

Z
State Planning Board

Progress...

PROGRESS REPORT
OF
IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS
FOR
APRIL 1-15, 1936

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PROGRESS REPORT OF IOWA STATE PLANNING BOARD PROJECTS

APRIL 1-15, 1936

During the first half of April the Planning Board continued the operation of all projects reported as operative during the latter half of March. In addition, two new W.P.A. projects, "Public Service" and "Population and Social Trends" were begun.

These two new projects are described in this report.

A summary of the work of the half-month, including employment figures, is given at the end of the report.

Business and Industry,
Project No. 00-85-477

Nature of project: State-wide tax survey to determine effects of proposed homestead tax exemptions, particularly the loss of tax revenue. (For more complete description, see report for January.)

During the latter half of March, this survey was active in 88 counties. It was extended to Sioux and O'Brien Counties during the first half of April and continued in the 88, thus covering 90 of the 99 counties of the state. Of the remaining 9, Lee County was completed last year under I. E. R. A. Work in Dickinson County is scheduled to begin about April 15.

The map on page 2 shows the progress in each county, to April 15, in terms of estimated per cent completion of (a) field work, (b) tabulation and analysis and (c) the entire project. The latter is the sum of (a) and (b), each considered to represent 50% of the total, so that the per cent completion of the entire project is one-half the sum of the per cents for (a) and (b). The "field work" is the copying of tax data and obtaining of information on occupancy of homesteads. "Tabulation and analysis" included both the preliminary and final stages of this work.

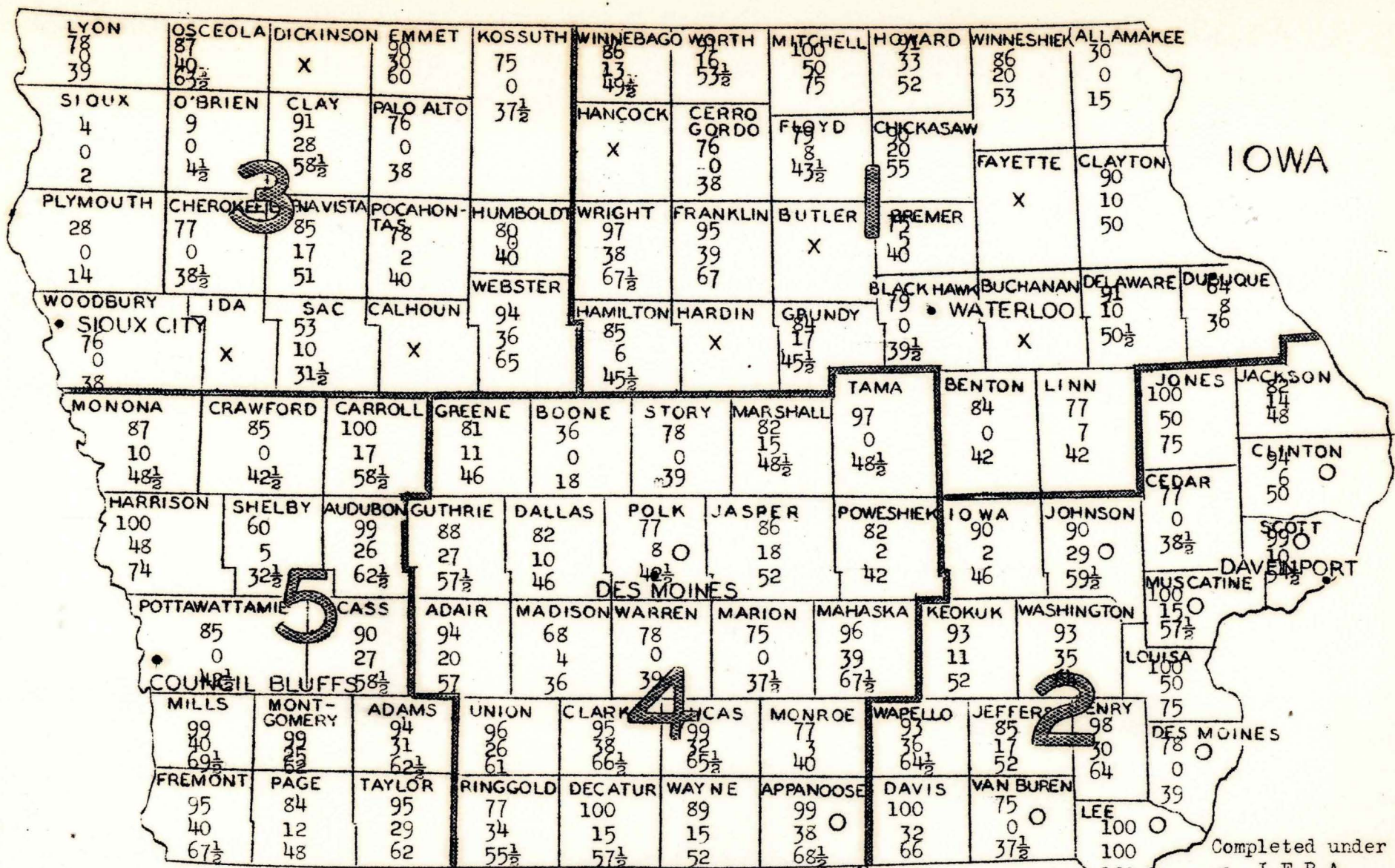
The progress of the survey from the beginning in December is shown in the following table:

