

123 Years Of Service
To Ida County

IDA GROVE, IOWA 51445
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1995

Ida County

Pioneer Record

Ida County
Soil Conservation
50th Year
Edition

Conservation's Golden Memories: 1945-1995



Leading The Way

Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners who are leading the way in bringing good conservation practices to the county are, from left, Rodney Jensen of Ida Grove, chairman Robert Croxell of Holstein, Alan Van Houten of Battle Creek, Lloyd Rickers of Kiron and Everett Still of Cushing. They share a moment in front of Moorehead-Pioneer Park Lake. This Friday night the commissioners and personnel at the Natural Resources Conservation Service will join Ida countians at a golden

anniversary banquet, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Skate Palace at Ida Grove, to recognize the district's 50 years. Dale Cochran, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, will be the guest speaker at the event. The banquet will feature a steak and pork dinner grilled by Ida County Cattlemen's Association and the Ida County Pork Producers. The soil and water conservation district became a reality in January 1945 when Ida countians voted 262-25 to create such a district for their county.

Thank You, Land Stewards



The Soil and Water Conservation District would like to recognize and thank all land stewards for the conservation work accomplished over the last 50 years. With your cooperation we've been able to protect the natural resources in Ida County.

Commissioners:

Robert Croxell
Everett Still
Lloyd Rickers
Alan Van Houten
Rodney Jensen



Ida: A Land Of Promise

June 16, 1856, John H. Moorehead and family of four children arrived, and from then on for many years the history of Ida County centers around their home. They came with a three-seated carriage drawn by horses, and two wagons drawn each by two yoke of oxen. With the family came Mrs. Mary A. Good, Mrs. Moorehead's mother; a girl, Mary Mercer, better

known as Mary Bohemia, from her nationality, and three workmen.

As this small caravan came over the hills and down into the valley they beheld a scene of unusual beauty. It was one of those delightful evenings, the unending mantle of green grass was broken only by the Smith cabin and this having a dirt roof planted to bright flowers, was scarcely noticeable

but for the white wood smoke that curled from the stick chimney and carried the odor of cooking to the new arrivals. As they approached the river and the sun sank behind the grove, a drove of deer assembled on the crest of the hills and stamped their feet, impatiently at the invaders.

Great maple trees skirted the river and from their branches in-

numerable and vari-colored birds, half tame, filled the air with their chirps. Wild ducks and geese lazily swam in the river, the water of which was so clear that schools of fish could be seen on the hard, clean sandy bottom.

-- Dr. G. C. Moorehead,
Historical Collections of Ida
County

Timeline Toward Progress

1933: The U.S. Soil Erosion Service was established.

1934-42: Thirty-eight CCC camps were assigned to the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Iowa to assist in erosion control and drainage problems.

1935: The U.S. government replaced the Soil Erosion Service with the Soil Conservation Service.

1937: President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote to state governors encouraging state passage of standard soil district laws. Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace follows with standardized recommendation to be passed by state legislatures.

The first district formed in the U.S. was the Brown Creek district in North Carolina.

1940: The first county-wide district to be formed in Iowa was the Montgomery County Soil Conservation District.

1941: Extension personnel prompted soil conservation by using four farms to demonstrate contouring, crop rotating and liming.

1944: Extension personnel sponsored a terrace demonstration on the Gus Schirmacher farm, Corwin.

Educational meetings were held throughout the county to promote the formation of a conservation district.

1945: On Jan. 13, a county election was held and district formation was approved. Henry Dall of Battle Creek, Edward Perion of Ida Grove and J.B. Scott of Danbury were elected as the first commissioners. They applied to the state of Iowa to be formally recognized.

On Feb. 19, a state certificate of organization was issued to Ida County.

1946: The first three co-

operator agreements approved were Ray Bresnahan, H.H. Boughton and James Stephan.

Work was completed on the development of the Ida County watersheds, which utilized the Little Sioux Flood Plain Programs. Perion was the first watershed to be given priority. There were nine landowners involved.

1947: Kirkholm watershed approved.

Robert Smith of Maple Township, and Carl Huth and Marvin Volkert, both of Douglas Township, received area awards co-sponsored by the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce and the Sioux City Journal-Tribune.

On Aug. 1, the SCS moved into the basement of the post office.

1948: Kirkholm watershed work was approved and started.

