving the State Conservation Commission general supervision and control of the parks, lakes and streams of the state with numerous specific powers and the right of acquiring land for parks and fish and game projects.

The last Legislature passed an act creating the Iowa State Planning Board which is also a wise provision for future planning. It is unfortunate that no enabling act has been passed for county planning boards as this unit is undoubtedly of vital importance in planning the future development of our State.

Conflicts Only Natural

Many other examples might be given but this brief outline shows the legal difficulties that have hampered planning progress in the past. Planning programs usually are far sighted and are based on a vision of future needs as well as on present necessities. It is natural that conflicts with property owners and commercial interests sometimes occur.

The conservatism of the courts, however, is somewhat of a blessing in disguise in preventing visionary and impracticable projects, and in keeping planning on a sound basis. Modern planning is needed now as never before. The value of the aesthetic in promoting the

public comfort and happiness is becoming widely recognized. These changing conditions have brought about a change in legal conceptions and the present trend indicates a strong sympathy with human betterment and community progress. Within its proper sphere the public welfare is and should be paramount.

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IOWA TO START STUDY OF TENANCY

Wallaces' Farmer and Iowa Homestead, Des Moines: Wallaces' Farmer and Iowa Homestead is glad to see Governor Kraschel appointing a committee to study farm tenancy and to make a report to the next Legislature on appropriate legislation. That is the only way we'll ever get thru useful measures in this field. Tenancy is too complicated a subject for rapid-fire legislation at a brief session. The assembly is entitled to expert help in getting the facts.

The committee is headed by Fred Hawley, of Pocahontas county, a member of President Roosevelt's national tenancy committee. All the major farm organizations are represented. The work of the committee will be tied in with the state planning board's work thru the services of H. H. Kildee, dean of the college of agriculture at Ames, and chairman of the state planning board.

Tenancy is one of the big problems for any farm state. It is time Iowa started working at it in earnest.

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In Dickinson County

A late news dispatch from Dickinson County tells of the establishment of a Social Welfare Advisory Committee by the Dickinson County Planning Board, for the "purpose of bettering conditions for Dickinson County's underprivileged children." According to Mr. K. B. Welty, chairman of the planning board, seven civic groups in the county have been invited to join in this program, working with Mrs. Ethel McMichael, county social worker and chairman of the committee on social welfare.

WOMEN'S CLUBS TO PLANT FOREST

Fifty-Acre Tract in Ahquabi State Park Will Honor Mrs. Frances Whitley for Her Years of Service in Behalf of Conservation

By Faye B. MacMartin, Chairman
 Division of Forests and Parks
 Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs

The Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs has long been interested in conservation. For more than ten years conservation committees in the Federation have devoted their time and resources toward educating, not only club women but students and people in all walks of life to a realization of the need for conserving our natural resources.

Several of Iowa's Federation leaders have received national honors and responsibilities in recognition of the fine work they have accomplished in Iowa for conservation. Mrs. Frances Whitley of Webster City served for several years as Vice President of the American Forestry Association.

Through the years, one phase of conservation has continuously claimed their attention,— the need for restoring Iowa's forest land.

Club women have realized that Iowa has but one-seventh of her original timberland, according to surveys of 1832 to 1859. They have become deeply impressed with the fact that the more Iowa timber has been cut, the more devastation has taken place, devastation by soil erosion, siltation of lakes and reservoirs, loss of ground water, loss of natural flood control, loss of raw materials, loss of protection for wild life.

The Federated Women's Clubs have cooperated with different organizations through the years in their desire for more conservation. They were numbered among the groups making the initial request for a Conservation Commission in

Iowa. They contacted large land holders asking them to request renters to discontinue cutting timber on their farms. They have sought more conservation education in the public schools. They have and are working for state and national forests in Iowa. Their efforts for conservation have been too extended to recount in detail.

Today the club women have a definite and tangible project afoot to aid in the reforestation of Iowa. After various conferences, plans were developed whereby approximately fifty acres in Warren County south of the lodge near the lake in Ahquabi State Park will be planted with oak, elm, ash and walnut seedlings, the beginning of a Federation Forest honoring Mrs.

Whitley who has devoted so many years of her life in behalf of conservation. The Federation takes particular joy in thus honoring Mrs. Whitley.

