



# IOWA

## PLANNING NEWS

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### CONSERVATION AFFECTS ALL IOWA

Preservation of Natural Beauty and Opportunities for Satisfactory Livelihood Are State's Capital Investments

By Hon. Nelson G. Kraschel  
Governor of Iowa

Conservation as interpreted for Iowa by Iowans is deserving of close attention by every citizen of the state. It means the preservation of soil fertility and the improvement of damaged farm lands. It means planting more trees and carefully preserving those still living. It means the return to forest and grass land of that farm land not suited for cultivation. It means the restoration of lakes that have been filled with silt from adjacent farm lands and the prevention of a recurrence of that condition. It means the improvement of park areas, creation of artificial lakes, stocking of our lakes and streams with fish, and of the land with wild game birds.

The necessity for preserving our farm lands requires no defense. Every citizen realizes that our greatest economic asset is our valuable soil. If it is to continue to produce great

wealth for future generations, it must be farmed in such a manner as to preserve its fertility and improve deteriorated areas.

Trees by the millions are the need

of today, and there are thousands of acres of land which would serve Iowa much better if they were reforested. This is particularly true along the banks of our streams and lakes and in rough areas where farming is unprofitable. Every farm has room for many trees around its buildings, in fence rows and in wood lots. The fact that a majestic tree might shade a relatively few square feet to the detriment of growing crops is more

than compensated by the many advantages afforded by the tree itself.

Grass is the world's greatest agricultural crop. Our eroded hillsides require lime to sweeten the soil in order that a mantle of grass may thrive and

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#### CONSERVATION NUMBER

Iowa Planning News takes pleasure in presenting in its first issue of Volume III a Conservation Number, devoted to the program and activities of the State Conservation Commission. The leading article has been prepared by the Governor of Iowa, who is deeply concerned about Iowa's conservation problems. In other articles will be found a comprehensive description of the work of the Conservation Commission prepared by members of the Commission's staff.

# IOWA HAS BROAD WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Activities of State Conservation Commission Cover Many Phases of Field Development and Research

By M. L. Hutton, Director  
State Conservation Commission

Activities of the Iowa State Conservation Commission cover a great many phases of work and involve many details not of general public knowledge.

It would be impossible to enumerate with all detail this broad program in the space of this article, as evidenced by the last biennial report of the Commission which involved 170 pages of printed material.

To provide an avenue of approach, consideration may well be given to the meaning of the word "conservation." As commonly used, "conservation" has many accepted uses, such as wildlife conservation, soil conservation, water conservation, etc.

Some 30 or 40 years ago, the term came into national use through the activities of Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, principal disciples and teachers of conservation. In the last five years, the term has had many applications in connection with the Emergency Conservation Work in national and state programs.

Some, especially in former years, have defined the word as meaning "to preserve in a state of nature." However, it has been better defined as "the wise use of natural resources for the benefit of mankind."

This definition in literal application might be paraphrased to read "the wise use of land and water for the benefit of mankind" as far as all essential features are concerned, because "land" and "water" contain or encompass

virtually all natural resources.

Thus it is evident that "conservation" is very broad in its scope and application, and that, in effect, it includes virtually all of the outdoors and affects all human beings, as well as all wildlife.

It will be well to review past State Conservation agencies prior to creation of the present Conservation Commission about May 1, 1935.

## CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

The State Conservation Commission on January 11 sponsored a general conference on conservation in Des Moines, to which many public officers and private citizens were invited. Chief speakers were Governor Nelson G. Kraschel and J. N. "Ding" Darling. The program included a general summary of the activities involved in Iowa's program of conservation, its purposes and objectives. The conference comprised the first day's program of a two-day school for conservation officers in the Commission's employ.

Formerly, there was the State Board of Conservation consisting of five appointed members, having jurisdiction over state parks, preserves, meandered lakes and streams and other state-owned property of similar nature.

There was also the State Fish and Game Commission consisting of five appointed members, having jurisdiction over wildlife and certain areas used in connection therewith.

About six years ago, the Legislature directed the above two agencies to make a state survey. As a result, in 1933, the "Iowa Twenty-Five Year Conservation Plan Report" was published.

In 1933, the report of the Brookings Institute concerning governmental functions of the state also was published.

Both these reports recommended the eventual merger of the Board of Conservation and the Fish and Game Commission into one administrative body having jurisdiction over state conservation activities.

A law was passed, effective April 30,

1935, creating the present Commission. This law, however, was not as broad in its application and authorization as proposed by the aforesaid reports.

The present Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Governor with approval of the Senate. Each member is allowed a per diem of \$7.50 up to a maximum of \$500 per year. Necessary traveling expenses are also allowed.

#### THREE OPERATING DIVISIONS

Under the Commission is the State Conservation Director whom it appoints. The law provides for three divisions of the Conservation organization, viz.:

(a) Division of Fish and Game "which shall include matters relating to fish and fisheries, waterfowl, game, fur-

general administrative unit pertaining to the work of the other two divisions.

At the present time, the Commission has 118 full time employes, as follows:

(a) Division of Administration: The State Conservation Director, Division Chief, Auditor, Chief Engineer, Assistant Engineer, Project Supervisor, License Clerk, Accountant, Secretaries (4), Stenographers (4), Claim Clerk and File Clerk; total, 18.

#### FISH & GAME PERSONNEL

(b) Division of Fish and Game: Division Chief, Biologist, Superintendent of Game and Enforcement, Assistant Superintendent of Game and Enforcement, Superintendent of Fisheries, Conservation Officers (39), Game Farm Manager,

CONSERVATION IS THE WISE USE  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR  
THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND

bearing and other animals, birds and other wildlife resources."

(b) Division of Lands and Waters "which shall include matters relating to state waters, state parks, forests and forestry, and lakes and streams, including matters relating to scenic, scientific, historical, archaeological and recreational matters."

(c) Division of Administration which "shall include matters relating to accounts, records, enforcement, technical service and public relations."

#### ASSIGNMENT OF FUNCTIONS

It will be apparent that in general the Division of Fish and Game carries on the technical functions of the former Fish and Game Commission, and that the Division of Lands and Waters carries on the principal functions of the former Board of Conservation. The Division of Administration, as the name implies, serves as the correlating and

Game Refuge Manager, Fisheries Supervisors (3), Fish Culturists (6), Fisheries Foremen (7), Hatchery Custodian; total, 63. (Note: Three of the above are also Park Custodians.)

(c) Division of Lands and Waters: Division Chief, Field Assistant, Plantman, Assistant Forester, Conservation Officers (Park Custodians) 36; total, 40. (Note: Three of the above serve on fisheries work. A Boat Inspector begins work in the spring.)

#### COMMISSION'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Conservation Commission has jurisdiction over the following:

11 meandered streams of approximately 800 miles.

72 parks and preserves of approximately 19,105 acres.

21 forest tracts of approximately 11,400 acres.

65 meandered lakes of approximately 41,800 acres.

12 drained lakes of approximately 4,100 acres.

3 fish hatcheries.

2 fish rescue stations.

26 fish rearing pond units including 85 ponds of 369 acres.

Involved in the above are approximately 100 miles of roads, 12 supervised swimming beaches, 19 lodges, 42 open picnic shelters, numerous other auxiliary facilities.

#### OFFICIAL WILDLIFE PROTECTOR

The Commission by law has jurisdiction over all wildlife in the state.

Funds accruing annually to the Commission, an estimated grand total of \$464,400, are as follows:

Commission has received the benefit of allocations from special appropriations for conservation work made by the last Legislature.

Some details of the functional operation of the State Conservation organization should prove of general interest and are briefly enumerated here.

#### 69 WILDLIFE REFUGES

Under the direction of the Commission are 69 wildlife refuges on public land, including 43 state parks. Of these 69 areas, 32 are suitable for waterfowl, 58 for upland game and 28 for fur-bearing animals. On such areas, it is unlawful to hunt or trap at any time. A game refuge obviously must have the

#### PROPHETIC OBSERVATION OF FORTY YEARS AGO

"The people would act today if the situation were clearly understood. The question is whether we do the right thing now or wait until the expense shall have increased a hundredfold. The preservation of springs and streams and forests will one day be undertaken as freely as the building of fences or bridges or barns. When that day comes, Iowa, once so fair in her virginal beauty of wild-flowered meadow and stream-washed groves, now so rich in all that comes from tillage and toil, will put on yet an added splendor in that all her toil and tilth shall yield to wisdom's guidance; forest and meadow shall receive each in turn intelligent and appropriate recognition; beauty will become an object of universal popular concern, and once again across the prairie state the clarified waters of a hundred streams will move in perennial freshness toward the great river and the sea." --- Dr. Thomas H. MacBride in his President's address to the Iowa Academy of Science in 1897.

(a) Conservation Fund: By legislative appropriation, \$155,000; estimated accretions, \$12,000.

(b) Fish and Game Protection Fund: Sale of licenses (estimated), \$265,000; miscellaneous revenue (estimated), \$32,400.

#### SOURCES OF EXTRA INCOME

The estimated accruals to the Conservation Fund come from sand and gravel and ice permits, concessions, leases, cabin rentals, etc.

The estimated miscellaneous revenue to the Fish and Game Protection Fund comes from the sale of confiscated property, obnoxious fish, crops raised on state-owned dry lakebeds, etc.

In addition to the above funds, the

proper environment and protection against predators.

Game management areas are established on private lands by agreement with the owners thereof. Under the present policy, such areas are established where the owner is interested in game management practices, involving improvement of environment, and will allow hunting when there is a game surplus.

#### FARM GAME AGREEMENT

In general, the owner agrees "to cooperate in every way possible with the Commission to produce an annual game crop; to utilize the waste areas or other lands that may be mutually agreed upon...; to use his best efforts to see that any development made on the land

be not destroyed by grazing, cutting, plowing or burning; to cooperate in the management and control of hunting during open seasons, and to make a sincere effort in cooperation with the Commission to accomplish the above objectives." (See article on the Iowa Game Program by Division Chief Schwob.)

**WILDLIFE RESEARCH PROGRAM**

By cooperative agreement, the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, the American Wildlife Institute, the Iowa State College and the State Conservation Commission have engaged in a wildlife research program. The Commission believes that research and fact-finding regarding life habits and requirements of all wildlife are necessary for development of a sound wildlife program.

Fish propagated during the last two years include large and small mouth bass, yellow pike perch (wall-eyed pike), trout, bluegills, crappies, bullheads and fathead minnows.