1950: A terracing demonstration was held on the Albert Bird farm, Corwin. One mile of terraces were built with 120 persons attending.

1952: The district promoted conservation with a fair booth.

1955: Ten years after organizing, 364 landowners had signed cooperator agreements.

A terrace building contest was in Cherokee County. It was co-sponsored by the district and local implement dealers. Three hundred and fifty persons were in attendance.

1957: The commissioners sponsored conservation bus tours for area clergy and Farm Bureau ladies.

The commissioners sponsored Mrs. Bodholds and Myrtle Brandt to a teachers conservation camp at Spring Brook State Park.

1958: Ida County was featured in the Soil and Water Magazine.

1959: The Ida County district was named an area winner in the Sioux City awards program.

1960: Pleasant Valley watershed priority approved.

A parallel terrace demonstration was on the Bernard Collins farm, Garfield 27.

1964: Quad Valley watershed was approved for construction priority.

An earthen dam was built at Moorehead Park with SCS technical assistance.

1968: On April 30, the commissioners co-sponsored a minimum tillage demonstration on the George Hoffman farm. There also was a harvest demonstration on the Hoffman farm later that year, Logan 32.

In July, a farmer-businessman tour was sponsored. Four busloads toured conservation practices in Ida County.

1970: The district celebrated its 25th anniversary.

1971: The State Soil Conservation Committee toured conservation practices in Ida County.

The number of commissioners increased from three to five. They also were elected during the November general election.

The state legislature passed the Iowa Conservancy Law.

1972: The SCS office moved from the post office to the basement of the Main Street building, and is co-located with the Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA).

The commissioners established the Ida County soil loss limits to comply with the Iowa Conservancy Law.

Ida County clergy were given air tours of the county.

1979: The district contributed \$9,500 to the Conservation Board for the planting of trees in the Crawford Creek Recreational Area.

1980: The Iowa 2000 program was first discussed.

1981: The Ida County Board of Supervisors approved an allocation of \$5,000 for the building of terraces.

The Crawford Creek Recreational Area was dedicated.

The Iowa-till program was approved by the district for the Galva-Schaller watershed.

The SCS office co-located at the current location with the FmHA and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

1982: On May 4, the district co-sponsored a conservation tillage demonstration on the George Hoffman farm, Logan 32.

A high residue cultivator demonstration was on June 8.

The district purchased books on conservation for area libraries.

1983: The district, along with the assessor's office, convinced the county to begin with the comprehensive soil survey process.

The commissioners hosted a Soil Stewardship breakfast for area clergy.

On Sept. 8, the district sponsored a no-till tour of three local farms.

The district promoted the Iowa 2000 program, which would include all farms in Ida County.

1984: The commissioners hosted a luncheon and tour of farms and watersheds for J. Michael Nethery, state

conservationist for Iowa. The "First Acre" ceremony kicked-off the beginning of the soil survey mapping.

1985: The commissioners, along with the conservation board, purchased a tree planter available to all landowners.

The district sponsored air tours for area clergy to promote soil stewardship.

The 1985 Food Security Act was passed by the U.S. Congress, which began many changes in "voluntary conservation."

1986: The first Crop Reserve Program (CRP) contracts were approved by the SCS.

1987: The Ida County Soil Conservation District became the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District.

1988: The district sponsored the "Final Acre" ceremony, which marked the completion of the soil survey mapping.

Grant-Hayes:

A Special Project

Grant-Hayes Special Project refers to an area which was set up in 1967 by the Ida County Soil Conservation District, the Ida County Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) and interested landowners.

The area is a 3,605-acre tributary draining into the Soldier River in Grant and Hayes townships.

The farmers involved were Richard and Irvin Bumann, Clint Rallsback, Roger Cor-

rie, Ray Hargens, Christensen Brothers, Eugene Gosch, Erwin Schug, Hershel Sheer, Floyd Konrad, Russell Wood, Roy Stewart, Gunnar Johnson and Ray Bumann Sr.

During 1967 and 1968, the farmers completed over eight miles of terraces, five concrete grade stabilization structures and extensive waterway work. The waterways involved over 120,000 cubic yards of earthwork, 12,708 feet of five-inch tile, 22,194 feet of six-inch tile, 11,675 feet of eight-inch tile and 3,550 feet of 10-inch tile.

The project was financed by the farmers involved and with cost-share assistance through the Agriculture Conservation Program. The county ASCS Committee first approved the project and then sent it to the state ASCS Committee for their approval and appropriation of funds.