Period	No. of Counties in Which Field Work Was in Progress	Total Per Cent (Approximate) of Work Completed, to End of Period		
		Field Work	Tabulation & Analysis	Entire Project
Dec. 16-31	19*	1	0	1
Jan. 1-15	48	20	0	10
16-31	83	35	0	18
Feb. 1-15	83	40	0	20
16-29	83	54	0	27
Mar. 1-15	87	62	0	31
16-31	88	77	8	42
Apr. 1-15	90	83	16	50

*Av. of 5 days' work per Co., Dec. 16-31.

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Significance of the figures in each county:

Figure	Per Cent Completion of
Upper	Field work
Middle	Tabulation and analysis
Lower	Entire project

O Begun under I.E.R.A.
 X Work not yet begun

Figures for entire state:

Field work	-----	83%	complete
Tab. & Analysis	---	16%	" "
Entire project	---	50%	" "

Completed under I.E.R.A.

We note that the project as a whole was 50% complete on Apr. 15. Tabulation and analysis of data have necessarily lagged far behind the field work, but will come up rapidly from now on. Some of this work is being done in individual counties where there are exceptionally well qualified workers. But for the most part it is provided for by central tabulating offices.

During the half-month period the average number of workers were: relief, 194; non-relief, 16; total, 210.

Urban Zoning and Planning Studies,
Project No. 00-85-3011

Nature of project: City traffic surveys in 9 cities, land use surveys in 9* cities. (For complete description, see report for Mar. 1-15.)

The progress of the traffic and land use surveys in the various cities is shown in the table on p. 4.

The traffic surveys were continued in the 9 cities in which they were previously operative. In Dubuque the work was interrupted from Apr. 1 to 12, inclusive, however, so that the average number of employees in that city for the entire half-month period was reduced to 2. As a whole, the 9 traffic surveys were approximately 35% complete, including all phases of the work (enumeration, tabulation and analysis).

Previous to March 31, the land use surveys were under way in only two cities, Muscatine and Webster City. The field work in Muscatine was completed on April 3. The work in Webster City was continued during the first half of April and the survey was begun in the 7 other cities which it had been planned to cover; namely, Burlington, Keokuk, Clinton, Ottumwa, Fort Dodge, Marshalltown and Council Bluffs. Considering these surveys in all 9 cities together and including all parts of the work, the land use study was about 15% complete on Apr. 15.

A second tabulating office was established in Davenport on Apr. 8. This will greatly increase the rate at which the tabulations and analyses are proceeding.