State-owned hatchery ponds total 129½ acres. There are 48½ acres under lease, and there are 200 acres of natural lake used for wall-eyed pike.

So far as practical, fry are reared to fingerling size before being liberated in fishing waters. Trout are raised to legal size before release.

**95,000,000 PIKE RELEASED**

Approximately 95,000,000 pike fry were distributed in 1937, together with 4,015,000 other game fish. Of the 95,000,000 pike fry, 6,000,000 were used in the nursery lakes to produce fingerlings. Of the total of 4,015,000 game fish, 829,000 were obtained from Mississippi River rescue operations, the rest from inland fishery units.

In 1937, approximately 8,245,000 game fish were rescued and placed in suit-

able waters. In the rescue operations, approximately 380,000 pounds of obnoxious fish were removed. During the year, 13,260,700 game fish were rescued from pools adjacent to the Mississippi River and returned to the river.

**DISPOSITION OF OBNOXIOUS FISH**

In order to preserve the proper biological balance, it is found necessary to remove certain kinds of obnoxious or undesirable fish, such as carp, quillback, gar, dogfish and buffalo. During 1937 some 847,000 pounds of such fish were sold, 212,400 lbs. given away.

The Commission has found it advisable to construct lowhead dams in some streams to impound sufficient depth of water to carry fish through drouth periods. Work has been started in some streams, will be continued elsewhere as funds and labor are available.

Lowhead dams are only one of many types of stream improvement or reconditioning practiced in Iowa. There is a sufficient flow of water in normal years in every stream to support greater fish population

than now exists, and these numbers can be increased under proper management.

To date, 16 streams in an aggregate of 45 miles have been improved. A number of lowhead dams have been completed and others are under construction, using W. P. A. labor, etc.

**LAKE IMPROVEMENT WORK**

Lake improvements involve erosion control on watersheds, shore protection to prevent erosion, construction and repair of dams, planting of aquatic vegetation, installation of lakebed devices such as brush and rock shelters, gravel spawning beds and numerous other improvements.

At Lake Manawa, a dredging project

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Following is the personnel of the State Conservation Commission:

W. A. Burhans, Burlington, Chairman.

Logan Blizzard, McGregor.

Dr. Frank J. Colby, Forest City, who is the Commission's representative to the State Planning Board.

Dr. R. G. Moore, Dunlap.

Dr. E. W. Neenan, Sioux City.

Mrs. Addison Parker, Des Moines.

R. E. Stewart, Ottumwa.

Ross Ewing, Secretary of the State Executive Council, serves as the Commission's Secretary.

has been completed involving deepening a portion of the lake, thus providing deeper water for fish life and better facilities for boating, swimming and other aquatic recreation.

A similar project is just getting started at Black Hawk Lake near Lake View in Sac County.

12,000 ACRES IN STATE FORESTS

Most construction work in recent years has been done with the cooperation of the C. C. C., I.E.R.A., W.P.A. and similar agencies. Legislative appropriations have been made for this purpose.

The state now owns some 12,000 acres of forest land, very little of which has had any improvement. This land is located in five different groups, 21 separate tracts. It consists of land unsuitable for farm crops and was purchased at a comparatively low price.

The intent is to develop these areas for multiple use including wood products, wildlife and simple forms of recreation. No general park development, however, is contemplated.

The Commission is vested with certain duties in connection with boats and navigation, including inspection of commercial boats, licensing of operators and enforcement of navigation laws.

This is a highly technical responsibility, and human life is dependent upon the proper carrying out of this assignment.

CHARGED WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Commission is charged with enforcing laws in regard to all wildlife, use of state parks and state waters.

This function is carried out by personnel designated as Conservation Officers who serve under the Fish and Game Division as the game wardens formerly

did, and as Park Custodians under the Lands and Waters Division. The work involves not only making arrests but also educating the public.

Fines collected go to the general school funds of the county where they are assessed. Confiscated property is turned over to the Commission for disposal.

LAKES SEWAGE DIVERSION JOB

The last Legislature made the Commission the sponsoring agent for a sewage diversion project adjacent to the "Iowa Great Lakes" in Dickinson County. The sum of \$125,000 was appropriated to be used in cooperation with the Federal Government in constructing a sewage system to divert sewage from the lake waters.

A W.P.A. project has been approved and construction is under way.

This sewer will provide an outlet for the towns of Okoboji and Orleans. A sewage treatment plant is contemplated. The project is so designed that laterals around West Okoboji Lake can be provided.

Through cooperation with the U.S. Biological Survey, as the technical agency for a C.C.C. Camp formerly located at Milford, and with the contribution of state money, a number of laboratory units and auxiliary structures have been built on the west side of Lake West Okoboji on ground formerly controlled by Alumni of the State University who operated a biological laboratory there.

STORM LAKE IMPROVEMENT

The last General Assembly appropriated \$10,000 per year for two years for improvement of Storm Lake. About two years ago, under Iowa State Planning Board Project No. 1045, a survey was made of this lake to learn water depths, silt and erosion data on which to base plans

NEED FOR EDUCATION

Unfortunately, much of our wildlife has already been exterminated. Not only proper conservation legislation but proper conservation education is necessary in order to prevent further extermination and provide adequate protection for this great natural resource which has splendid educational, aesthetic, inspirational, scientific, recreational and economic values. Laws alone will not accomplish this. Education is the foundation upon which a constructive conservation policy rests.-- "Outlines of School Courses in Conservation," Vavra.

for improvement.

Tentative plans have been prepared and additional information obtained relative to location of construction materials for bank protection, but as yet no actual construction has begun.

MANY AGENCIES COOPERATING

In carrying out the work of the Commission, cooperation with a large number of agencies is necessary for effective results.

The Iowa Highway Commission has rendered certain services in the matter of blue printing; detailing one employe to service in connection with the National Park Service, Civilian Conservation Corps work; giving engineering consulting service; making material tests; loaning equipment, storage facilities for an auto, etc. The Chief Engineer of the Highway Commission is supervisor of all state park roads.

The Attorney General's office has provided advice, passed on land titles, conducted law suits and condemnation proceedings.

The State Department of Health has made inspections of state park sanitation and water supplies, and lake and stream pollution.

STATE COLLEGE CONTRIBUTIONS

Iowa State College has cooperated in numerous ways in the conservation program. By statute it is required to furnish certain landscape services. It has provided technical help in forestry, horticulture and botany, and has furnished various kinds of publications. College facilities have been available for conservation meetings.

Not the least of the Iowa State College contributions has been the cooperative agreement with the Commission, U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey and the Wildlife Institute for research in game management.

The State University of Iowa has

provided technical service in geological inspection and reports pertaining to engineering structure foundations and water supplies; it has carried on research and experiments of interest to the Commission at the Lakeside Laboratory, and has given technical service in determination of ownership on meandered lakes and streams.

OTHER STATE, U.S. AGENCIES

The State Commerce Commission has passed on certain power line installations and given technical advice relative thereto.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction has taken an active interest in educational matters pertaining to conservation.

The State Board of Control has provided prison labor in maintenance and operation of the Wapsipinicon State Park. Its architect has given service and advice relative to structures. The Men's Reformatory has manufactured metal signs used by the Commission.

The State Planning Board has cooperated in biological projects, lake and stream surveys, research, plans, etc. One member of the Commission also is a member of the Planning Board.

SPLENDID COOPERATIVE SPIRIT

Various counties through the Boards of Supervisors have cooperated in the work of the Commission.

The Civilian Conservation Corps work has been under the technical direction of various agencies. At present, camps include six National Park Service camps, 19 Soil Conservation Service camps, three U. S. Forest Service camps, five drainage camps and one W.P.A. Transient camp.

All of the foregoing technical agencies have shown a fine spirit of cooperation and have aided on state parks and preserves in various projects. They

PUBLIC SUPPORT VITAL

A law that has not behind it the people's support and public sentiment is not obeyed, and no matter how badly needed the laws concerning conservation may be, unless they are backed by public sentiment and public support, they are not going to accomplish the purpose for which they have been created. --- T. H. Harris, Alabama State Superintendent of Education.



also gave great aid during the winter of 1936-37 in wildlife emergency feeding protection.

The Iowa Emergency Relief Administration and the Works Progress Administration have engaged and cooperated in many conservation projects.

The U.S. Geological Survey has cooperated with stream and lake gaging, stream flow information and other hydraulic data.

The U.S. Bureau of Fisheries has cooperated in fish rescue, fish propagation and distribution, and technical advice.

#### SPORTS, CIVIC GROUPS ASSIST

Fine cooperation has been received from sportsmen's organizations, women's clubs, garden clubs, local communities, civic bodies, youth organizations, educational institutions over the state, scientific societies and numerous other groups and individuals.

Newspapers, radio broadcasting companies and similar agencies have rendered valuable service in helping disseminate information, aiding in emergencies such as the wildlife protection of last winter, publishing editorial writings supporting correct principles of conservation work and indicating the pulse of the public concerning conservation matters.

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#### MONROE COUNTY ORGANIZES PLANNING BOARD

Permanent organization of the Monroe County Planning Board has now been effected, with J. A. Rowat, County Engineer, as chairman. He has served as temporary chairman since the movement for county planning was started last November. First committees to be named will be roads, soil conservation and soil liming. All parts of the county and many civic and agricultural interests are represented in the new organization. One of its aims is to maintain Monroe County's cooperation with other counties in development of the Chariton Basin Demonstration Project.

#### STATE PLANNING BOARD ISSUES FIRST OFFICIAL REPORT

The first annual report of the official State Planning Board of Iowa, created by the 47th General Assembly, will be off the press within a short time.

In addition to the routine subjects of administration and financing, the report describes the interrelation of board members, technical advisers and operating staff. It also deals with current research and planning and other assigned activities of the board.

Current work includes studies of graduated land taxation, farm tenancy, state soil conservation legislation, water resources and public works, the Chariton Basin Demonstration Project, special engineering studies, supervision of certain W. P. A. projects, and the following group of activities assigned by the Governor:

1. Farm-to-market road study.
2. Study of motor truck tax legislation.
3. Study of industrial development.
4. Study of state annuities for public school teachers.
5. Study of state mental hospitals.

The foreword by Dean H. H. Kildee, Chairman of the board, closes with this thought:

"The State Planning Board pledges itself to look ahead to future needs, to search for facts not colored by pressure groups, and to make its recommendations without regard to partisan considerations. In this large undertaking it is encouraged by the unselfish support of its many capable technical advisers, and hopes to merit the continued support of the people of the State of Iowa."