The project represents how cooperation and concern for conservation can get a large project done. Soil conservation officials said the participants, especially the farmers, are to be commended.



CCC Boys

These Civilian Conservation Corps boys laid out contours on the Harry Heilman farm in Battle Township of Ida County in the 1930's. The late Mr. Heilman and the late Ross Baumann were pioneers in Ida County's conservation movement. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt started the CCC.



Outdoor Classroom

Ruth Morrice speaks to Ida Grove students during an outdoor classroom at Moorehead-Pioneer Park. Stan Henderson, principal, joins the students during the annual outdoor classroom at Moorehead-Pioneer Park.

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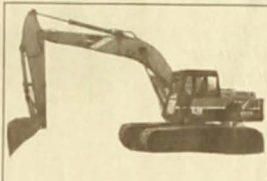


Dredging Duties

In the summer of 1960 Godbersen-Smith Construction Co. of Ida Grove was busy dredging the Odeboldt Creek near the old football field. The fill was to be used at the old fairgrounds, formerly headquartered on the south side of Hwy. 59 & 175 where GOMACO Corp. and Midwest Industries are now located. Godbersen-Smith personnel were unable to identify the two operators of the dredging rig.

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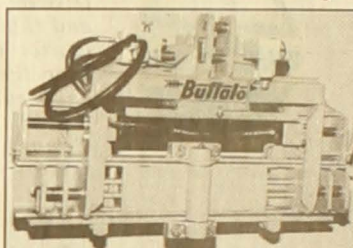
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Neil Stockfleth ...

New District Conservationist Has Tie With County Pioneer

Not only is Ida County celebrating the 50th anniversary of its Soil and Water Conservation District this month, but Neil Stockfleth is nearing the completion of his first year as the District Conservationist.

"I'm happy to be a part of the 50th celebration. There's been a lot of work done, and I think the conservation ethic in Ida County is strong," the 34-year-old conservation leader said.

When Stockfleth became the District Conservationist in April 1994, in some ways he was continuing a family tradition. His great uncle, Hilbert Stockfleth, was a pioneer in Ida County soil conservation. As early as the 1940's, Hilbert was using crop rotation and contouring, and also had constructed some terraces and two dams on his farm.

It was the Stockfleth farm in Garfield Township which was one of the four demonstration soil conservation farms, set up in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service in 1941. Although Neil didn't know his great uncle, he knows the path the pioneer conservationist helped blaze for Ida County is the only way if the land is to be saved.

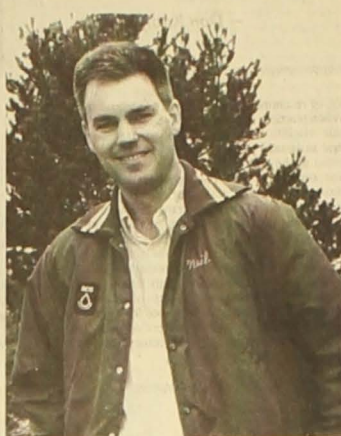
"My family's always been conservation-minded," Neil recalls. "My dad always taught me about conservation. I grew up with it, and I guess that fostered my interest in it."

Ida's District Conservationist grew up on a farm west of Schleswig and graduated from Schleswig High School in 1978. He is the son of Vernon and Marion Stockfleth, who reside in Schleswig.

Stockfleth attended Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, graduating in 1982 with a degree in agricultural business. He was employed as loan officer at Pioneer Bank in Sergeant Bluff from 1982 to 1987.

In September 1987 he began working at the Soil Conservation Service office in Sioux City. He continued that until August of 1989 when he became the supervisor at the field office located in Anthon. He worked in eastern Woodbury County before coming to Ida County.

He and his wife, Beth, the parents of two children, Nathan, 7, and Kristen, 5,



'We've made a lot of progress.

We're celebrating that,

but we've not yet met our goal.'

-- Neil Stockfleth

reside in Sergeant Bluff.

The Soil Conservation Service underwent a name change last fall and became the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), but the mission of helping farmers achieve good conservation remains, Stockfleth said.

"Ida County has a lot of very conservation-conscious farmers. I like the work being done here. For the size of this county a tremendous amount of work gets done. We compete with much larger counties in terms of accomplishments."

Right now, a major conservation effort is continuing in the Little Sioux Watershed where the district is preparing to construct three dams in Douglas Township, Stockfleth noted.