This Federation Forest has been made possible through the cooperation of the Iowa State Planning Board and the State Conservation Commission. The site, seedlings and supervision will be furnished by the Conservation Commission and the cost of labor will be paid by the Federation with the assistance in some cases of the Works Progress Administration. Planting will start November first and continue as long as weather permits. Thus an Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs Forest will be one more step taken toward restoring in Iowa some of the six million acres of forest land she has unknowingly or wantonly destroyed.

WOMEN'S INTEREST

The greatest ally any conservation program could have is the support of the people of the state, especially that of such organizations as the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs. The interest this group has taken in conservation in Iowa is well expressed in this article, written by a club woman, Mrs. MacMartin, of Tama.

PLANNING TAKING EFFECT IN MISSOURI VALLEY REGION

By P. H. Elwood, Counselor, Region Six National Resources Committee

In an effort to introduce and develop more homogeneity of plans and programs, the National Resources Committee has grouped the states into nine regions. Iowa is in Region Six, the Missouri Valley Region, with six other states, including Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.

Common problems already are developing and it is hoped that conferences and group meetings will help expedite the planning and development of the resources of the region.

Copious rains of this season have produced bounteous crops throughout most of the states, and one riding through the great corn, wheat and oats producing areas is deeply impressed with the beauty of the golden and green countryside.

This Season's Ravages

Nevertheless, floods in northwestern Minnesota and North Dakota, excessive heat and the wheat rust and grasshoppers caused heavy losses in parts of the region during the late summer. Many of these losses probably can be lessened in the future by proper long-time planning and an intelligent land and water use and public works program.

Readers of Iowa Planning News are familiar with the usual projects and studies being carried on by most of the State Planning Boards of the Missouri Valley Region. However, there are several unique studies in various stages of development in the several states, such as the tuberculosis and institutional studies in Nebraska, the County Government Surveys in Missouri and Iowa, the Sargent County Planning project in North Dakota, taxation studies in Kansas, and the crop cover and land ownership studies in South Dakota. The com-

prehensive long-time program for restoration now under way in the Chariton Basin in Iowa is unique.

Fertile Planning Field

Perhaps in no other region of the United States can collaborative planning be more effective for the future of the nation and its people than in the great Missouri Valley. Here is the heart of the food producing area, with other vast natural resources which, if properly conserved and developed, will help keep the nation as a whole stabilized economically, and keep the social trends constantly moving forward and upward.

Here patterns of life, less firmly established and entrenched, will make possible more pronounced changes in both economic and social planning. The people themselves having conquered the last so-called "frontier," are eager to scale new frontiers of better government and better living and a wiser use of all resources, both physical and human.

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OPINION IN CORYDON

Corydon Times-Republican: Slowly the plan for development of the Chariton River basin is unfolding. It will have many angles. It will cover a considerable period of years. It will not be confined to land areas actually drained by the Chariton river but will cover all of the six counties comprising the Chariton River Basin district, namely Wayne, Lucas, Clarke, Decatur, Monroe and Appanoose. Reforestation, demonstrational areas, conservation of soil and water, restocking of wild life, health, education, and several other activities are contemplated. Not the least important will be a plan of furnishing lime to every farmer in the district at a nominal cost. Probably the benefits to be derived by the citizens of the district will not be sensational in the beginning but as the several plans progress and develop we will find that there is a great and permanent improvement for the average individual.

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"IOWA TENANCY COMMITTEE"

AN EDITORIAL in the Des Moines Sunday Register, September 26, 1937.

About a year ago President Roosevelt appointed a committee on farm tenancy to make a rapid study of the tenancy problem in all sections of the country and to recommend measures aiming at ultimate solution.

That committee made a report, important for the factual material in it as well as the recommendations.

As a result, a federal farm tenancy act was passed, providing for a very modest because necessarily experimental attack on the problem. As time passes, this attack will inevitably be enlarged, in ways based on the experience gained.

The committee's report also pointed out phases of the problem which clearly must be tackled not by the federal government but by states.

Last February in Des Moines the first annual National Farm institute was held, with wide participation by federal agencies, state college groups, institutional farm land owners, farm organizations and others; and the whole session centered on the farm tenancy problem. Unquestionably an important educational influence was exerted and will continue to be exerted by that pioneering conference.