In computing the degree of completion of either the land use or traffic surveys, the tabulations and analyses are considered to involve about twice the amount of work represented by the enumerations in the average city surveyed. For the project as a whole, the traffic surveys are taken to represent four-fifths, the land use surveys one-fifth, of the entire amount of work.

The average number of workers employed during the half month were: relief, 279; non relief, 24; total, 303. Assisting N.Y.A. workers (see p. 5) are not included in these figures. The number of relief workers is 35 less than for the latter half of March, principally because of the suspension of the traffic survey at Dubuque during almost the entire period.

*By mistake the number of cities in which land use surveys were to be conducted has been given in previous reports as 7 instead of 9.

Traffic and Land Use Surveys,
Urban Zoning and Planning Studies
April 1-15, 1936

City	County	Type of Survey	Date Work Begun	Per Cent* of Work Completed Apr. 1-15	Av. No. Employees, Apr. 1-15	
					Relief	Non-relief
<u>District #1</u>						
Cedar Rapids	Linn	Traffic	Feb. 3	45	39	1
Dubuque**	Dubuque	Traffic	Feb. 3	30	2	
Webster City	Hamilton	Land Use	Feb. 4	50	6	
<u>District #2</u>						
Burlington	Des Moines	Land Use		2		
		Traffic	Jan. 27	40	24	
Keokuk	Lee	Traffic	Jan. 27	40	24	
		Land Use		2		
Clinton	Clinton	Land Use		0		
		Traffic	Feb. 3	40	23	
Ottumwa	Wapello	Land Use		2		
		Traffic	Feb. 3	40	30	1
Muscatine	Muscatine	Land Use	Jan. 27	100	5	
				(Completed Apr. 3)		
Davenport	Scott	Land Use***		0		
		Traffic***	Apr. 8	3	10	
				(3% of survey in 4 cities)		
<u>District #3</u>						
Fort Dodge	Webster	Land Use		2		
		Traffic	Jan. 20	45	24	
<u>District #4</u>						
Marshalltown	Marshall	Land Use		2		
		Traffic	Jan. 15	45	26	
Des Moines	Polk	Land Use***		4	} 40	4
		Traffic***	Jan. 27	17		
				(4 & 17% of survey in 5 cities)		
Ames	Story	(Head-quarters)	Jan. 8		1	17
<u>District #5</u>						
Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie	Land Use		0		
		Traffic	Jan. 29	40	25	1
Approximate per cent completed to Apr. 15, including field work, tabulations and analyses		Traffic Survey, 9 cities		35		
		Land Use Survey, 9 cities		15		
		Total Project, both surveys		31		
Total average number of persons employed - - - - -					279	24

*Not including tabulations and analyses, except as indicated at Des Moines and Davenport.

**Dubuque project was inoperative from Apr. 1 to 12, inclusive.

***Tabulations only.

N. Y. A. Projects
 Supplementary to
Urban Zoning and Planning Studies

Nature of projects: Assisting in W.P.A. traffic surveys carried on by the State Planning Board at Ottumwa, Marshalltown and Fort Dodge and in similar city-sponsored W.P.A. surveys at Davenport and Sioux City.

The Planning Board is sponsor for the 5 N.Y.A. projects represented by the groups of workers here mentioned. At Fort Dodge this phase of relief was begun the first half of April, using 2 workers. At Davenport and Sioux City the men are assigned to the zoning and planning studies for which those cities are sponsors. The relation of the Planning Board to these two projects is that of supplying technical direction. This direction is furnished by the supervisory staff of the project, "Urban Zoning and Planning Studies."

The following table shows the numbers of workers employed, Apr. 1-15.

