

TWENTY-SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Des Moines County, Iowa

Soil Conservation District



HIGHLIGHTING ENVIRONMENTAL

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

1972

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wildlife.**

Activities - 1972

The fiscal and calendar years of 1972 were busy ones for the district and marked with considerable advancement. Our statistical report will tell the accomplishments on the land, but only a review of activities can tell the impact of the district on the community.

People

Personnel has been rapidly changing the past year. The greatest change has come with the retirement of Mildred Kleinkopf after 15 years of greeting office visitors, keeping books, typing conservation plans and putting up with a variety of conservationists and district commissioners. The staff is pleased to have Mildred visit from time to time keeping us posted on her golf or bowling progress. Though now a lady of leisure, she's as busy as ever.

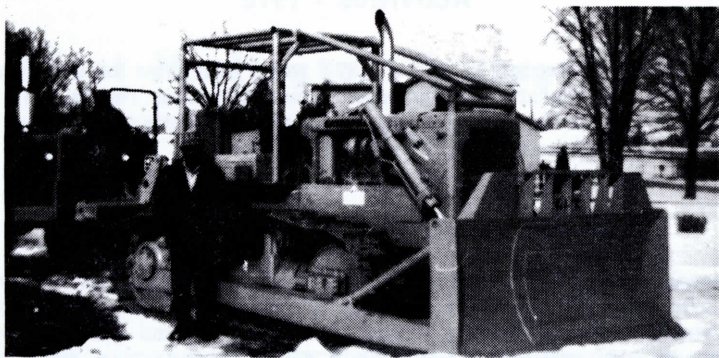
Dorothy Davis joined the staff in April as district clerk and very quickly picked up the duties of that position. Most cooperators have met her during the year as they have visited the office and she has proven to be an excellent secretary.

Dennis Stucker worked in the district as a student trainee until the fall quarter started at Iowa State. The summer of 1972 he spent in the area engineering office at Fairfield.

For six months in early 1972 Richard Brown of Burlington assisted as a conservation aid. Rich helped greatly in the spring rush of survey and design work.



Harry Bryant and Chairman Rex Trout enjoy a hearty laugh with Mildred Kleinkopf as they reminisce at the annual Awards Banquet. Mildred seems happy at prospects of wintering in the South.



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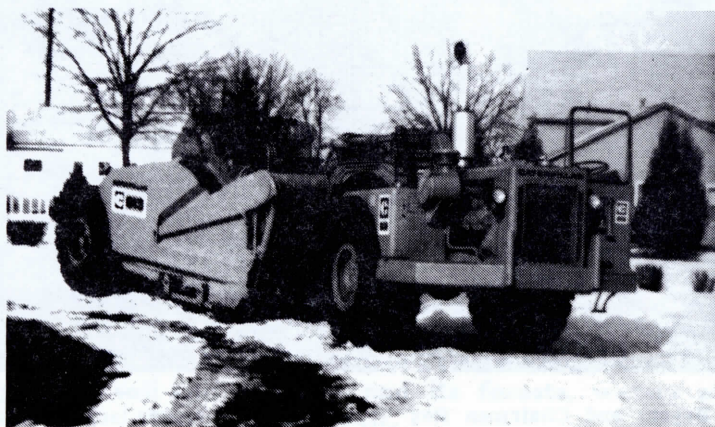
●Pull Scraper

●Road Grader

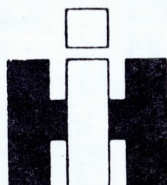
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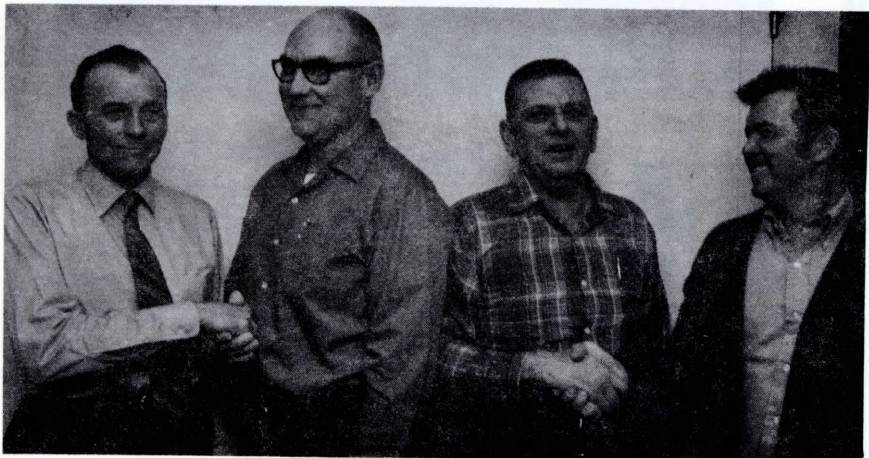
Soil Conservationist Winston Cooper continues to add to his training. During the year he attended a week long training session at the SCS employee development unit, and has attended numerous area training sessions.