While the report will be available to the general public in the Planning Board office and other official repositories, copies will not be available for general distribution due to the limited number being printed.

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# HUMAN INTELLIGENCE ON TRIAL

Nature Pleads for Restitution; Natural Monuments Will Rise in Proportion to Man's Efforts to Atone for His Exploitation

By Dr. Frank J. Colby  
Member of State Conservation Commission  
and State Planning Board

Our intelligence is on trial and the results of our efforts to use wisely and perpetuate for those who come after us the natural heritage of rolling hills and flowing waters fruitful of life, will stand as a monument, extolling and teaching in exemplary fashion comparable to the exertion we have made for such attainment.

In Iowa men have left monuments to conservation. Their number is many. Their names may only be known locally, their identity may even be lost, yet they have left by their work a host of reminders that they appreciated the gifts from that Power greater than man.

Men who do not appreciate and recognize the realness of nature are perhaps thoughtless, oblivious to the apparent, by reason of our modern, complex way of living.

Thoughtful men see a value in land and water apart from commercial phases. They see a need to restore and establish areas where communion may be held with nature. A conservation plan, not in stipulated years, but a permanent task directed to meet changing needs and varying conditions.

Today in Iowa, progress is being made in the restoration of wildlife areas, in the management of fish and other aquatic animals, in the preservation of pristine regions, in the control of sheet erosion, in the production of game in plots unsuited for agricultural pur-

poses, and in the creation of recreational and playground areas.

State parks are established in methodical manner and in geographical appropriateness. Such sites are selected for their practical as well as intrinsic worth.

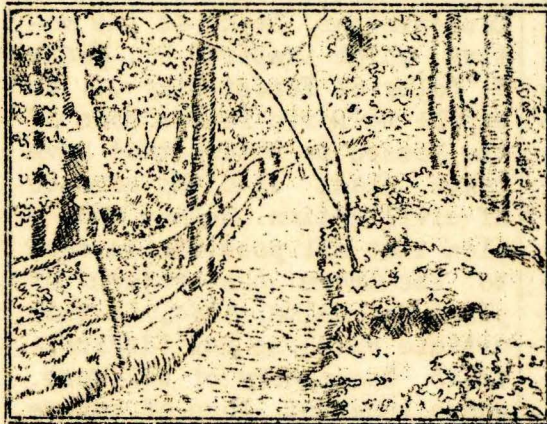
Here in Iowa, trees and plants may be enjoyed and studied among the stratifications of limestone ledges and jumbled blocks of ancient sandstone. Here in these Iowa parks the recreator may see native birds and animals abound in fearless state, as once they did before the advent of pioneer and plow.

Wildlife sanctuaries are created in lakes and marshes where game may live and multiply in unmolested quantity. Waste land

areas and dry lake beds are fenced to ward off the grazing intruder.

Streams and lakes are placed under an improvement and management plan. In these placid expanses and meandering water courses steps are taken to reestablish natural conditions of treelined shores and optimum depths for native fishes. Aquatic vegetation once abundant is again introduced, protected and allowed to spread in natural profusion. Fish of suitable species and in sufficient numbers are stocked to supply food for sport for the angler.

Game management is synonymous with domestic animal and poultry management. The Iowa farmer is shown how to raise a



game drop on waste land and unproductive corners and woodlots on his farm. He is advised on cropping procedure and other phases necessary for successful game crop yields.

The Iowa farmer is shown by actual demonstration the correlation between soil and erosion control measures and planting food and cover to increase wildlife populations. This modern idea in creating favorable environment for bird and animal life is in reality nothing new.

The American Indian better appreciated wild life than do many of us. The forests, lakes and streams furnished shelter, food and clothing and even more. The early Iowa men living next to nature lived close to their Creator. The Indian recognized the beaver as his brother. The long winged osprey soaring silently in mystic sky-writing circles, the shaggy headed bison lumbering across the prairie, even the awkward turtle, the frogs, the night birds, all animals were brothers, created and protected by the same hand that caused the sun to warm the air and drive away the morning mists, and the moon to shine, and the stars to smile and twinkle from their lofty heights.

The Great Spirit that sent the angry storms when he was displeased with his children, that caused the warm spring rains to bathe the sleeping grasses and awake all vegetation from its winter slumber, and clothe again in gayest raiment the hills and valleys, instilled awe, reverence and thankfulness for life and its blessings into the minds and souls of these primitive people.

Today in Iowa, are we very far re-

moved from nature's scheme? Are we at variance with the essence of our own existence? Do we get much more from these same undulating prairies, these identical water courses, these thinning wooded areas?

With all our determination, with all our labor saving devices, with all our sureness, our genius, and our resourcefulness, floods descend to mock our strongest levees, droughts blast our fertile fields time and again to shake the stoutest heart.

AN EARNEST PLEA

Last April, as a contribution to the public observance of Conservation Week, Dr. Colby prepared an article which was published in the Mason City Globe-Gazette. Iowa Planning News presents herewith the main body of Dr. Colby's article, of which the Editor of the Globe-Gazette said: "Observance of Conservation Week is the motive which inspired Dr. Frank J. Colby of Forest City ... to recall to North Iowans some of the losses to nature that have taken place with the advance of civilization. He has made a plea that all possible be done to encourage the return of plant and animal life, in this article which he has 'dedicated to the memory of W.F. Muse, whose inherent love of nature and teachings were an inspiration to me during the quarter of a century that I knew him!'"

In the midst of despair, at the height of happiness, or at any stage in the complex life we have built around us, we can find with startling clearness, if we but go back to the simple and primitive, a quietude of mind, an escape from sordidness, a refreshing draught lending wholesomeness and magnanimity to our thought, our action, and enable us to see the finer qualities of our fellow men.

The man who does not forget he is on earth but a short while, the man who realizes the ego is not all-important, the man who respects his neighbor and who stands in reverence before a Master Author, he it is who lives and fulfills a mission.

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If thou are worn and hard beset  
With sorrows that thou wouldst forget,  
If thou would read a lesson that will  
keep  
Thy heart from fainting and thy soul  
from sleep,  
Go to the woods and hills! No tears  
Dim the sweet look that Nature wears.--  
Longfellow.

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# IOWA DEVELOPS WILD GAME PROGRAM

Commission Gives Sportsmen Greater Opportunity to Participate  
in Conservation Activities in Cooperation with Farmers

By F. T. Schwob, Chief  
Division of Fish and Game

The Iowa Game Program is based on the principles of the American Game Policy and recommendations made by Aldo Leopold after completion of the Iowa Game Survey.

Fundamentals of the plan are:

1. To build environment so that when seed stocks exist or are placed on the land, they will have a reasonable chance of producing annually surplus crops which may be harvested by the man or woman who likes to hunt.

2. To so manage the crop that adequate stock for breeding remains on the land.

3. To build a favorable relationship between the hunter and the land owner so that adequate areas may be kept available to the hunter.

To accomplish these ends, the game management area plan was inaugurated. At its beginning in 1932, six demonstration management areas were established to demonstrate what could be accomplished by providing proper living conditions for game and to work out satisfactory plans.

In addition to these demonstration areas, a plan was set up for establishment of cooperative management areas, the original idea being that these would be areas established by cooperation of farmers and sportsmen with help and guidance from the state department.

Requirements were that wherever a

farmer or group of farmers who owned or had control of one continuous body of land desired to practice game management and promised to manage the game, improve the environment, etc., according to instructions given by the department, the Commission would post the land with official signs and set it up as a game management area.

This would give the farmers added trespass protection under a law passed for this purpose, and if the land and game be properly managed, would perpetuate game and provide a yearly surplus for the hunter.

The original plan required that a continuous block of land containing not less than 640 acres or more than 5,000 acres was necessary for the establishment of a pheasant area, and not less than 320 acres or more than 2,500 acres for quail.

Under this plan, 278 areas containing 854,000 acres had been es-

tablished by July 1, 1935.

The original six demonstration areas were never developed because of difficulty in getting necessary environmental improvements made.

At the end of the 1933-34 biennium, the annual report stated "to date the program is showing some results and is bringing to light certain problems."

It had controlled trespassing almost completely. In many cases, it had built



up a fine relationship between the hunter and farmer and had increased the game population. Almost without exception, these successful areas were owned by farmer sportsmen.

However, in many instances, there was a tendency for the farmer to want the area simply because of the trespass protection it afforded him with no willingness on his part to permit hunting or to do anything for wildlife.

#### WOULD UTILIZE WASTE PLACES

In Leopold's original (1932) recommendations, he said:

"Game management seldom requires withdrawing any valuable land from agricultural use. The necessary food and cover can usually be provided on odd corners and in waste places. Game management does require, however, that farmers invest a certain amount of time, care, skill and materials in fencing, patrol, signs, food patches, plantings, etc. If farmers are to make this investment freely, they must receive some return on it; otherwise, it will not be made and there will be no game.

"If the farmer is himself a sportsman, he may get his return in shooting for himself and family. If he is not, he is entitled to get it from the sportsman to whom he gives permission to hunt. If he permits no hunting, he may get it from having abundant game on his place.

"There are many ways for sportsmen to compensate farmers for their investment in game management. A sportsmen's organization may pay a farmers' organization either by reimbursing it for improvements to the game range or by paying a rental or lease for the hunting privileges. An individual sportsman may pay an individual farmer in the same way."

#### PAID SHOOTING FAILS

The Conservation Commission at that time did not believe it a good policy to advocate paid shooting because whenever it was mentioned, sportsmen immediately made serious objection. However,

paid shooting was tried, and on one area about 5¢ per acre per year was realized by the farmer. This was not sufficient incentive in this case to keep the farmer interested. Other pay areas failed for various reasons.

#### WEAKNESSES IN ORIGINAL PLAN

At the end of the 1935-36 biennium when the department had 279 areas with 854,000 acres, and after three years of trial and severe criticism from sportsmen who had tried to hunt on special quail management areas, weak points that became obvious were:

1. That farmers could not be expected to spend time and money in order to produce game on their land for the hunters to shoot. Pay shooting had failed to be attractive enough to get the farmer to do the things necessary.

2. That many farmers went into the plan to keep out all hunters.

3. That constant moving of tenant farmers made it almost impossible to keep an area properly organized. A new tenant might not be interested in game management.