City	Project No.	Average Number of Workers			
		Relief		Non-Relief	
		Actual	Equip*	Actual	Equip*
Marshalltown	1668-Y3	6	2		
Ottumwa	1810-Y1	18	6	6	2.7
Davenport	1693-Y3	15	5	1	1
Sioux City	1743-Y1	12	4		
Fort Dodge	1725-Y1	2	0.7		
Totals - - -		53	17.7	7	3.7
Total relief and non-relief: Actual-----				60	
				Equivalent* -----21.4	

*Equivalent number is one-third the actual, since all except 2 non-relief supervisors work only 10 hours per week.

Biological Survey,
Project No. 00-85-475

Nature of project: Conservation of wild life by improving lakes and streams, planting game cover, establishing management and nesting areas, etc.

The work of this project during the first half of April consisted of the collecting of aquatic plants, collecting and planting willow cuttings, lake bank filling and riprapping, removal of dead fish, fish rescue work, and improving dry lake beds for game cover and nesting areas.

In Cerro Gordo County, 55,000 willow cuttings have been collected for plantings to protect banks and afford game covers.

In Hancock County the work of riprapping on the banks of Crystal Lake was brought near to completion.

On Apr. 15 the collecting of aquatic plants on Big Wall Lake in Wright County was completed. About 17,000 plants were dug and taken to the lake shore for transportation to the various new artificial lakes. The plants will be transported by CCC camp workers. As soon as the aquatic plant collecting was completed, the men began planting willow cuttings on Big Wall Lake, Cornelia Lake and East Twin Lake, all in Wright County. Approximately 28,000 willow cuttings were brought from Cerro Gordo County for the plantings. Several days were spent also in removing dead fish from Cornelia Lake.

A total of 20 men were employed in these 3 counties, which are in W.P.A. district No. 1. It is expected that work will be begun soon in Winnebago and Worth Counties.

In district 3, the project was in operation in 5 counties; namely, Buena Vista, Dickinson, Clay, Palo Alto and Emmet.

In Buena Vista County 3 men were employed in removing dead fish from the lakes. The fish were hauled away at the rate of 40 tons per day.

In Dickinson County 8 relief men were engaged in removing dead fish and aiding in fish rescue work on several small lakes around Spirit Lake.

The sign painting project continued in Clay County, at Dickens. Some work was done in improving Trumbull Lake also.

In Palo Alto County, 26 men were employed on a lake bank fill and riprapping job on Silver Lake. Small details of these men cleaned up dead fish on Lost Island, Silver and Virgin Lakes. This clean-up work is urgent, since many of the lakes border towns.

Operations were begun in Emmet County on Apr. 9. Here three dry lake beds were being developed as upland game areas. The lake beds are Grass, Birge, and East Swan. As soon as possible, public access will be fenced into Four Mile Lake, and Cheever Lake will be fenced.

In the following table (page 7) the work for the period April 1-15 is summarized.

Biological Survey, Apr. 1-15

Nature of Work	W.P.A. District and County	Lake	No. of Workers	
			Relief	Non-relief Supervisors
Collecting willow cuttings.	<u>District 1</u> Cerro Gordo	(various)	9	} 1
Riprapping lake banks.	Hancock	Crystal	6	
Collecting aquatic plants, on Big Wall Lake. Planting willow cuttings on all three lakes. Removing dead fish from Cornelia Lake.	Wright	Big Wall Cornelia East Twin	5	
Removing dead fish.	<u>District 3</u> Buena Vista	(various)	3	} 3*
Removing dead fish and fish rescue work.	Dickinson	(several small lakes	8	
Sign painting at Dickens. Improving Trumbull Lake.	Clay	Trumbull	7	
Lake bank fill and riprapping on Silver Lake. Removing dead fish on all three lakes.	Palo Alto	Silver Lost Island Virgin	26	
Work begun Apr. 9. Developing dry lake beds for upland game areas.	Emmet	Grass Birge East Swan	9	
Total No. workers - - - - -			73	4*

*Two of these also do supervisory work on the project "Lake and Stream Improvement".

Analysis of Farm Statistics,
Project No. 00-77-2875

Nature of project: Studies based on available farm statistics, involving the distribution of percentages of farm land in various uses, trends in acreage and yields of the major crops, and the effects of various leasing systems on farm practices and on the distribution of income and expense. (For complete description of these studies, see progress report for Feb. 16-29.)