The regular staff, district conservationist Ralph Dewey and Technician Oren Champ continue to carry out the mission of the district. Ralph also attended a conference on Resource Planning and Development at Lincoln in May.

There have been a few changes in district commissioners as well.

At the biennial election in February Dwight Stucker of New London and Carl Shumaker of Danville were elected to six year terms as Henry Dockendorff retired as chairman.

After Albert Schulz resigned due to injuries and health problems, Bill Vierling of Mediapolis was appointed to carry out his term until next election.



The OLD greet the NEW. Newly elected commissioners Carl Shumaker of Danville and Dwight Stucker of New London are welcomed by retiring chairman Henry Dockendorff and new chairman Rex Troute.



Chairman Rex Troute retires the gavel by presenting it to past chairman Henry Dockendorff as the leadership changes on the district board.



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In Memory Of Conservation Leaders

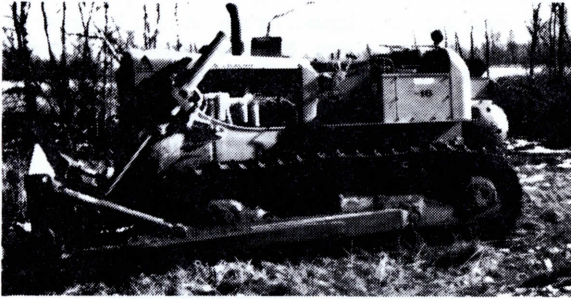
December 7, 1972, marked the end of a career and the life of Surrell S. Barton. Surrell was always ready to travel to meetings, head up committees, and always to go the second mile for soil conservation. A real believer in conservation, he was also a doer, for his farm has been outstanding in soil stewardship. His friendly manner and leadership will be missed greatly.



The very sudden death of John Welter, director of the Des Moines County Conservation Board, took away another good friend of soil and water conservation, particularly in the watershed above the proposed Franklin Township Lake.

We welcome Gary Peterson as Welter's successor. He is carrying on a vigorous program to keep silt out of the lake, and the district is happy to have a share in planning.

L.M. Whipple



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More About People

Our outstanding conservation teachers, Sherman Lundy and Ruth Mertens continue to lead the crusade for better conservation education in our schools. Both have attended workshops at Luther, Iowa, and in October Lundy attended a midwest conference at Camp EWALU near Independence.

Efforts of our Environmental Conservation Education Council to get local training for teachers in Southeast Iowa have culminated in plans to hold one session of the 1973 Teachers Conservation Camp at Burlington.

The Burlington School Administration has recognized the need to develop teacher training in environment. Jon Frischkorn, Salter School principal and his staff have been carrying out pilot projects in this field, trying to find the answers that other teachers can use.

Hunt Woods and Crapo Park have become outdoor classrooms for local youngsters. Groups from Mediapolis have use of these facilities as well. We hope to develop further outdoor classrooms in each community for study and use by schools.

Front Cover Photo Caption

Members of the Environmental Conservation Education Council presented this display (see cover photo) at Veterans Auditorium in April as a part of Earth Day activities. Chairman Sherman Lundy stands between Mrs. Ruth Mertens and Howard Bailey.

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The District Works With Citles On Their Land Use Problems

Throughout the year district officials have met with various representatives of the City of Burlington to help developing land use plans and ordinances to protect resources.



Burlington Mayor Wayne Hogberg visits with members of the city planning commission after hearing the "District Story" at a joint meeting in June. Mrs. Arlene Vikdal, and Mrs. Elaine Baxter join with commission secretary Mrs. Gloria Kemp.

The Soil Conservation District Program, newly revised and adopted in 1972, gets a thorough review with planning commissioners and staff at our April meeting.

Commissioners S. S. Barton and Rex Troute review the district program with commission secretary Gloria Kemp and City Planner George Howell.