Both before and since that session, much surveying of tenancy conditions in Iowa has been done by state college experts, county planning committees (notably the one conducted by the Palo Alto farm planning committee) and others. The Chariton Basin planning committee, through one of its subcommittees, has arranged for a discussion of tenancy to be held October 1.

And the state Farm Bureau federation has stimulated thought and elicited much interesting information in a widely conducted survey that went into every county.

With all this in the background, Governor Kraschel has now announced the appointment of a state farm tenancy committee, which will study the report of the president's national committee, hold hearings throughout the state, and try to evolve a constructive, practical and non-emotional program for state action, possibly through legislation in part.

This is a thoroughly sound move.

The committee as named is strictly and obviously non-partisan. It includes Republicans and Democrats. It includes farm tenants and farm owners. It includes representatives of the farm organizations and of the principal "commodity groups" or different types of farming. The several sections of the state are represented. Corporate farm land owners are not omitted.

And the whole set-up will be under the state planning board, with Dean H. H. Kildee of Iowa State college an ex-officio member of the committee. This, too, is logical and proper.

What it comes to is that in tackling the farm or land use part of its task, the planning board will operate through two major committees, one dealing with the inanimate farm resources (soil conservation, etc.), the other dealing with the still more important human resources through this tenancy group.

There is every reason to be confident that out of this committee's careful study will flow important values to the Iowa of the future.

Its work begins at a propitious time. In the more than a year that will intervene, ahead of another legislative session, sound ideas will have ample chance to win their way into popular acceptance. The principles on which the state will base its program can in that time be well clarified, and in all probability certain prudent specific reforms grounded on the principles prepared for adoption.

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CHARITON BASIN TECHNICAL GROUP

Iowa Planning News presents herewith personnel of the technical committee officially appointed by the Governor to work with the Chariton Basin Planning Board in conducting the demonstration project in that area.

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Dr. A.C. Trowbridge, State Geologist; Head of Department of Geology, State University of Iowa, Chairman.

B. W. Lodwick, State Director, Rural Rehabilitation, Resettlement Administration, Ames, Vice Chairman.

P.H. Elwood, Counselor, National Resources Committee; Head of Department of Landscape Architecture, Iowa State College.

Prof. Rex Beresford, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural Extension Service, Iowa State College.

Prof. J.H. Bodine, Department of Biology, State University of Iowa.

E.S. Boudinot, State Field Engineer, Works Progress Adminis., Des Moines.

Prof. J.F. Calvert, Department of Electrical Engineering, Iowa State College.

R. C. Choate, State Field Engineer, Works Progress Adminis., Davenport.

Lester E. Clapp, Assistant State Coordinator, Soil Conservation Service, Ames.

Prof. J.B. Davidson, Head of Department of Agricultural Engineering, Iowa State College.

Dean F. M. Dawson, College of Engineering, State University of Iowa.

Charles M. Elkinton, Department of Agricultural Economics, Iowa State College.

Mrs. Sarah Porter Ellis, Extension Professor, Department of Home Economics, Iowa State College.

Prof. J.R. Fitzsimmons, Department of Landscape Architecture, Iowa State College; Technical Adviser, Iowa State Conservation Commission.

Francis Johnson, President, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Terril.

R. G. Kasel, District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey, State University of

Iowa.

Prof. G. B. MacDonald, State Forester; Department of Forestry, Iowa State College.

Murl McDonald, Assistant Director, Agricultural Extension Service, Iowa State College.

Frank Mendell, Soil Conservation Service, Ames.

W.O. Price, Procurement Officer, National Park Service, Des Moines.

Charles D. Reed, Senior Meteorologist, U. S. Weather Bureau, Des Moines.

J.S. Russell, Farm Editor, Des Moines Register and Tribune.

Prof. Rainer Schickele, Department of Agricultural Economics, Iowa State College.

Ralph W. Smith, Chairman of Iowa Agricultural Conservation Committee, Des Moines.

Prof. W.H. Stacy, Rural Sociologist, Agricultural Extension Service, Iowa State College.

Dr. K.W. Stouder, Department of Veterinary Medicine, Agricultural Extension Service, Iowa State College.

Prof. C. Woody Thompson, College of Commerce, State University of Iowa.

Prof. Ray E. Wakeley, Department of Rural Sociology, Iowa State College.

Prof. W. F. Watkins, Department of Soils, Agricultural Extension Service, Iowa State College.