Work on this project to Mar. 31 had been limited to the copying of tenant farm records by 3 relief workers in Ames, due to certain restrictions in regard to the allocation of funds. During the period Apr. 1-15 this restriction was removed and on Apr. 13-15 a tabulating office was established in Des Moines in two rooms of the Old West High School building. By Apr. 15, 29 workers had been assigned to this office. Work was begun Apr. 16 and will be reported in the progress report for Apr. 16-30. It is expected that later assignments will bring the tabulating force in Des Moines to 40 relief workers, while the force in Ames will remain at 3. Three non-relief workers will be used as supervisors.

Dr. R. Schickele, of the Dept. of Agricultural Economics at Iowa State College, is assisting in the study of tenant farm business records.

Establishment of the tabulating office in Des Moines now makes rapid progress in the studies possible.

Lake and Stream Improvement,
Project No. 00-85-484

Nature of project: Surveying state-owned dry lake beds, establishing boundaries, and developing the beds as game refuge and nesting areas. The project as originally planned also included lake soundings and borings and the planning and supervising of improvements on lakes and streams. (For a fuller description, see the report for Mar. 1-15.)

The survey on Mud Lake in Clay County was completed during the first half of April. As stated in the last report, this is a state-owned dry lake bed on which it was necessary to establish boundaries as a preliminary to development by the State Conservation Commission and the Works Progress Administration as a nesting and producing area for upland game.

On Jeferson's Slough, in Dickinson County, the work of surveying and establishing boundary lines was nearly completed.

It is hoped to extend the work of this project to Emmet County soon.

A total of 9 relief workers were employed; 3 in Clay County, 6 in Dickinson. These were under the supervision of an experienced non-relief man.

Public Service,
Project No. 00-85-482

Nature of project: State-wide survey to obtain data to be used in revising or checking township base maps showing roads, electric lines, farmsteads, etc.; completion of tabulation and analysis of data previously obtained on gas, water and electric service. (For more complete description, see below.)

After considerable delay, due to weather and road conditions, this project got under way in several counties in W.P.A. districts 4 and 5 during the period Apr. 1-15.

Before describing the progress of the work to Apr. 15, we wish to give a more complete description of the project than that contained in the brief statement above.

Description of project:

The work involved in this project may be divided into three parts, as follows:

(1) In 63 counties, revision of base maps of all townships, correcting the locations of roads and farmsteads; locating all electric transmission lines, rural distribution power lines and pipe lines; making notations on the apparent condition of each farm and as to whether it has electrical service from a high line or an individual home electric plant, and whether it has telephone service.

(2) In the remaining 36 counties, checking the above information which has been gathered previously for these counties.

(3) Completion of tabulation and analyses of data gathered in a study of gas, water, telephone and electrical services in cities and towns throughout the state.

In 10 counties (Benton, Davis, Fayette, Madison, Mitchell, Scott, Shelby Sioux, Story and Webster) a rural electrification survey was begun originally as a Civil Works Administration project early in 1934. In May, 1934, this project was taken over by the Iowa State Planning Board and the work was extended to 6 other counties (Boone, Dallas, Greene, Hamilton, Marshall, Plymouth). This early survey obtained only part of the data required in the present survey and some of the data obtained must be verified. The survey will therefore cover these counties as well as 47 others, a total of 63.

The remaining 36 counties were completed by the Planning Board survey of 1934 and 1935. In these counties the present survey will briefly spot-check the previous work but will not repeat the survey except in those areas where it may be found that the field workers did not do reasonably accurate work.