A couple of years ago, the City of Burlington and Des Moines County joined in the operation of a sanitary landfill at the County Farm. The district provided needed land use information and soil interpretations for this project, which has turned out to be one of the best operated landfills in the state.



Members of Des Moines County Rural Development Committee visit with landfill manager Howard Gulick about operation of the Sanitary Landfill at the county home. This project has done much for environmental improvement in the area.



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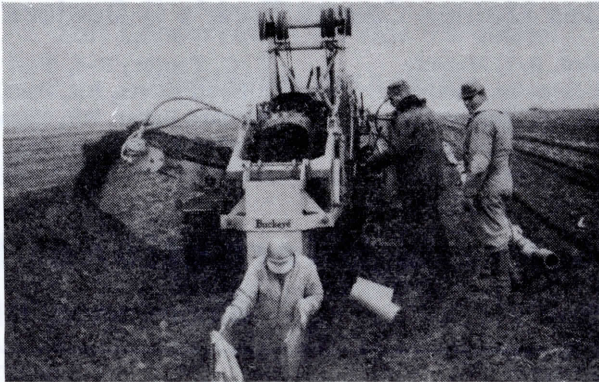


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Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

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District And SCS Staff

DES MOINES COUNTY SCD PERSONNEL

Rex H. Troute, Burlington	Chairman
William Vierling, Mediapolis	Commissioner
S. S. Barton, Mediapolis	Commissioner
Albert Schulz, Burlington (retired March 1972)	Commissioner
Dwight Stucker, New London	Commissioner
Carl Shumaker, Danville	Commissioner
Harold Linder, Sperry	District Secretary
Horace Sutton, Burlington	District Treasurer
Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf (retired April 1972)	District Clerk
Mrs. Dorothy Davis	District Clerk

Soil Conservation Service Personnel

BURLINGTON FIELD OFFICE

Ralph E. Dewey	District Conservationist
Winston Cooper	Soil Conservationist
Oren Champ	Conservation Technician
Richard Brown	Conservation Technician (part time)

AREA SIX STAFF

John Eckes	Area Conservationist
Margaret Dickey	Area Clerk
L. Dale Lockridge	Area Soil Scientist
Jim Seaholm	Area Soil Scientist
Charles Kiepe	Soil Scientist
Tom Brown	Area Engineer
Stan Simmons	Engineer Technician



District Commissioners: William Vierling, Rex Troute, S. S. Barton, Dwight Stucker and Carl Shumaker.

District Accomplishments - Fiscal 1972

<u>PRACTICE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
New Cooperators	No.	64
Basic Conservation Plans	No.	49
Revised Conservation Plans	No.	13
Farms Serviced	No.	493
Farms Applying Practices	No.	366
Group Conservation Jobs	No.	17

APPLICATION OF PRACTICES

Conservation Cropping Systems	Acres	5,059
Contour Farming	Acres	924
Crop Residue Management	Acres	12,183
Diversions	L. F.	4,477
Farm Ponds	No.	27
Erosion Control Dams	No.	23
Waterways	Acres	33
Pasture Planting	Acres	426
Open Drains	L. F.	31,470
Tile Outlet Terraces	L. F.	103,287
Tile Inlet Terrace Pipes	No.	196
Drainage Tile	L. F.	164,466
Tree Planting	Acres	66
Wildlife Habitat Management	Acres	88
Land Adequately Treated	Acres	5,186

1972 Financial Report

	<u>1-M Budget</u>	<u>2-M Budget</u>
Commissioners Expense	\$330.55	
Office Supplies	148.34	
Printing	42.50	
Prizes for Contest	69.13	
Office Expense	109.87	
Rental for Meeting Hall	15.00	
Clerical & Technical		\$5445.50
Travel		76.64
Equipment		426.20
Release to State	.61	
	<u>\$716.00</u>	<u>\$5948.34</u>

Telephone Calls	740	Demonstrations	1
Office Callers	1,070	News Items	33
		Radio	22

New Cooperators

July 1, 1971 thru June 30, 1972

Walter McCune
J. Milford Hays
Dr. O. L. Dawson
Robert Dodds
Sterling Steffener
Kenneth Lohmann
Caldwell Bros.
Lester Miller (3)
Linton Murphy (2)
William Stouts
Orttie Rocke
Robert D. Bell
K. W. Schmidt
Marvin Bentley
Hartzell Hillyard
Curtis Darbyshire
Eugene Krogmeier
Nealey Bros.
Dale Heater
Robert M. Baird
Mrs. Vicki Maddox
Mrs. Leton Gerdner, Melvin & Charles
Don Schnedler
H. P. Nicholson
City of Burlington
David Stewart
Clarence Fye
Adair Spear
Roger Parrott