4. That areas were required to be at least 640 acres. This made it difficult for the small landowner to participate.

5. That sportsmen failed in most cooperative areas to carry out their part of the program.

#### PLAN FOUND TOO COSTLY

The quail season revealed some interesting facts. The wardens', supervisors' and game technicians' time spent in checking and getting these areas ready for the open season together with the cost of tags, permits, signs, extra help, etc., totaled \$11,503.42. This expenditure produced 1,749 quail in the hunters' coats at a cost of \$6.58 per quail taken. In other words, the hunter paid \$1 for the privilege of taking six quail that cost the department \$39.48 to produce! This definitely proved that the ultimate plan must be a simple one that does not require expensive supervision.

In 1935, the original game management

plan was changed in an effort to overcome faults pointed out.

Under the modified plan, any farmer, regardless of the size of his farm, can practice wildlife management. This makes each farm an individual area. It gets away from the problem of constant migration of tenant farmers. It allows any farmer interested to practice management, depending on the attitude of his neighbors. Signs are not posted until recommended improvements have been made. The farmer agrees to allow hunting when a surplus of game is present. Signs are furnished free of charge, whereas formerly the farmer paid about a third of the cost of signs.

#### 231 FARMS IN NEW PLAN

Under the revised plan, 231 farms have been established containing 55,061 acres. There still are 204 areas with 656,486 acres set up under the original plan. These are being reorganized as fast as field men are able to do it.

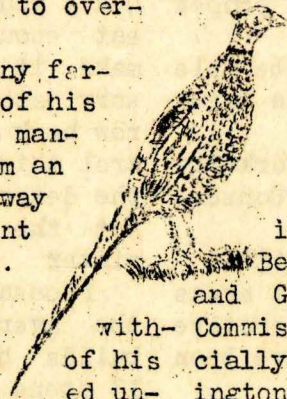
It is interesting to note that areas being established under the revised plan are almost without exception owned by farmer sportsmen interested in their own sport. These areas are functioning and real wildlife management is being practiced.

In 1936, Leopold said:

"The present viewpoint concerning farmer cooperatives is vastly different from that of 1931. It was then hoped to evolve a standard setup that would spread all over the state in a decade. We are now more modest; if the present generation, within its lifetime, can get this job fairly well started, we may be proud of our record.

"The objective in 1931 was to provide something to shoot and permission to shoot it. Cash revenue was an important ingredient. Now, I no longer believe that a farmer is going to practice game management unless he enjoys game.

"In 1931, we thought we were dealing with a detached problem in the mechanics of game production and use. We find



in 1936 that our problem also involves many other land uses and also many motives, tastes and attitudes, and that it cannot be detached from the larger and slower question of establishing the role of conservation in American farm life."

Before consolidation in 1935 (Fish and Game Division with Conservation Commission), the department had specially trained game technicians. Dr. Arrington was working on quail research problems. Dr. Logan Bennett and Philip A. DuMont were with the department.

#### GAME RESEARCH WORK STARTED

At the time of consolidation, the cooperative game research program was set up whereby the U.S. Biological Survey, Wildlife Institute, State Colleges and Conservation Departments could cooperate in definite wildlife research. Dr. Bennett joined the Biological Survey and was placed in charge of the Iowa research program.

Before the State Conservation Commission signed the contract which made possible this research program, it insisted on and had included certain definite, practical problems. Stress was placed upon the necessity of carrying on investigations to determine whether or not the game management plan could be made to provide the incentives necessary, financial or otherwise, to get and keep farmers interested in producing and managing game on their farms without expensive supervision by the department.

The Commission believed one of the important objectives of this project was to determine the relationship of game management to an economically sound agricultural program for Iowa.

From the practical standpoint, these requirements should be met before game management can be integrated with the present modes of agriculture:

1. The farmer should be assured of some return, financial or otherwise, before he can be expected to cooperate to any great extent.

2. The final plan that will be sat-

isfactory to the farmer, in our opinion must dovetail harmoniously with proper and wise land use.

3. The hunting public should be able to utilize the game crop after the farmer has produced a surplus.

4. Such a program should be workable and financially sound for the Conservation Commission.

#### FOUR EXPERIMENTAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Four experimental management areas were established under the cooperative research setup. These areas have been the source of much information.

There has not been opportunity to test two pheasant areas in northern Iowa with open seasons. One is a pay shooting area and the other a sportsman farmer cooperative area. The cooperative area, especially, shows the most promise, apparently because of the active part sportsmen are taking. They do all the improvement work. The plan is based on personal, friendly cooperation. Both parties apparently get their compensation from the pleasant social and recreational activities carried on.

In addition to these vital problems confronting the game program, the cooperative research setup is carrying on work necessary to the successful continuation of the program, that is, working out life histories and management for Iowa birds and animals. At the present time, the following problems are being studied:

#### RESEARCH PROBLEMS UNDER OBSERVATION

Quail management, duck studies, parasites and diseases of wild animals with special emphasis on quail, pheasant, ducks and rabbits; ecology of the muskrat, life history and environmental requirements of cottontail rabbits, life histories of Iowa skunks, mourning doves and raccoons, studies of the American coot and development of the Wildlife Extension Program.

A pheasant and quail census method was worked out. It was discovered that mice are competitors of quail for winter food. Two mice eat as much weed seed

in a day as one quail, it was found. A heavy mouse population, therefore, might eat enough of a quail covey's food to make it impossible for the birds to survive the winter. The marsh hawk, sparrow hawk and marsh owl could help control this mouse population and might be the determining factor as to whether or not the quail covey could survive the winter.

Pheasant studies have disclosed that the average distance a pheasant hen builds her nest from the fence row is 13 steps. This shows that the old method of leaving two mower cuts next to the fence would not save the majority of nests. Muskrat studies showed that very few rats leave when their marsh dries up. The majority stay and die.

#### SOIL CONSERVATION PLAN EVOLVED

In addition to the regular game management program, the department has a working agreement with the Soil Conservation Service whereby a cooperative setup has been effected with the Commission, Soil Conservation Service and farmers uniting.

This plan is being carried out on farms whose owners have five-year contracts with the S. C. S. and on which erosion control work is being done. Wherever a farmer is or can be interested in wildlife crops and management, a cooperative management area is set up, the idea being to have field men working with the S. C. S. teach the farmer proper game management, and to have cover planted and fenced by the C.C.C.

This plan provides that when plantings have reached the point where they furnish suitable environment for wildlife, the department will provide seed stocks if necessary and help the farmer with proper management methods. After the five-year period has passed, it is hoped these farmers can be retained in the regular plan.

In addition to these programs on privately owned lands, the department is practicing management and development for maximum production on state-owned areas. These are mostly drained

lake beds, areas around some of the live state lakes, and in some state parks.

Twenty-five of these areas are being surveyed, fenced, planted, partially farmed and managed so that maximum wild-life production can be expected. During 1936, 290,773 trees and shrubs were planted; in 1937, 619,152 were planted. This development work has been done with the assistance of the State Planning Board and the W. P. A.

It has been found that more game can be produced by farming part of these areas. Portions of them are leased to farmers on crop-share basis. In 1936, the state's share of corn and other grain was 4,647 bushels; for 1937, approximately 13,600 bushels.

Grain derived from this source is used in winter feeding. If it is not all needed, the remainder is sold, proceeds going into the game fund. At present, 43 renters are farming a total of 2,364 state-owned acres.

These state-owned acres are handled as public shooting grounds and refuges. At present, 46 areas including more than 32,000 acres in 17 counties are posted as public shooting grounds.

The state has acquired about 12,000 acres of marginal land as forest areas. Work is under way to develop this land to demonstrate proper land and water use. It is planned to manage the timber crop so that it will produce trees as well as provide hunting recreation.

Another plan was put into effect in 1937 to help the winter feeding program and has shown fine results. Interested farmers are supplied with enough hegari seed to plant food patches for game. The department purchased 2,000 pounds of

this seed; 1,200 pounds were given to the Soil Conservation Camps for food patches and the balance to farmers. Especially in southern Iowa, one sees a large number of food patches left for quail and other game. This is a sound practice and should be encouraged.

It should be emphasized that food alone will not winter birds during severe weather. They also must have a suitable place to stay. Recently published figures showed that 50 to 75 per cent of the corn in north Iowa was being picked with machine pickers. This

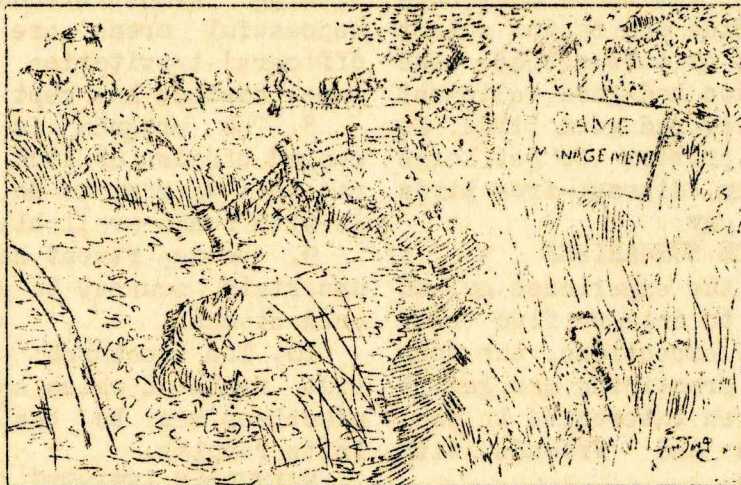
destroys a cornfield for winter cover, a serious loss to pheasant.

In addition to game management work, the department has employed several methods of supplying seeding stocks since the old game farm was discontinued in 1932. In 1933, 1,158 pheasants were planted in Cass, Page and Greene counties

to determine if mass plantings would be more successful than scattered ones.

Besides this, 332 4-H Clubs were induced to sponsor a pheasant egg project in 25 counties. The department purchased 5,185 eggs, distributed them to club members with proper instructions for hatching and rearing. As a result, 391 pheasants or about 7 per cent were released to the wild. During 1932, 15,990 eggs were distributed and 4,660 birds liberated, or about 29 per cent. In 1936, approximately 3,000 birds were stocked at eight weeks of age on areas in territory that the game survey recommended for mass plantings. This planting to date shows promise of producing a shootable crop in Harrison and Mills counties.