A.H. Wieters, Sanitary Engineer, State Department of Health, Des Moines.

R.C. Williams, Director of Research, State Department of Public Instruction, Des Moines.

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Send for Bibliography

Any persons desiring to have a list of the various reports and other publications of the Iowa State Planning Board may receive a copy of the bibliography of this material without charge by writing to the Director, Iowa State Planning Board, 314 West Eighth Street, Des Moines.

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"DOUBTERS BE CONVINCED"

Monroe County News, Albia: Doubters of the Chariton river valley program should now be convinced that results are going to be obtained. Monroe county is included as one of six counties in the long time conservation program announced last week by Governor Kraschel. A liming program will be put into effect immediately.

Here is real news for these southern Iowa mining counties, of which we are one, where the soil is poor and the relief load high. Civilian committees have been working all summer on the plans for rehabilitation of the area. Many have scoffed and many have understood little about the basic ideas of the valley program.

The governor's announcement of financial support now permits the general program developed by the committee to move forward. Production of lime on a large scale which can be bought by farmers at cost to be paid in the form of a tax lien, payable over a period of years is the first step. A new Iowa law permits the boards of supervisors to produce the lime and sell it at cost. Labor will be furnished by the WPA or the farmers themselves.

Estimates call for every farm in the area to receive an adequate treatment of lime within seven or eight years. Anyone can envisage the results and benefits of such a program.

These counties are natural dairy counties. With the soil enriched and pasture land restored real money is a possibility for farmers in the area. The United States needs more dairy products. A national farm magazine in a recent issue suggested a subsidized program to secure adequate milk and butter for every child in the country up to 16 years old. With six counties turned into dairy counties a condensed milk company might be induced to install a plant in the area.

Dairy or beef cattle. A real beef cattle range is in the offing if the

program materializes successfully. A reforestation program which dovetails into the liming program is also under way. Things are looking up for southern Iowa.

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"CONSERVATION MOVES FORWARD"

Centerville Iowegian: Here in the Chariton river basin where so much preliminary groundwork has been laid for the rehabilitation of the soil and human resources we are gratified to see things moving so steadily. First we got the health unit established in district and county. Now comes reforestation in a definite way. And the governor and state authorities have given official recognition and support to liming. Previous to these late developments local forces had been at work putting on terracing, liming, and developing alfalfa cultivation. Because we tried to help ourselves we are now attracting attention. Committees are beginning to come to Appanoose county to learn how it is done. Some may try the short cut and seek outside aid as their first effort. The surer way is the way we did it here. First show that we have local interest, local leadership, and local response. When we try to do something for ourselves, others are more interested in doing something for us.

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Retail Trade Area Reports

The Iowa State Planning Board has a supply of copies of three of a series of reports dealing with retail trading areas in Iowa, published as the result of a survey conducted in 1935. There were seven such reports issued, but only the following three are still available for distribution: (1) For Henry, Des Moines and Lee Counties; (2) for Cedar, Louisa, Scott and Muscatine Counties; (3) for Buchanan, Delaware, Benton and Linn Counties. The price is 25¢ per copy. When ordering, please address the Director, Iowa State Planning Board, 314 West Eighth Street, Des Moines.

STATE HOUSING CONFERENCE
IN DES MOINES, OCT. 19

A state conference on better housing sponsored by the Iowa Housing League was to be held in Des Moines, October 19. (It was not possible for Iowa Planning News to arrange for a report of this meeting in time for the October issue.)

The conference program was to pay special attention to the following discussion topics:

Purposes and advantages of the U.S. Housing (Wagner-Steagall) Act.

Importance of state housing legislation.

State and federal agencies which can cooperate with municipal housing committees and commissions in Iowa in the construction of housing projects.

Housing surveys previously made in Iowa showing the need for better housing.

Ways and means of obtaining better urban and rural housing for limited income groups.

List of Speakers

Speakers were to include Iowa Representatives in Congress; former State Senator Garrett E. Roelofs, speaking on "Housing and Social Security;" Dean Alfred J. Pearson, College of Liberal Arts, Drake University; Leland A. McBroom, Des Moines architect; Mrs. Bert McKee, Des Moines; Mayor Joe Allen, Des Moines; Dr. Robert E. O'Brian, Secretary of State, speaking on "The Necessity for State Legislation on Housing," and Prof. P.H. Elwood, Ames, Counselor, National Resources Committee, speaking on "Is Crime of Omission Greater than the Sin of Commission?"