Mary Jane Rapp
Dr. Carl Hulen
Mrs. Inez Janssen
Walter Tyner
F. Norman Pilgram
Craig T. Murgula
Dale G. Beckman
Alvin Dockendorff
Iowa Southern Utilities Co.
Christ Episcopal Church
IAAP Tracts (2)
Guy Mills (2)
Virgil Massner
Burlington Golf Club
R. J. Rettenmaier
Gerdner Bros., Melvin & Charles
John C. Patterson
Glen Wischmeier
Leo E. Talbott
Paul Wolkenhauer
Eugene Hudson
John Gingrich
Ronald Beckman
Norman Frank
Harvey J. Heiniger
Lawrence Murphy
Carroll Oberman
Arthur Andries
Harold Hays
Henry Miller

Revisions

July 1, 1971 thru June 30, 1972

Max Anderson
Ed Breuer
IAAP Tracts (11)

Basic Plans

July 1, 1971 thru June 30, 1972

Art Strawhacker
Martin Zachmeyer
H. B. Schroeder
Arthur Corman
Forrest Hunt
Walter Tyner
F. Norman Pilgram
Orville Dawson
Paul Luttenegger
Wilbur Brown
Richard Wiele
IAAP Tracts (2)
Walter A. Duval
Hartzell Hillyard
John Hostetter
Iowa Southern Utilities Co.
Caldwell Bros.
Alvin Dockendorff
Gerald D. Hunt
Winton Metzger
John Weyrick
Daniel Anliker
Kenneth Duke
Eldon Oberman

J. Milford Hays
City of Burlington
J. B. Gingery
Dr. Carl Hulen
Leland Robertson
Orttie Rocke
Craig Murguia
Robert Bell
Everett Schmidt
Linton Murphy
County Conservation Board
James Hightower
James Barr
Glenn Crow
Richard Holt
Earl Mansfield
Iva Zachmeyer
Guy Mills
Roger Parrott
Howard Smith
Mary Jane Rapp
Richard Fye
Robert Gabeline
Don Schnedler



Office staff, from left to right: Winston Cooper, Ralph Dewey, Mrs. Dorothy Davis and Oren Champ.

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Events

The annual contractors meeting was held in January. Changes in programs and criteria for conservation practices were discussed. Our conservation contractors continue to up-grade the quality of their work through exchange of ideas at such meetings.

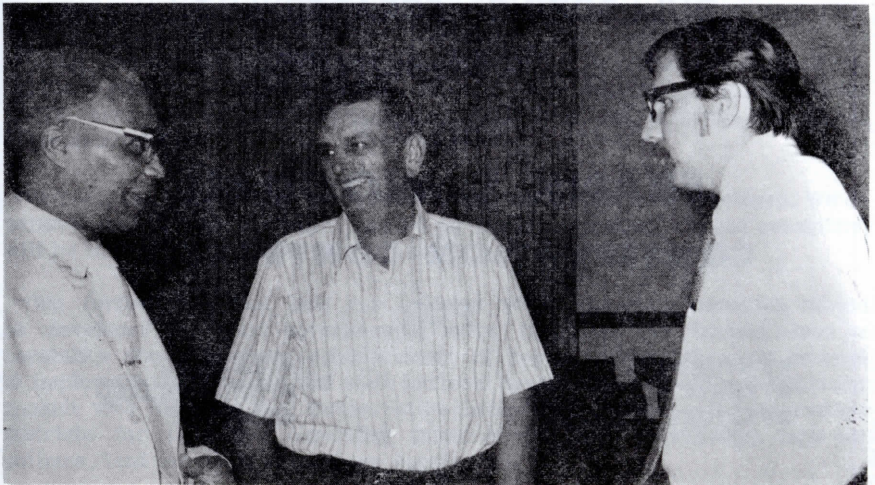
Assistant State Conservationist Howard Hughes attended the area XVI CAMPS meeting in February to explain the Resource Conservation and Development concept (RC&D), (CAMPS is the Cooperative Area Manpower Planning Services, a regional planning group in which USDA is concerned). CAMPS is actively promoting a regional planning commission, which is nearing actuality at years end. RC&D may work hand in hand if developed.