In 1937, the department had a contract for several thousand birds with a



From cartoon by J. N. "Ding" Darling in The Iowa 25-Year Conservation Plan Report



game breeder. At the time the first delivery was to be made, the Commission was informed by the breeder that he had received a better offer and had sold the birds to another. The balance of the contract was immediately cancelled.

#### DEPARTMENT IN DIFFICULT SPOT

This failure on the part of a breeder put the department "on the spot" with farmers and sportsmen who had prepared places or homes to receive these birds. We succeeded in finding a few birds to satisfy these people, but the stocking program was set back one year.

The state must let these contracts by competitive bids and cannot select the breeder except by this method. The breeder in question had good equipment and could have delivered good birds. It is a difficult problem to get large numbers of healthy, disease-free birds at a price we can pay.

#### EXPERIENCE SUMMARIZED

In summing up the experience gained from the program to date, we find that:

1. With a few exceptions, the only farmers actually practicing management are farmer sportsmen interested in providing themselves and friends with hunting recreation.

2. Paid shooting has not provided sufficient incentive to the farmer who is not a sportsman to get him to raise game and to allow the hunter to take the surplus without active personal help from the sportsmen.

3. The program has been of great value in experience gained. More farmers and sportsmen know something about how and what to do than ever before.

4. Although many of the areas established on private land are not game management areas producing game and hunting recreation, there is more real game management being practiced on private and state-owned land in Iowa than ever before.

5. The Soil Conservation Service program making wildlife production and management a regular part of approved farm practice appears to be the beginning of the real solution of the problem because it is based on and becomes

a part of true conservation, the wise use of land and water. This, however, will be a slow natural development.

6. Apparently programs that will develop active personal interest in hunting and producing wildlife must be set up by the department and every assistance given by trained field men to try to stimulate wildlife management until the land use program grows to sufficient proportions.

7. Frequent personal contact by qualified conservation officers seems necessary to keep proper programs functioning. Almost without exception, the successful areas are in conservation officers' territories where close personal contact has kept them going.

8. The program is seriously handicapped because of lack of funds. It is not what we want to do, but what we can do with funds available.

9. The department cannot depend upon uncertain sources to procure necessary seed stocks.

10. The research program must provide facts on which sound programs and practices can be based to insure definite results.

#### STIMULATE INTEREST AMONG SPORTSMEN

An additional program is now being set up to stimulate sportsmen who to date have done little active field work.

It seems that the big job is to get the sportsman interested 12 months of the year instead of just the few days of open season when he goes hunting.

Either the sportsman must take an active personal interest and be willing to get out and work himself on his farmer friend's farm to get the job done properly, or he must pay someone else to do the job for him. The latter must be either in increased license fees or direct pay to the farmer.

Iowa has been without a game farm since 1932.

The only need for artificial propagation of game birds is to supply seed stocks where birds are near extermination because of over-shooting or accidents such as drought, severe winters,

unfavorable nesting seasons, disease, predators, etc.

Since discontinuance of the game farm, the department has been depending on game breeders in the state to supply necessary seed stocks. Up to the present time, the need for seed stocks has not been heavy, but unfavorable conditions now have increased the need.

#### HEAVY LOSSES FROM WEATHER

The severe drought years of 1934 and 1936 together with the severe winter of 1935-36 just after an open pheasant season, with also heavy losses from fox, reduced the seed stock left on the land to a very low point. The season of 1936-37 was kept closed because of the scarcity of birds and the seed stock present in the spring of 1937 seemed ample to build a shootable population if natural reproduction was normal.

The 1937 nesting season proved to be the poorest we have experienced for years. The wet, late spring deprived birds of much nesting cover usually available in lower marsh areas because the marshes were filled with water. This forced the birds to nest in farm fields where few were successful in bringing off broods because the fields were harvested before the eggs hatched.

#### SOUTHERN IOWA QUAILLESS

Much of the quail territory, notably in southwest Iowa, is almost quailless because of drought and severe winters. The cover and food have been restored by nature, but it will take several years for these areas to become stocked from natural spread of quail from ranges that now have quail. Planting seed stocks will materially speed the comeback.

To insure healthy, disease-free birds reared by open range method, able to survive in the wild, the Commission believes a state game bird hatchery is necessary. A place also is needed where pheasants trapped in January and February around state areas developed for maximum production can be held. If these heavy populations are left where they originated, crop damage occurs on farms

near the game areas.

These surplus birds should be trapped, sent to the hatchery, held until the critical period of winter is over, then released in territory where additional seed is needed.

#### IMPORTANT HATCHERY FUNCTION

There is still a more important reason for establishing a game hatchery. If sportsmen and farmers can have the care of pheasants and quail - help rear them to maturity, provide winter and nesting cover and food at critical periods - this active interest will develop a feeling of personal ownership, materially reduce law violations, develop proper management of the crop, stop over-shooting and point to necessity for proper predator control such as protection against fox.

If the game hatchery and the stocking program accomplish this one thing, it will be worth its cost, not considering the sound practices of supplying seed stocks where needed.

#### MASS HATCHING PROGRAM

It is the plan to have 600 pheasant hens which should lay 30,000 eggs to produce 25,000 chicks; 50 pairs of bobwhite quail which should produce 2,500 eggs or 2,000 chicks the first year. This would enable the department to provide 400 pheasants for 50 counties and 50 quail for each of 40 counties if the Commission can get sportsmen and farmers to care for the birds and give them homes on the land.

The Commission believes it can produce 25,000 pheasants and 2,000 quail for less than \$7,000. These birds purchased from game breeders would cost at least \$15,000 for pheasants and \$2,000 for quail.

The plan calls for appointment of a Conservation Committee in each county. These men would be selected because of their interest, knowledge of game and leadership in the community. They must be able to cooperate and to get cooperation. The plan and committee should be supported by the sportsmen's organization, conservation club, Future Farmers

of America, Farm Bureau, 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Garden Clubs and other interested groups.

Sponsoring organizations would be required to provide breeders and holding pens of approved type to care for pheasants or quail, feed and care for the birds until they are released and help release them. They must also contact farmers and get their interest and cooperation in providing suitable living conditions for the birds.

After the birds are released, farms should be set up as game management areas and closed to hunting until the seed produces a shootable crop. Birds can never be produced on game farms, released to the wild and shot in the same year. If birds cost 50¢ each and a hunter is allowed to take three the first day, he would be taking \$1.50 worth of birds and paying only \$1 for the privilege. We must have natural reproduction in the wild.

Besides pheasants and quail, the Commission will have 12 pairs of chukar partridge. There is an area in southwestern Iowa that is almost gameless. Pheasants and Hungarians have both failed. From information the Commission has gathered, the chukar has a good chance to survive and multiply on this range and the increase from these 12 pairs will be used for experimental planting in this territory.

The Commission is making every effort to produce shootable crops of game in each part of the state.

The 96 acres of land acquired for the game bird hatchery are located at the south edge of the Ledges State Park in Boone County. It was purchased with funds provided for emergency conservation work in cooperation with the CCC camps. It is centrally located, has ex-

cellent drainage, can be extended if necessary. It is close to Iowa State College and the State Veterinary School where birds can be diagnosed for disease and scientific research conducted.

The Commission for several years has had a zoo at the Ledges where confiscated and crippled birds and animals have been held until recovery or grown so they could again be released to the wild. The hatchery will add better facilities for handling these birds and animals. A power line and surfaced road are available.

DUTY OF EDUCATION

Education, in carrying out the aims of conservation, should not only stress the theoretical side of the subject but the practical aspect as well. Students should learn by doing. They should be active conservationists by being taught to put theory into practice. They should plant trees, school forests, take part in the creation of parks and bird sanctuaries. When possible they should organize as committees to consider certain problems, and cooperate with their governments by serving as junior forest rangers and junior game wardens, or in other ways. --- "Outlines of School Courses in Conservation," Vavra.

Work on the hatchery is being done by C.C.C. boys from the Ames unit and money for materials is being provided from the emergency conservation fund administered by Governor Kraschel. Pheasant and quail will be hatched in electric incubators and started in brooders according to the best methods.

The hatchery will be chiefly a starting unit. The Commission plans to locate growing pens on state areas where present employes can care for them without additional help or expense, and in territories near where the birds are to

be released. This program is not a plan to do away with the one already working, but one to try to add those factors which will make the present program more effective.

We have had success in getting active personal interest of sportsmen in the fisheries program. We believe this plan will produce results if properly executed.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life." -- Theodore Roosevelt.

# IOWANS ENJOY THEIR STATE PARKS

Records for 1937 Show That 2,500,000 Made Use of Facilities  
in 72 State-Owned Recreation Areas

By H. W. Groth, Chief  
Division of Lands and Waters

The extent to which the people of Iowa have accepted and are using their state parks is evidenced by attendance records kept by the State Conservation Commission. When analyzed, these records tell an interesting story and have a decided influence on the trends in acquisition, development and maintenance of state parks.

The total state park attendance in 1937 was approximately 2,500,000, an increase of about 100,000 over 1936.

The number of state parks and preserves has doubled in the past 10 years and the yearly attendance has virtually doubled during the same period.

In 1927, there were 36 state parks and preserves; in 1937, there were 72. Seventy-five per cent of this increase occurred in the four years since the advent of the CCC program. Sixty per cent of the increased attendance occurred in this same four-year period.

It is surprising to note that the increase in yearly park attendance is almost in direct proportion to the increase in the number of parks and preserves. How far this increase in parks can go and still increase the total of visitors is problematical. Statements have been made that this point already has been reached, but so far the records do not indicate that such is the

case. The foregoing tendency indicates, substantiated by studies, that most of the visitors in any particular park come from counties not too far distant from the park. Apparently then, state parks are serving a need for adequate recreational areas in their immediate communities. It has been thought that

as new state parks were opened for public use the attendance in the older parks would decline. This has not been true to any noticeable extent. It appears that each new park attracts many people who have not been visiting other state parks.