The completion of this project (parts 1 and 2), under W.P.A. will provide accurate base maps of the state. These are valuable to many industries and agencies. No correct base maps of Iowa are available except for those 36 counties covered by the previous Planning Board survey, maps for these 36 being subject to possible revision in some cases. Among the organizations and individuals to which accurate base maps will be valuable and the uses to which they may be put are the following: the U.S. Government, in connection with censuses, proposed developmental and conservational programs, etc.; County Agents; rural electrification committees, in setting up local projects under the provisions of the Rural Electrification Administration; the Iowa State Planning Board and other research organizations, as a basis for future surveys and studies; County Engineers; utility companies, in connection with expansion, development, etc.; the Iowa State Board of Assessment and Review.

The results of the tabulations and analyses under part (3) will be valuable in that they will include pertinent facts concerning public service operating efficiencies in Iowa. These will be used by the Planning Board as a basis for

the formulating of possible solutions of the particular problems involved in the betterment of public service in our state. All of the data for these studies have already been obtained.

The field work will be done by thoroughly trained relief workers who make first-hand observations of the electric lines, farmsteads, etc., in each township.

Progress, Apr. 1 - 15:

Field work in connection with the revision and checking of township base maps was begun in W.P.A. districts 4 and 5 during the period Apr. 1-15. The starting dates were as follows:

<u>District 4</u>		<u>District 5</u>	
Polk	Apr. 1	Pottawattamie	Apr. 9
Clarke	" 6	Shelby	" 13
Decatur	" 6		
Wayne	" 6		
Warren	" 10		
Lucas	" 10		
Monroe	" 13		
Appanoose	" 13		

There were 19 relief workers and 1 non-relief supervisor employed in the 8 counties in district 4, working in 13 townships. In district 5, 6 relief workers and 1 non-relief supervisor were employed, in 5 townships. For all counties the totals were: relief workers, 25, average for entire half-month period 14; non-relief supervisors, 2.

Population and Social Trends,
Project No. 00-85-478

This project received final approval in Washington on Mar. 14. Work was begun in Dubuque on Apr. 2, where a tabulating office was established. On Apr. 15, the work as a whole was approximately 10% complete.

The number of relief workers varied from 21 to 45, with a daily average for the half-month period of 29.7.

We now wish to describe the project more completely than has been done heretofore.

Description of Project: The purposes of the project are: study(1): to provide information regarding the characteristics and means of support of the aged population in Iowa and to determine the approximate number who are, and will in the future be, eligible for old age assistance; study(2): to estimate the legislative requirements of the state regarding unemployment compensation, and to present a picture of employment and unemployment conditions in Iowa.

The field work for these studies was completed by the Planning Board under the Iowa Emergency Relief Administration in the period May, 1934, to Nov., 1935. The present project under the Works Progress Administration consists of the tabulation and statistical analysis of the data obtained. In study (1) approximately 23,000 schedules containing data collected in 29 representative counties are on hand; in study (2) there are approximately 40,000 schedules, from 30 counties.

Individuals more than 65 years of age are included in the study of the aged population. The results of the study will furnish a basis on which to estimate the legislative requirements of the state regarding old age assistance and benefits and will provide information regarding the characteristics and means of support of the aged.

The study of unemployment will provide information on which to base legislation on unemployment insurance, eliminating the need for guessing as to the effects of the legislation.

Obviously the results of both studies will be useful in other ways besides those we have mentioned. Attention is being focused more and more on the social and economic needs of the people. The studies which will be made in these fields will of necessity be based upon accurate statistical data such as those which this project will furnish, if they are to be reliable.

The work of tabulation and analysis will be done in Iowa City and in Dubuque.

Approved Projects, Not Yet Operative

In our last report, five approved projects were not yet in operation. During the first half of April, two of these, "Public Service" and "Population and Social Trends", were begun, as has been stated in the sections with these headings. The status of each of the other three is as follows:

Transportation,
Project No. 00-00-2967

The date at which this survey will be started is uncertain.

Recreation and Historic,
Project No. 00-85-483

On April 14, a requisition for materials, supplies and tools for the wood-working shop in Dubuque was submitted. It is expected that these will be received in two or three weeks, so that the work can start within about a month.

In this shop, it is planned to construct 150 substantial wooden markers in the first two months of work. These will mark recreational and historic sites throughout the state.

