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GLENWOOD IOWA

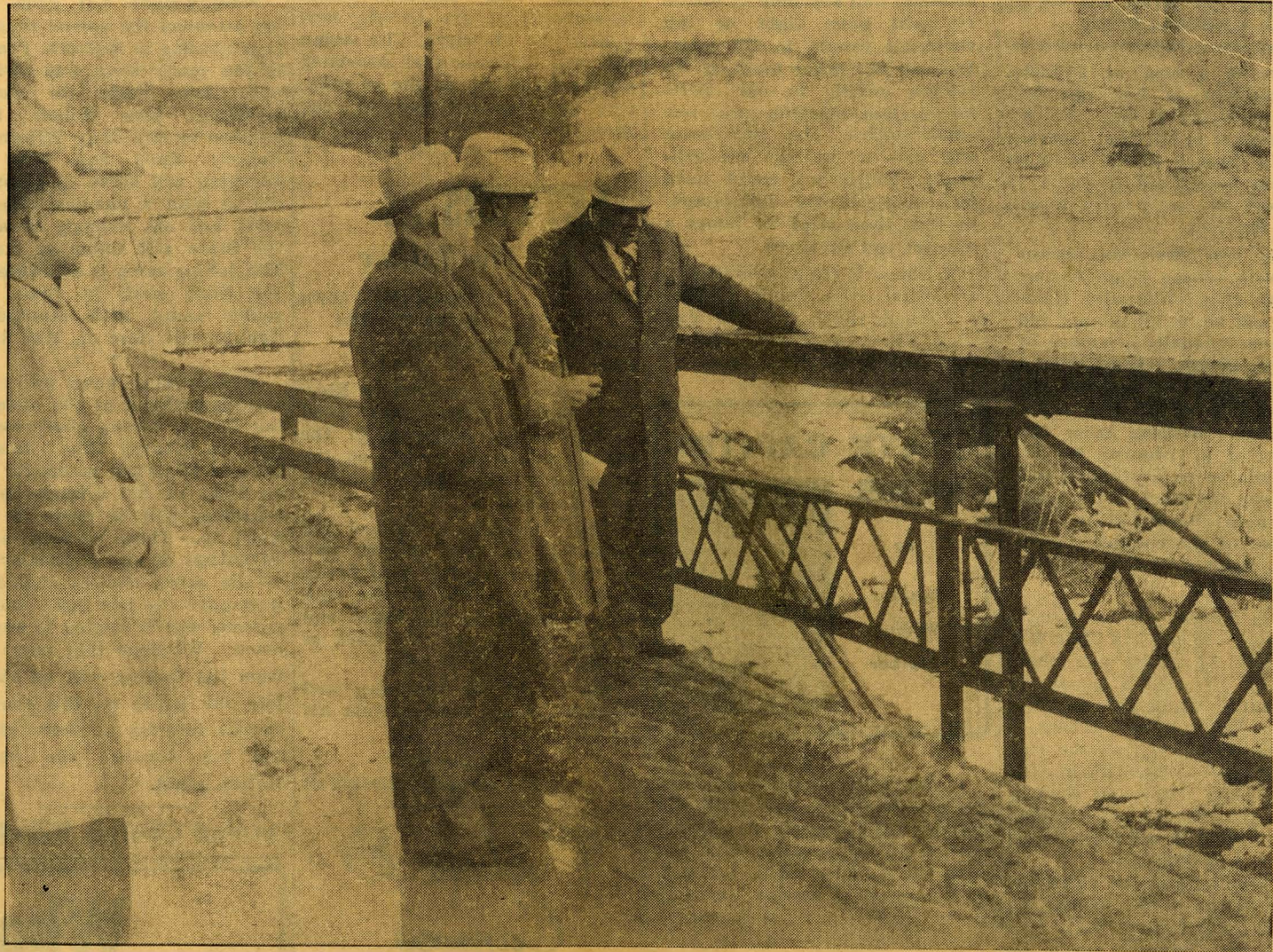
GLENWOOD OPINION - TRIBUNE

Mills County's COUNTY SEAT Newspaper

OFFICIAL COUNTY NEWSPAPER — GLENWOOD, IOWA

THURSDAY, M

d Gets Sasser's Resign



Donald Williams, head of the United States Soil Conservation Service, toured the Pony Creek Watershed area preceding a speech in Glenwood Monday. He said there is no doubt the project is needed, but that local leaders should look for means of improving the "cost-benefit ratio" to justify the expenditure.

From left to right, on a Pony Creek bridge from which the beginning of the basin can be seen in the background, are: Dick France, county conservationist; Mr. Williams; Ray Jones, conservationist; and Dennis Downing, chairman of the watershed board. O-T Photo

"Cities, Highways Take Too Much Farm Land"

Local action should be initiated to prevent the nation's best farm land from being gobbled up, the national head of the Soil Conservation Service warned in Glenwood Monday.

Donald A. Williams flew here from Washington D. C., to address the Chamber of Commerce's annual Rural-Urban banquet at the West Elementary School. More than 200 business men and their farmer guests attended.

Mr Williams said that 1,250,000 acres of the best agricultural land in the nation are now being lost each year to highways, military installations, airports, city and industrial growth. This compares with about 400,000 acres lost annually through soil erosion.

"The most conservative estimates say our population will be 370 million in 50 years. Even with accelerated research in productivity we will still need all of our present farm land and more too to maintain our present standard of living for that population," Mr Williams said.

Besides taking land directly for non-farm purposes, more farm land is lost because farm-

ers cannot afford to pay increased taxes when industrial projects surround them and raise valuations. Mr Williams called for zoning of agricultural land, saying less productive land could just as well be used for non-farm operations. Action for this type of legislation should start from the local level, as do watershed programs. "It is not proper for the federal government to regulate local roads and zoning."

One obstacle, he said, is that "people are for soil conservation just like they are against sin." They talk much, but do not act.

Special guests at the dinner were the board of directors of the Mills County Soils District, and the Pony Creek Watershed Association. Many soil conservation officials from surrounding counties also attended so they could "meet the boss". Glen McGee, presided at the meeting, and the speaker was introduced by Ray Jones, the county's "Mr Soil Conservation". Neil McPherson and Mary Evelyn Murphy led group singing. Dinner was served by the Methodist ladies.