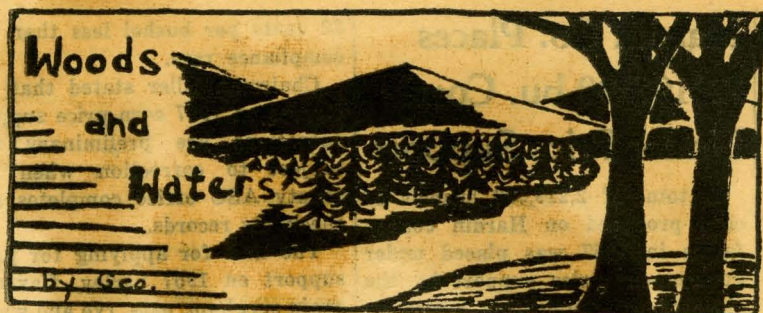




Heavy losses of soil were observed in the flood area in western Iowa, Frank Mendell, state conservationist for the soil conservation, said Thursday. "This loss may be looked on as more significant than the loss to buildings, roads, etc., since they can be replaced in a relatively short time", he said.

Mendell reported that the terraces and soil conservation structures in the area had withstood the storm and heavy rains in good shape. They observed conservation practices on many farms and even in the areas of heaviest rainfall they did not see a single terrace or structure that had failed or appeared to be damaged. On unprotected fields, serious loss of soil was evident, whereas comparable fields protected with contouring and terracing and waterways showed no apparent damage. Terraces which had been built for some time functioned somewhat better than those built within the last year. Mendell said that the water was standing in the latter 12 hours after the heaviest rainfall while water had soaked into the soil in the older terraces.

Mendell said after viewing the results of heavy rains and floods there was clear indication of the damage that can result "if we do not have the land under good conservation and flood control measures designed and installed to cope with this force".

How long can we afford to abuse this land that everyone of us must depend on for existence? Everything that we have ever had, have now or will have has in some manner came from the good earth. We must practice conservation NOW to save all of the precious topsoil that we still have. President Eisenhower stated in a recent report that the U.S.A. had already lost 1/3 of its topsoil, and we should consider that we are the youngest nation in the world. It is commonly estimated that nature may normally take as much as 500 years to build an inch of topsoil. This topsoil is one of the keys to man's existence on earth.

At least three billion tons of solid soil materials are washed out of the fields and pastures of the United States EACH YEAR by water erosion alone. It has been figured that to move such a bulk of American soil on rails would take a train of freight cars 475,000 miles long — long enough to girdle the planet 18 times at the equator. Every year the midwest contributes tons and tons of soil to the Mississippi Delta. As stewards of the soil it is our duty to stop

this abuse and take the necessary steps to protect the soil.