The district helped IAAP develop a plan for creation of ponds for emergency fire fighting water supply at the local installation. This plan also became part of a Woodland Resource plan at the plant.

In April the district met with Burlington's city planning commission to discuss mutual concerns and look toward development of a memorandum of understanding. The slide film set "Consider the Soil First" was shown to the City Council in a similar meeting in June.

The Cedar-Iowa Basin has been under study for a couple of years in an effort to develop some inventories of broad planning needs. A sub-basin of this area is the Flint River and tributaries running to the Mississippi. Because of its compactness, this sub-basin has received concentrated study. On May 24, a hearing was held in Mediapolis to give local people a chance to express their ideas of conservation needs in the watershed.

August became a busy month with the hearing on soil loss limitations highlighting the period. A public hearing established maximum allowable soil losses on all the soils in the county to back up the Conservancy District Law. At the same meeting district chairman Rex Troute joined with Col. Kleis of the IAAP in an updated agreement regarding resource planning on lands at the plant.



District Commissioner Dwight Stucker helps explain district activities to city councilman DeEdwin White, while assistant city planner Fred Stouder looks on.



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New London

Land Use Policy Needed

Commissioners presented the following statement regarding Land Use Policy at a legislative committee hearing in Mt. Pleasant, September 26.

"Since the late 1930's Iowa Soil Conservation Districts have held to the policy of 'using each acre of agricultural land within its capabilities and according to its needs for protection and improvement'. In more recent years (1970 General Assembly) soil districts have taken on greater responsibilities in that they now cover urban lands as well as rural. All land uses, including agriculture, are now our concern.

"We feel, therefore, as commissioners of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District that we are vitally concerned with any proposed land use policy effecting lands in our district.

"Our business has always been concerned with land use. We have developed sound recommendations for control of soil and water losses for each soil type and land use throughout the district. We can adequately advise land users, whether public or private, about problems that might occur from any optional land use. Whether the use be agricultural, industrial, recreation, commercial, housing or other, we can advise a user of the problems of that use and offer him alternatives on which to base his decisions.

"Most of our soils are situated so that they offer a possibility of several uses. Much of our prime cropland could also be used as pasture, woodland, wildlife, recreation, housing developments, industrial sites -- you name it. Many sites unsuited to cropping are suited to several of these alternate uses.

"We feel that any general land use plan must provide for continued protection of high grade agricultural land to maintain a sound basis for continued high production. The inherent crop producing value of our land cannot be replaced by trying to farm lands of less capability.

"Land Use Capability, based on a scientifically prepared standard soil survey, is the basis of all sound land use. The land use capability system has proven itself, over more than thirty years of constant use, to be the best way to determine land use.

"We do not believe that any better classification has been developed. We do believe that a land use policy, based on anything short of land use capability, will be impossible to administer and unfair to the public in general.

"We further feel that land use policies within the same guidelines should be developed for local governmental units; that land use planning based on capability should precede establishment of regulations which might be used to implement the plan; and that state and local governments should mandatorially consult with the State Soil Conservation Committee and local soil conservation districts for land use capability information before establishing land use policies, land use plans or land use regulations."

Agriculture will have a great deal of difficulty in the future to protect the soil resource if we do not come up with some sort of sound policy soon.



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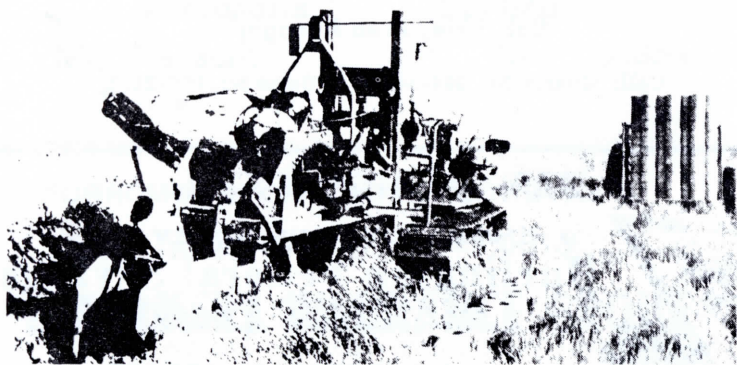
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523-8180

Although construction of the lake in Franklin Township is still somewhere in the future, the district is concerned with preventing sediment from entering it. Conservation plans are being developed in the watershed to prevent excessive silt. A meeting was held in the Fall to discuss silt problems with people in the watershed.