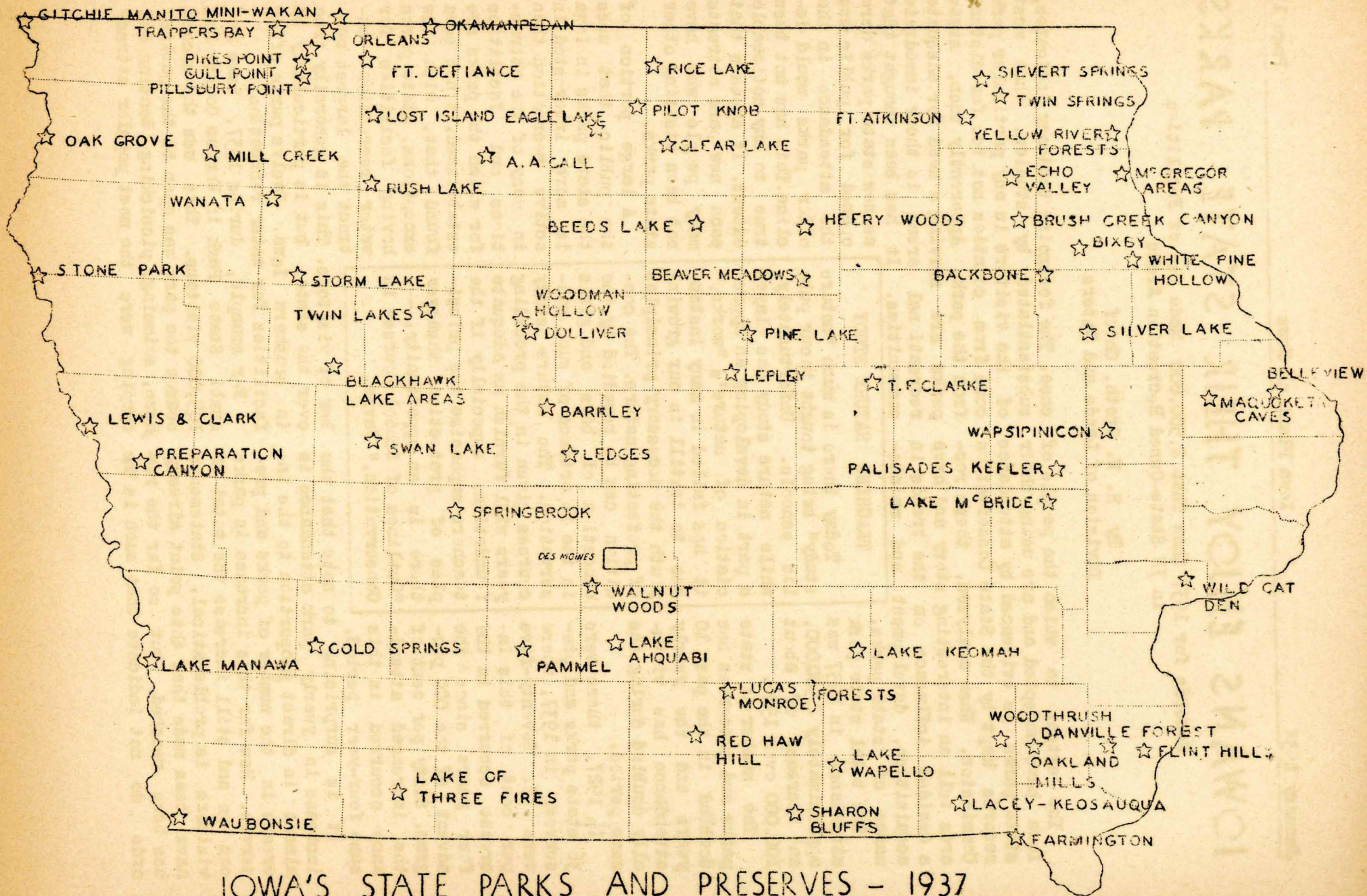
A large portion of the public that uses the state parks in Iowa is more interested in active recreation than in many of the attractions and facilities for which the parks are established. It has been found that, with few exceptions, state parks having facilities for water recreation attract the largest number

of visitors. This is generally true over the state, but is particularly so in southern Iowa. Twelve parks offer facilities for water recreation.

For example, during 1937, Lake Ahquabi State Park in Warren County had 105,000 visitors. This was the second season the park was open to the public. Here, swimming, picnicking, boating and camping were the most popular attrac-

## TEACHING NATURE STUDY

Today there is much "nature study" being taught in our public schools. Unfortunately, while nature study has played a part in developing an appreciation of nature's "works," it has failed in many instances to instill in our growing youth the necessary principles of protecting nature. The condition can be remedied by the education of boys and girls in the importance of such conservation. The nature study courses given in the preceding years will furnish an adequate foundation, especially if the teachers emphasize the principles of protection whenever there is an opportunity. --- "Outlines of School Courses in Conservation," Vavra.



IOWA'S STATE PARKS AND PRESERVES - 1937

tions.

In comparison, Lacey-Keosauqua, the largest state park, where no facilities are yet provided for water recreation had a total attendance of little more than half that recorded at Lake Anquabi.

#### CABIN CAMPING POPULAR

Cabin camping was made available in state parks during 1937 for the first time on any large scale. Cabins for family use were opened at Lake Wapello, Lake Anquabi, Pine Lake and the Ledges. Cabins and other facilities for large group camps were available at Lake Anquabi and Dolliver-Memorial parks.

The popularity of cabin camping was immediately evidenced by the fact that reservations had to be made several weeks in advance in order to be sure of their availability. During 1937, 2,500 person nights were spent in cabins in the state parks.

Cabins are available for camping for not longer than two-week periods in the following state parks: Backbone, six; Dolliver-Memorial, 10; Lake Anquabi, nine; Lake Wapello, nine; Ledges, two; Pallasades-Kepler, four; Pine Lake, four.

#### WINTER SPORTS GET BIG PLAY

Naturally, most visitors go to the state parks during the summer months. However, many parks offer facilities for winter sports. An increasing interest in winter recreation is indicated by many requests received by park custodians and the central office for skiing, skating and coasting areas. At the present time most interest has centered around Backbone State Park, Lake Anquabi and Pine Lake. Where local interest is sufficient to justify the expense of maintaining such facilities, the Commission has been willing to do so.

A toboggan slide was constructed at Pine Lake last winter and proved very popular. So far this winter, this popularity shows signs of increasing many fold. It may be necessary to provide another slide.

These facilities for winter sports in the parks are provided by the state

at no cost to the users. There are adequate facilities at present to provide for 500,000 people during the winter months. When the public realizes these parks can be used the year around, it is believed the people will take advantage of these opportunities for additional out-door recreation.

Two new state parks will be opened to the public in 1938. Both have artificial lakes where swimming and boating will be possible.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### FARM TENANT HEARINGS BEGIN IN IOWA

Potency of public hearings on Farm Tenancy to be held before spring in every Iowa county was manifested when more than 100 farmers crowded the small American Legion hall in Denison, Jan. 13, for the first all-day hearing.

Included were tenants and landlords, members of Farm Holiday, Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, Grange and farmers not belonging to any organized group.

The Denison hearing revealed stark significance and all-inclusiveness of the term "tenancy" --- its problems affecting not only those now tenants, but also farmers under the moratorium, saddled with heavy mortgages. Tenants, owner-operators, landlords are for the first time in the history of Iowa coming together on common ground.

What the state can and cannot do to establish better farm tenure conditions through legislation was a foremost topic. All agreed that adequate income will go a long way toward bettering tenure conditions. However, price control appears to have national and international significance.

Problems receiving state-wide consideration are landlord-tenant relationships regarding leases, limitation of liens, speculation in farm land and farm purchases by means of long term loans at low interest rates with payments based on income.

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# PUBLIC HUNGRY FOR INFORMATION

Conservation Commission Meets Huge Demand for Literature on Parks, Lakes and Recreational Facilities

By H. M. Sanderson, Chief  
Division of Administration

Conservation in Iowa has rapidly advanced during the past five years -- so much so that the demand on the part of the public for information and educational material about conservation is becoming a problem. Such demand has added a heavy burden on the State Conservation Commission.

Requests from educational institutions, teachers, conservationists, clubs and the general public for printed material, speakers and programs are increasing daily. There is an ever increasing demand for information concerning the state in general, but because recreational facilities are mentioned, such requests find their way to the Conservation Commission.

No less than 10 other state departments have referred information requests to the Conservation Commission during the past six months. During the tourist travel season hundreds of requests from all parts of the United States and Canada are received. These are principally for road conditions, the most scenic routes across the state, and information on camping facilities.

The Division of Administration handles all matters relating to public relations. Its first attention is given

to subjects relating to conservation and second to those of a general nature for the state as a whole.

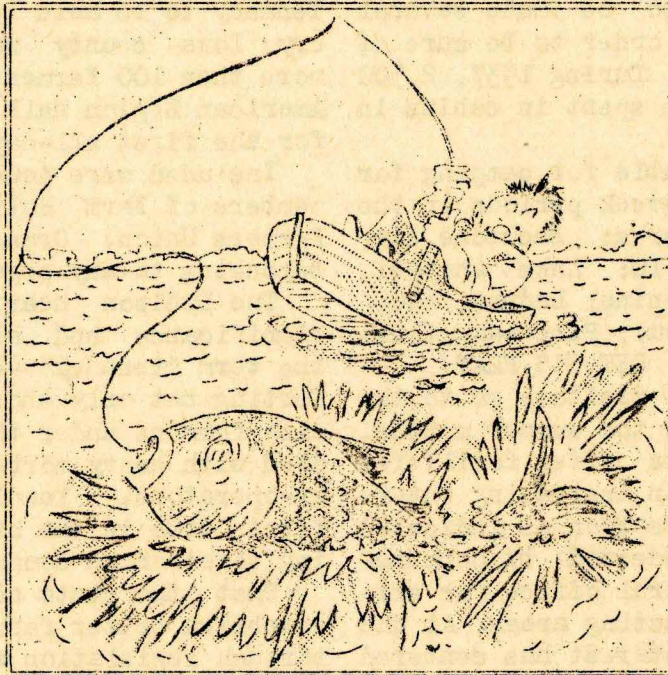
The Division does not have a special public relations department or employes engaged solely in such work. These duties are spread among all employes. Conservation Officers and field represent-

atives speak before groups over the state. For exceptionally large gatherings or ones of special importance a representative is sent from the home office. During the past year, 47 such addresses were given by members of the Commission and employes.

The Commission attempts through the press to keep the public informed of its activities, progress, changes in laws,

hunting and fishing seasons. The Division prepares a biweekly news bulletin consisting of two newspaper columns of material.

This bulletin is mailed to nearly 500 newspapers in Iowa every two weeks. also to 99 county recorders, 100 county agricultural agents, 83 law enforcement officers, 51 other state departments, 49 teachers who are teaching conservation in schools, 19 magazines and 154 other individuals and firms interested in placing information on conservation be-



fore the public. More than 25,000 copies of this bulletin are distributed each year.