Mrs. Charles E. Palmer, Sioux City, Chairman of the Iowa Housing League, was to preside. R.H. Matson, Director of the Iowa State Planning Board, was to serve as luncheon chairman.

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PALO ALTO PLANNING
WORK PROGRESSES

EDITOR'S NOTE: This brief account of the way in which things are being done in Palo Alto County could well be read by the citizens of every other county in Iowa. This report was published in the newspapers of Emmetsburg following a regular county planning meeting.

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At the October meeting of the Palo Alto County Planning Council, held in the Emmetsburg library auditorium, Oct. 11, a special committee was appointed to make a study of the conditions along the Des Moines river in this county caused by the drainage ditch channel. The adjoining land has been denuded of timber and much of it has been rendered unproductive. Erosion and wasting away of the top soil has increased. The committee is to study these conditions and make a preliminary report working toward a survey of the area by the State Planning Board as a basis for a long time project to reclaim the area and diminish the waste.

The Planning Council decided at the meeting to invite suggestions and ideas for improvement of county conditions from the public generally. The Council will receive written suggestions or proposals from anyone interested, and everything submitted will be given careful consideration. Address your communications to Miss Florence Wells, secretary of the Council.

It is recognized that there are many things that need attention. Everything cannot be corrected, but by planning for the future much can be accomplished. The Council at this meeting also discussed the public acquisition of the shores on the lakes in this county as a necessary part of a comprehensive conservation program. Considerable progress was reported in this respect.

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"FOREST LANDS IN IOWA"

Boone News-Republican: It comes as a surprise to most Iowans to be told that 100 years ago their state had some five million acres of woodland. We are accustomed to thinking of Iowa as a prairie state which in the days before the white man came was covered with the long, waving prairie grass. But Iowa had its timber, too. The inroads of civilization have reduced the original amount by fifty per cent.

Recently it has been forced on public attention that trees and forests are a very important factor in the proper and wise management of land and water. Our forefathers knew that, because while using freely the native timber, they planted groves and shelter belts around their homes. Too often, however, the desire to cultivate all the land possible resulted in clearing land which should better have been left timbered.

It is now apparent that many acres thus cleared are not suitable for farming. The top soil is gone, big gullies have formed, the streams have become silted. Forests are of a value in checking erosion; in helping maintain a biological balance for successful agriculture by harboring, for example, birds and animals which aid in keeping insects under control; for use as wood and for their effect on conserving the water. They are also of value for recreational purposes, as a haven for desirable wildlife, as natural laboratories for scientific study and as an element of beauty in the Iowa landscape.

The state has proposed a program for both national and state forests in suitable locations. It has recently acquired some 12,000 acres of state forest land situated in different general locations in southern, southeastern, and northeastern Iowa. This land represents a start in what it is anticipated will be a greater program of forestry development and the conserving of natural resources.

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CHARITON BASIN HEALTH PROGRAM TAKING EFFECT

Chariton Basin Counties are reaping immediate and positive benefits from the health program inaugurated there as a part of the Chariton Basin Demonstration Project, according to news reports.

Health officials are engaged in determining the sources of typhoid and poliomyelitis, recently discovered.

Five of the six Basin counties have added local funds to those provided by state and federal sources through the State Department of Health, and have three full time workers establishing a general public health program in the area, in addition to county nurses in each of the five cooperating counties. The area workers are Dr. R. J. Condon, Superintendent; C. E. Richey, Sanitary Engineer, and Miss Alyce Rooney, Nurse.

As a result of the area program, expert assistance was immediately available when the above contagions appeared. Drinking water and other sources are being investigated and steps taken to prevent spread of the diseases from the few cases already reported.

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"THINGS ARE HAPPENING"

Monroe County News, Albia: It may savor of "I told you so-ing," but we can't refrain from pointing out that the Chariton river basin program is beginning to mean quite a good deal here in Monroe county.

Right now we have a public health nursing program in full swing, tree planting and liming programs ready to start and a survey completed showing liming and reseeding needs of all six counties in the next eight years.

The six-county unit is going to assume a place of increasing importance in state affairs in coming years. Most of us have been slow to tumble to what is going on, but we are in the midst of an experiment that will be watched with interest throughout the United States.

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