Winners in our annual conservation awards program, co-sponsored with the Des Moines Register & Tribune were honored at the Annual Banquet in November. These included Marcella and Dave Noss, Verner Amenell and C. L. and Ray Pilling all of Mediapolis.

Pillings were regional winners receiving additional awards.

The district takes this opportunity to thank the many friends of conservation who have helped make our program a success in 1972.



Plaques and certificates were awarded outstanding conservation farmers at the November Awards Dinner. Sharing in the honors were Mr. and Mrs. Dave Noss, Mr. and Mrs. Verner Amenell, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Pilling and Ray Pilling, all of Mediapolis.

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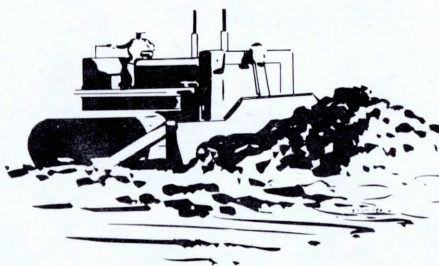
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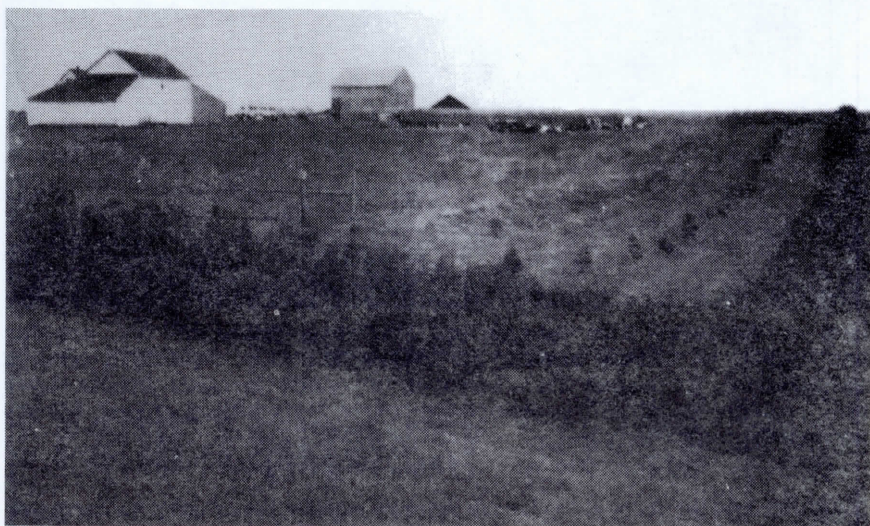
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Commissioner Carl Shumaker has a good start on his windbreak plantation. The honeysuckle hedge already provides an excellent snowfence to protect his lots after only two years, and small pine trees will soon begin to lift the wind away from the building areas. Many old windbreaks in the county are in need of re-establishment.

MEDIAPOLIS SAVINGS BANK

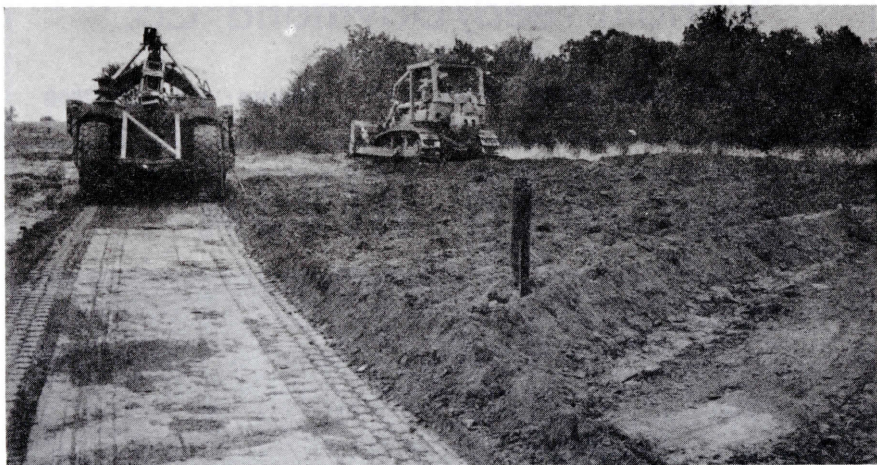
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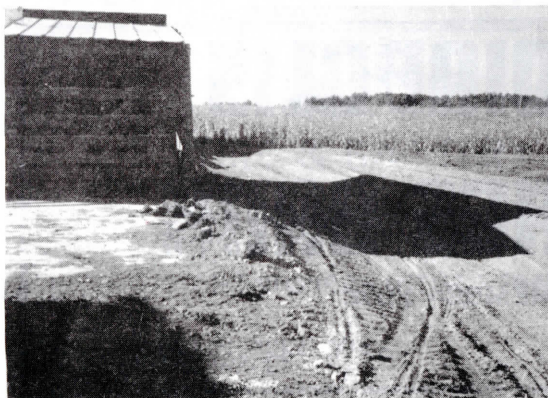
Terracing Continues As A Big Help In Pollution Control