In addition, special news articles, feature stories and press information are frequently prepared and printed in Iowa newspapers. It is estimated that more than 2,000 articles dealing directly with conservation are published each month in the press of Iowa.

Newspapers have manifested splendid cooperation in presenting large amounts of conservation information to the public. But there is need for other mediums as well to disseminate information about state parks, game fish, wild flowers and forestry.

The Commission prepares and distributes as much of this literature as its funds permit. During the past year, 25,000 state park guides and highway maps were printed and distributed. These went to motor clubs, Chambers of Commerce and individuals who requested information about recreational facilities of the state. More than 5,000 guides were sent to individuals outside Iowa.

An attractive park booklet was prepared and 10,000 copies printed and distributed. There was a large demand for up to date information concerning Iowa's state parks and preserves. The park booklet, consisting of 80 pages, was well received and most welcome by instructors and public libraries.

More than 1,500 copies of the book "Iowa Twenty-Five Year Conservation Plan Report" were placed in libraries and schools upon request.

The Commission's Biennial Report for the period ending June 30, 1936, has been placed in the hands of 3,000 libraries and individuals. This book contains a wealth of information on conservation activities in Iowa and the

answers to numerous questions arising daily in the minds of those interested in conservation.

Law books numbering 5,000 and 150,000 hunting and trapping law synopses have been prepared and distributed.

Numerous short articles on birds, wild flowers and other special subjects have been prepared and furnished to those wanting to know more about these conservation subjects.

In the distribution of all material prepared and printed by the Conservation Commission, care is taken to place

it where it is actually wanted and where it will do the greatest good. This is necessary for it is financially impossible for the Commission to print great quantities of any booklet. Such material is distributed to public libraries and school reference libraries first. This is done so that everyone may have the opportunity of using the material for reference at least.

In addition to providing the public with

such information in printed form, an extensive educational and informational display is prepared each year at the Iowa State Fair. Smaller exhibits and displays are shown at county fairs and hobby shows. These number about 30 each year.

It is found that the public is becoming more and more interested in the subject of conservation, and each year the demand is for more exhibits and more printed material. The Conservation Commission is attempting to supply as much material as possible and urges the public to request it. There are dozens of booklets and pamphlets prepared on conservation subjects awaiting requests from those who are interested enough to learn more about conservation.

The Commission recognizes the great

#### ON TEACHING CHILDREN

It ought not to be necessary to argue that our children in school should be taught the importance from a practical point of view of making a wise but nevertheless selective use of the bounties of nature. It ought also to be taken for granted that their education will not be complete if they do not learn from those competent to teach, the spiritual qualities that abide in mountain, stream and plain. - Hon. Harold L. Ickes, U.S. Secretary of the Interior.



need for a separate department or bureau to take care of the demand for not only conservation information but also information about the state in general, its interests, recreational facilities and living possibilities.

Iowa has much to offer. Only through cooperation of such agencies as the State Planning Board, Works Progress Administration, Emergency Conservation Work and National Park Service has the State Conservation Commission been able to prepare, print and properly distribute informative material and conduct an educational department in matters of conservation of our natural resources.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### STATE HEALTH RESOURCES REPORT COMPLETED

Late in January, the Iowa State Planning Board will publish the final report of its state-wide survey of public health resources, which was completed last fall. The project was undertaken through cooperation of the State Department of Health and with the aid of a Works Progress Administration grant.

The report outlines the administrative machinery existing for public health work, then summarizes the programs which have been undertaken by towns, townships and schools under existing organization as established by law.

Among the factors considered are the number of health workers, their salaries and expenses, and their effectiveness in carrying through a minimum program.

The sanitary equipment of schools also was surveyed.

Facilities in 90 of Iowa's 99 counties were covered in the survey and are summarized in the report.

Dr. Walter L. Bierring, Commissioner of Health and a member of the State Planning Board, has written recommendations for improvement of apparent defects in existing conditions as revealed in the report.

Copies of the report may be had by addressing the Director of the Iowa

State Planning Board, Des Moines. The price is 50¢ per copy.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CONSERVATION AFFECTS ENTIRE STATE

(Cont'd from Page 1)

check further erosion.

The beef cattle that can be raised on Iowa grass are the most profitable crop that has ever been discovered for our hill land. When trees and grasses disappear, Iowa's agriculture will be destroyed.

The development of park, lake and stream provides the recreational resources that are necessary for a contented people. Iowa's greatest appeal to mankind is the contentment it offers amid great natural beauty, together with an opportunity to make a satisfactory living. Iowa's future depends upon a long-time constructive conservation program. Its cost is not an expense but a necessary capital investment.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ATTENTION ALL READERS!!

In the December issue of Iowa Planning News there appeared a coupon for use of readers in expressing their desire to continue to receive Iowa Planning News during 1938. To date, there has been a most gratifying response. Not only has the expected percentage of replies been received, but comments accompanying a vast number of them are indisputable evidence of the worth and practical use of material published from month to month. Before the February issue is mailed, the mailing list will be revised and many names dropped. Therefore, if any reader neglected to return the coupon, it will be highly desirable for him, if he wishes to continue to receive Iowa Planning News, to send either the coupon from the December issue, or a postal card or letter, requesting that his name be continued on the list. Please address the Director, Iowa State Planning Board, Des Moines.

\* \* \* \* \*

# IOWANS CONSERVATION MINDED

Governor's Emergency Fund Aids Development Throughout State, Cooperating in Many Worthwhile Projects

By Charles Housch, Coordinator  
Iowa Emergency Conservation Work Fund

More and more people of Iowa are becoming truly conservation minded. This fact has been forcefully and enthusiastically brought to the attention of this department by citizens in every part of our good state.

A concrete example of this enthusiasm was shown a few weeks ago when the National Park Service considered discontinuing the CCC Camp at Hampton, December 15. Immediately upon learning of this, the citizens of Hampton and surrounding community sent out more than 800 telegrams asking that the camp be continued a while longer.

This support of the CCC Camp by the local community was most encouraging to this department in its efforts to assist park development throughout the state. It is indicative of the support this work has in every community in which a camp is located.

Much has been said regarding the proposed liming program in southern Iowa. The details of this program are now swiftly being completed, and very soon farmers in the Chariton River Basin area will be availing themselves of the opportunity to obtain this much needed lime for their farms. Many meetings have been held in working out the details of this program, and the farmers have expressed themselves as very much in favor of it. We are proud to have a

part in making this liming program possible.

The Emergency Conservation Fund is attempting to further conservation on every front. Conserving wild game is among our objectives. To further this cause, we are assisting in constructing

an up to date bird hatchery adjacent to the Ledges State Park in Boone County. It is expected that many pheasants and other wild birds will be hatched there and distributed throughout the state. Much favorable comment has been received regarding this project from sportsmen throughout Iowa.

This fund also is cooperating in furthering the program of dredging Iowa lakes. If Iowa is to retain its lakes, it is necessary in many instances that the lakes be dredged, in part at least. Con-

siderable dredging work has been completed at Lake Manawa, and within a very short time the dredge will be in operation at Blackhawk Lake. In our opinion, the next Legislature could well give consideration to a long-time dredging program.

The Emergency Conservation Fund has cooperated with the Works Progress Administration in making possible improvements of many of Iowa's streams and rivers. Also, the Spirit Lake-Okoboji sewer system, which is now under

(Cont'd on Page 26)

## CONSERVATION AND USE

Conservation in its present day sense is not merely preservation or hoarding of natural or other resources, but means rather their careful, well considered use, with the avoidance of waste and prodigality and with a consideration of their exhaustibility, or the difficulties of their replacement. The proper practice of conservation may in many cases involve the obligation to take what measures are possible to replace what we consume or, more correctly, to enable the processes of nature to replace it. -- "Outlines of School Courses in Conservation," Vavra.

## FIRST MISSOURI VALLEY PLANNING CONFERENCE

Land use, water resources and transportation will be the principal discussion topics at the First Missouri Valley Planning Conference to be held in Omaha, Friday and Saturday, February 11 and 12, under the joint auspices of the State Planning Boards of the seven states included in the Missouri Valley region and with the cooperation of the National Resources Committee.

Speakers and discussion leaders will include governmental expert and technical authorities on the foregoing subjects, also persons holding no public office but representing the citizenry of the several states.

Conference sessions will be held in Hotel Paxton, with the exception of the dinner on the evening of February 11 to be served in the Chamber of Commerce banquet room.

P. H. Elwood, Regional Counselor, states that the conference will be open to all who are interested in the topics to be presented, whether they be public officers or private citizens. The conference will be outstanding in the cross-section of midwestern life which will be represented, with public servants, business and professional men, club women, farm people, school and college teachers, clergymen, conservationists and others in attendance.

Conference subjects will cover many phases pertaining to the conservation and wise use of natural resources and to planning. Frequent round table periods will afford opportunity for delegates to express their own views, ask questions and otherwise participate. Details of the program will be announced through the press as soon as completed.

More than 10,000 invitations are to be sent to individuals throughout the states of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, comprising the Missouri Valley Region. Civic groups, conservation clubs and service organizations, governmental boards and commissions will be urged to send official representatives.

In the event any person who might

wish to attend does not receive a direct invitation, the sponsors are anxious that he write for further information and a copy of the tentative program, addressing the Regional Office, National Resources Committee, 1026 W.O.W. Building, Omaha.

\* \* \* \* \*

## IOWA IS CONSERVATION MINDED - HOUSCH

(Cont'd from Page 25)

construction, was made possible through the efforts of this fund.

While the Legislature set aside \$125,000 to be devoted to this project, none of this money could be used until the project had been approved by WPA and federal money allocated. This fund advanced the money to take care of necessary expenses in preparation of engineering data, plans, etc., which had to be submitted to the WPA before any federal money would be allotted. The E. C. W. Fund has now received a refund of all the money advanced by it for this project.

The people of Iowa should know what is being accomplished by the Emergency Conservation Work Fund, and this information is available at all times either in the Coordinator's office or in the Governor's office. Any citizen of Iowa is welcome to review these records at any time.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Elwood Accorded Honor

Prof. P. H. Elwood, head of the Department of Landscape Architecture, Iowa State College, and Regional Counselor for the Missouri Valley Region, National Resources Committee, has been named a member of the board of ten governors of the American City Planning Institute. Membership in the Institute includes about 150 leaders in the city planning movement in the United States.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Editor on Leave

Floyd H. Corliss, Editor of Iowa Planning News, is on a month's leave of absence to assist in the Omaha regional office of the National Resources Committee in conducting the First Missouri Valley Planning Conference, Feb. 11-12.