The other work included in this project is mentioned in the progress report for Mar. 16-31, p. 8. It is probable that the exploration of some Indian mounds in the northeastern part of the state will be undertaken soon.

Highway Traffic Accident Survey,
Project No. 00-00-3117

The beginning of this survey has been postponed beyond the month of April.

Projects on Which Approval is Pending

Final approval of W.P.A. on the projects "Public Education" and "Survey of Public Health Resources" had not been received up to Apr. 15.

Projects Under Technical Guidance of Planning Board

The supervisors of the Planning Board survey, "Urban Zoning and Planning Studies," continued their supervision of the W.P.A. city planning surveys sponsored by Sioux City and Davenport. The progress of each to Apr. 15, with employment data, is as follows (per cents completion are approximate only):

City Planning Surveys and Studies,
Project No. 2-82-1001
(Sponsor, city of Davenport)

Traffic survey: Per cent completion Apr. 15, 30.
Land Use survey: " " " " " , 5.
No. of employees, both surveys:
32 W.P.A. and 15 N.Y.A. relief workers.
1 " " 1 " non-relief supervisors.
Total, 49.

City Planning Surveys and Studies,
Project No. 3-97-956
(Sponsor, city of Sioux City)

Traffic survey: Per cent completion Apr. 15, 20.
Land Use survey: " " " " " , 5.
No. of employees:
42 W.P.A. and 12 N.Y.A. relief workers.
2 W.P.A. non-relief supervisors.
Total, 56.

Federal Writers' Project

The work of the Federal Writers' Project in Iowa was begun in November, 1935, under the sponsorship of the Works Progress Administration. The primary purpose of the project is to compile state and regional guide books containing information on all the more interesting and important features in each area.

The Iowa State Planning Board has cooperated in this work by furnishing a considerable amount of information and by preparing a section on canoe trails of the state. P. H. Elwood, National Resources Committee Consultant to the Planning Board, and R. H. Matson, Director, are members of the advisory board.

Up to April 15, the Iowa writers had completed the introductory essays and had transmitted them to the national office in Washington. These essays are on the history of the state, its boundaries, climate, people, social institutions, geology, economic geography, archaeology, historic sites, etc. Together they will constitute about one-third the total guide book. The writers are now working on the description of tours extending across the state. Maps will be made showing these tours. Members of the Planning Board staff did some work on canoe trails during the first part of April.

Approximately 140 relief workers and several non-relief supervisors are employed. They are located in 22 cities and towns.

Summary

During the first half of April, the Iowa State Planning Board conducted seven W.P.A. projects, two of them conservational and non-statistical in nature, the other five statistical surveys and studies. The latter will furnish information of basic importance to future developments in several fields. Two of these projects were begun during this period.

Five groups of workers furnished by the National Youth Administration were used on the traffic surveys in five cities.

These projects furnished a large amount of relief labor, with the necessary amount of non-relief supervision. The numbers of employees were as follows:

Project	Average No. of Workers Employed		
	Relief	Non-Relief	Total
Business and Industry	194	16	210
Urban Zoning & Planning Studies	279	24	303
5 N.Y.A. Projects	18*	4*	22*
Analysis of Farm Statistics	3	1	4
Biological Survey	73	4	77
Lake & Stream Improvement	9	1	10
Public Service	14	2	16
Population and Social Trends	30	1	31
Totals - - - - -	620	53	673

*Equivalent number of full-time workers.

The total number of relief workers (620) was 16 larger than for the preceding half month, while the number of non-relief workers was increased by 6.

Three additional projects have the approval of W.P.A. and will be begun as soon as possible, while final approval is pending on two surveys in the fields of education and public health.

Technical supervision of two W.P.A. urban planning surveys was continued. These surveys are at Sioux City and Davenport and are under the sponsorship of the respective cities.

The Planning Board continued to cooperate with the Federal Writers' Project.

George E. Davis,
Statistical Coordinator.

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