Nearly twenty more miles of tile outlet terraces featured the conservation work in 1972, as Des Moines District continues to be a leader in this practice. These terraces provide nearly complete erosion control for more than a thousand acres of highly productive cropland. This also reduces the downstream sediment problem by as much as ten to twenty thousand tons per year.



South of Burlington Vine Gehring and Ed Breuer joined with their neighbor Rex Troute to remove several old ditches and make about eighty acres of top farmland by mutual installation of tile outlet terraces. Plastic risers have replaced some of the older style inlets at much cheaper cost, and are quite successful in many places.

Pollution control from feedlots has offered another opportunity for terracing to become effective. As a diversion to carry barnlot runoff safely to a settling pond, this practice was used extensively at the Robert Rehmke farm near Pleasant Grove. Solid wastes are allowed to settle in the channel, where they can be removed for hauling to fields. Rehmke has eliminated almost 100 percent of the hazard from his feeding operation.



Shadows from a crib emphasize the channel of a newly built diversion terrace designed to safely remove animal wastes from a feedlot.

Streambank Erosion Remains A Problem In This Area



A typical problem along Flint River shows how the river has eaten into the bank more than two hundred feet in the past fifteen years. A part of the Cedar-Iowa Basin study will show how many hundreds of miles of this problem need to be treated in order to control more erosion.

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We Are Still In Business

Late in December, agriculture began receiving a series of shock treatments as the U. S. Office of Management and Budget took slashing blows at programs upon which farmers had depended.

REAP - the cost sharing program to help rural land owners apply much needed erosion control practices -- was the first to go. Though not the backbone of the soil conservation district program, REAP had become one of the most effective tools our technical staff had to get conservation on the land.

Through the years, funds used to cost share practices have gone more and more to constructing permanent practices such as terracing and erosion control dams which were parts of long range conservation plans developed by land users. In applying these conservation measures, the land users were greatly benefitting downstream areas by protection from sediment, flooding and pollution.

BUT - land use planning is still the primary job of the district and we are STILL VERY MUCH IN BUSINESS.

We realize that without a cost sharing program, progress may be a little slower, if owners must pay the entire cost of expensive projects themselves. But the need to conserve natural resources is as great as ever. The challenge of "how to do it" merely becomes more complex.

Our planning staff can still provide plans that control erosion and runoff. Perhaps different -- less expensive -- alternatives will be chosen by the land user. But the district still provides the best basis for conservation planning-- a land use capability inventory and expertise in soils and planning.

Now, perhaps more than ever, a good job of conservation planning is needed to assure the best, most effective use of land.

WE ARE STILL AROUND, and prepared to help.



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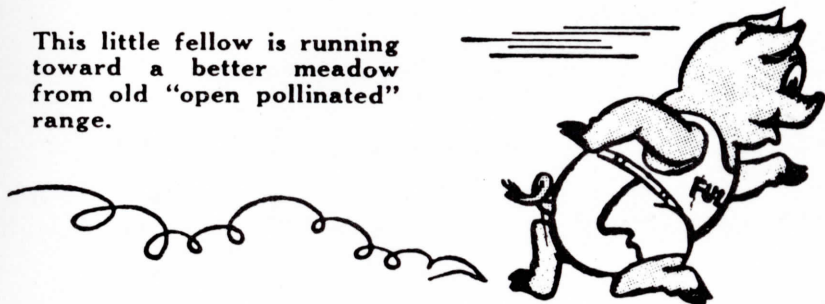
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