# IOWA PLANNING GROUP CONVENES

Father Ligutti Elected Chairman for 1938; State-wide Educational Program Contemplated Under Five-District Setup

The Rev. L. G. Ligutti, pastor of the Church of the Assumption, Granger, and widely noted as the founder and director of the Granger Homestead Project, was elected chairman of the Iowa Conference on Planning at an executive session held in Ames, January 10. Although Father Ligutti was not present at the meeting, he has since agreed to serve as state chairman.

He will succeed Mr. Walter W. White of Spirit Lake, chairman since the last previous state-wide planning conference held in Des Moines, December 10, 1936.

MRS. RINEHART VICE CHAIRMAN

Other officers elected for 1938 were: Mrs. K. H. Rinehart, Winterset, state vice chairman; Mr. Theo. F. McCartan, Pocahontas, secretary; J. P. Hansen, Otranto, Mrs. Philip Damon, Ames, and Prof. P. H. Elwood, Ames, members of the executive committee in addition to the officers.

It is expected that the executive committee will soon present a plan for setting up five districts in the state, with a chairman and vice chairman in each, for the purpose of aiding actively in carrying out programs for planning education in their respective sections of the state.

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Significant were the resolutions prepared by a committee headed by Mr. J. B. Weaver of Des Moines, and adopted by the conference. Others on this committee were Mrs. Rinehart, Mrs. Fred Weitz, Des Moines, Dean Anson Marston, Ames, and Prof. Elwood. The resolutions were as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That in the opinion of this Conference a very important step was taken for the betterment of the life of the state by the official recognition accorded by the last General Assembly to

the State Planning Board whose outstanding service we hereby approve.

2. To the end that there may be aroused in each county of the state a keener appreciation of the possibilities and benefits of County Planning, we recommend that the next session of the General Assembly enact legislation to make possible the creation of an official County Planning Board in each county of the state.

## PROGRAM OF COOPERATION

3. That Article II of the Articles of Organization of this Conference be amended by adding thereto the words: "through formation of and collaboration with county and other local planning units."(\*)

4. That we offer our cooperation and assistance to the various official and unofficial bodies not engaged in the study of social and economic problems involved in the development and improvement of conditions in each county and community of the state.

## COMMEMORATION OF CENTENNIAL

5. That we recommend cooperation by the local planning units or boards in each county in some fitting commemoration in 1938 of the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of territorial government in Iowa.

6. That we recommend to the State Board of Education that it provide through the state educational institutions technical assistance through

(\*) Article II, referred to in this paragraph as amended, reads as follows: "The purpose of this conference is to hold conference meetings from time to time, procure and disseminate information, and actively promote the planning movement in Iowa through formation of and collaboration with county and other local planning units."

speakers and bulletins, on local county planning problems.

The Ames conference was noteworthy for the interest expressed by a large representation from many parts of the state. This was an active, personal interest in the development and execution of a definite planning educational program throughout Iowa, with a goal of stimulating planning consciousness in every county and community.

#### INFORMAL PROGRAM

As previously announced, no fixed program of addresses had been planned for this meeting, it being expected instead that those who came would use the time in informal discussion, expressing individual thoughts and opinions and asking questions. However, many persons having special work in planning under their direction were called upon to give brief descriptions of their programs.

Further news from the Iowa Conference on Planning will be forthcoming soon.

#### RETIRING CHAIRMAN COMMENDED

Iowa Planning News desires to take this opportunity to commend publicly the retiring state chairman, Mr. White, for the extensive efforts, the many hours of time and the other personal sacrifices made by him during the past year in behalf of the Conference. He took active part in regional conferences and lent every possible aid to the promotion of public interest in planning. In addition, he was a prime spirit in the organization of a county planning program in his home county, Dickinson.

Although Mr. White now turns the chairmanship over to another for a new year's work, all those who have been associated with him know that he will not let down in his interest and effort in behalf of the state program.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Wise laws and just restraints are to a noble nation not chains, but chain mail --- strength and defense, though something also of an incumbrance." --- John Ruskin.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### LAUNCH LIME PROJECT IN APPANOOSE

(From Centerville Iowegian & Citizen, January 12, 1938)

Through the auspices and efforts of Governor Nels G. Kraschel, Lieutenant Governor John Valentine, L. W. Murray, field engineer of the Chariton Basin Planning project, Leo Bowdish, county agent, S. V. Carpenter, head of the Appanoose County Soils Association (and chairman of the Chariton Basin Planning Board), the Appanoose County Board of Supervisors, including Jess Hoover, Harry Stamos and Sherman West, and also many others interested in the re-fertilization of Appanoose county areas, a movement was brought to a head (Jan. 11) calling for one of the largest single liming projects in the history of this county.

Appanoose has for some years been leading the way in South Iowa and North Missouri in the matter of reclaiming farm land fertility through the use of lime, and especially home quarried lime.

Under Chapter 150, Acts of the 47th General Assembly, which makes possible a delayed payment plan for agricultural limestone, the Appanoose County Board of Supervisors is advertising for bids for production and hauling of 10,000 tons of agricultural limestone in Appanoose county.

According to the contract, the contractor will begin furnishing a part of the 10,000 ton total order on or before March 1, 1938 and will provide all of said material on or before July 1, 1938.

In other words, it is hoped to provide limestone so cheaply, and to make the payments so suitable to the farmers that 10,000 tons of lime will be spread over Appanoose county acres between March 1 and July 1 of this year.

It is understood that the participation in the lime project is entirely a voluntary matter. A farmer can participate or not as he desires. However, large numbers have expressed their hope for some such arrangement.

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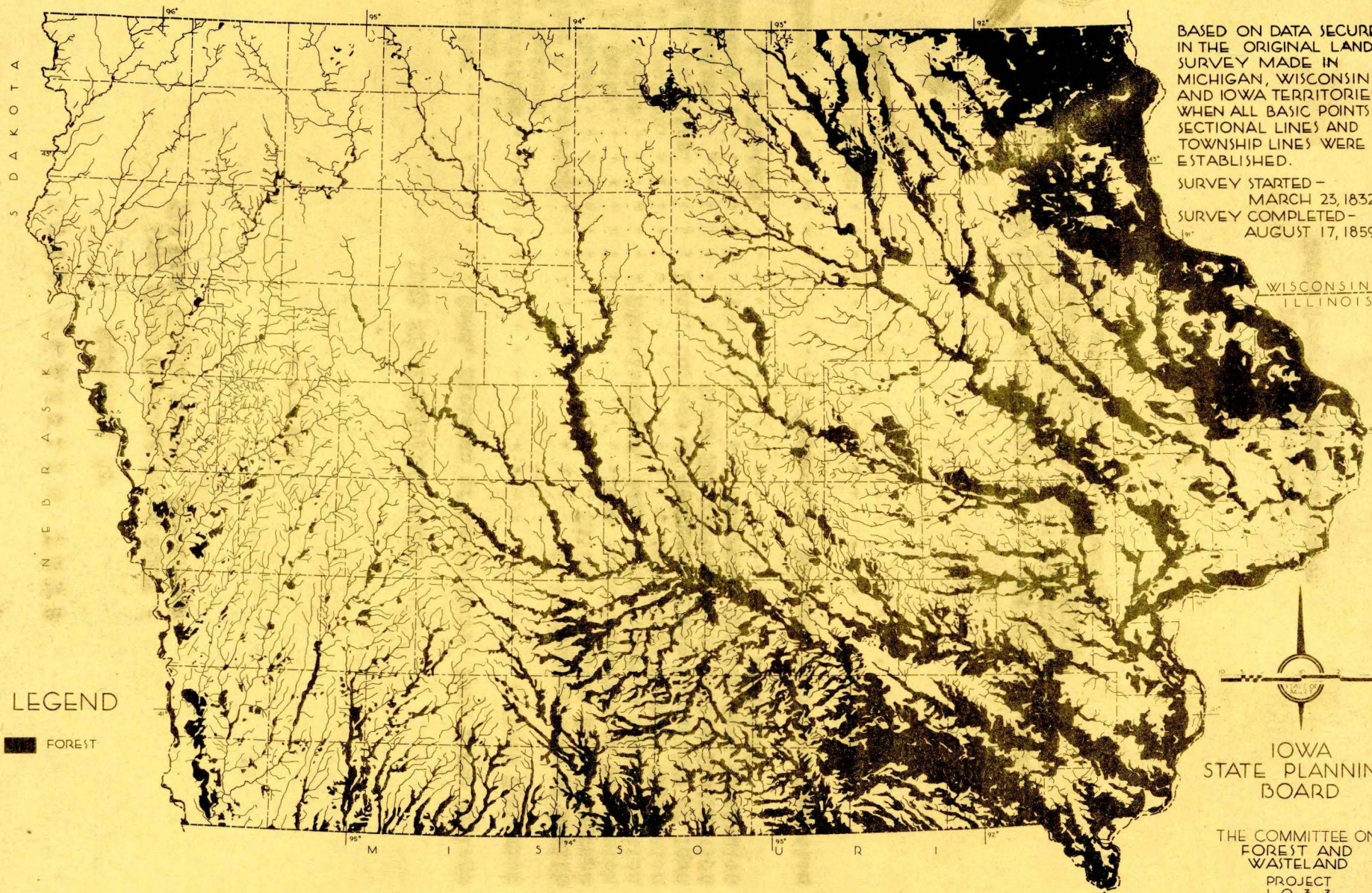
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Project Operation  
Works Progress Administration

# IOWA'S ORIGINAL FOREST COVER



BASED ON DATA SECURED  
IN THE ORIGINAL LAND  
SURVEY MADE IN  
MICHIGAN, WISCONSIN  
AND IOWA TERRITORIES  
WHEN ALL BASIC POINTS  
SECTIONAL LINES AND  
TOWNSHIP LINES WERE  
ESTABLISHED.

SURVEY STARTED -  
MARCH 23, 1832  
SURVEY COMPLETED -  
AUGUST 17, 1859

## LEGEND

■ FOREST

IOWA  
STATE PLANNING  
BOARD

THE COMMITTEE ON  
FOREST AND  
WASTELAND  
PROJECT  
1 0 3 3