In looking at future goals, the conservationist said he would like to see as much of the current conservation work completed as possible. In addition, his office is working on ideas for a water quality project for agricultural wells. There is support for developing animal waste management systems in the

county.

NRCS also is endorsing the potential for a rural water system. "A good safe water supply is very important. It's been shown that water in this county and others is high in nitrate and high in bacteria," Stockfleth noted.

If there's been any disappointment for Neil in his first year in Ida County, he said it is in the shortfall of funding from the federal government. There is more work needed on projects, he said.

"There's a lot of this county that's highly erodible. To be able to reduce soil loss levels is all to the credit of the farmers -- the credit for 50 years," Stockfleth said, while cautioning that although soil loss levels have been reduced, they are still not down to a sustainable level.

"We've made a lot of progress. We're celebrating that, but we've not yet met our goal."

Stockfleth noted that the trend is toward larger farm operations, and many of the large operators are conservation-conscious. "They're

aware of their stewardship responsibilities."

In looking at changes for the next 50 years, Stockfleth said treatment of the land will become more specific for specific soils, thanks to more advanced technology. The soil survey, for instance, will be able to offer more specific information, he noted.

This Friday night, pioneer conservationist Hilbert Stockfleth's great nephew will be attending the golden anniversary banquet of the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District. But the younger Stockfleth said he will give credit where credit is due -- the district commissioners, the soil conservation staff and always the farmers, farmers just like his great uncle.

"It's a special event for people who've worked in Ida County," the conservation leader said of the 50th year celebration.



The Staff

Working in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help the conservation program run smoothly are, front from left, Neil Stockfleth, district conservationist; Jerry Sindt, soil conservationist; and Randy Sohm, conserva-

tion technician; back row, Carol Thomson, soil conservation aide; Arlis Bahnsen, state secretary; Carl Lee, state conservation technician; Ron Winterhof, soil conservation aide; and Barb Knudsen, soil conservation aide.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Meet The Staff That Serves Ida County

Staffing the office for the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District as the celebration of the district's 50th year approaches are eight employees.

ARLIS BAHNSEN, State Secretary, and husband, John, farm southwest of Schleswig. They have four children: Travis, 25, of Lincoln, Neb.; Brandee Schultz, 22, of Omaha, Neb.; Gina, 20, of Vermillion, S.D.; and Dustin, 17, at home.

She was employed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship in March of 1990.

BARB KNUDSEN, Soil Conservation Aide, and husband, Cordell, farm southeast of Ida Grove.

She began work in September of 1994 and is employed by the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District.

CARL LEE, State Conservation Technician, has been with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the SCS, for nine years, of which the last five have been spent working for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

He and his wife, Gaylene, live south of Battle Creek. They have two children: Traci, 16, and Collin, 13.

JERRY SINDT, Soil Conservationist, has been with the NRCS since 1987, working in the Ida Grove field office.

He and his family live on the Sindt Family Century Farm in Battle Township near Holstein. His family includes his wife, Kathy; a son, Anthony, 21, of Spirit Lake; and daughters, Kimberly, 17, and Paige, 13, at home.

RANDY SOHM, Conservation Technician, and wife, Susie, live northwest of Mapleton. They have three children: Becky, 22, of Iowa City; Kahl and Kristi, 20, of Sioux City; Frank, 15, and Molly, 12, at home.

Sohm was employed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship in January of 1974 and transferred to the NRCS in 1979.

NEIL STOCKFLETH, District Conservationist, and wife, Beth, live in Sergeant Bluff. They have two children: Nathan, 7, and Kristen, 5.

Stockfleth has been employed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) since 1987. He worked in the Sioux City and Anthon field offices before transferring to Ida Grove in April of 1994.

CAROL J. THOMSON, Soil Conservation

Aide, and husband, Terry, live north of Arthur. They have three children: daughters Morgan, 12, Meghan, 11, and a son, Judd, 9. They farm and have a cow-calf operation.

Thomson was employed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), then known as the Soil Conservation Service, in September of 1990.

RON WINTERHOF, Soil Conservation Aide, and wife, Jan, live north of Ida Grove. They have one daughter, Christine Wunschel of Arthur, and one granddaughter and one grandson.

Winterhof was employed by the NRCS in April of 1993.

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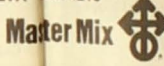
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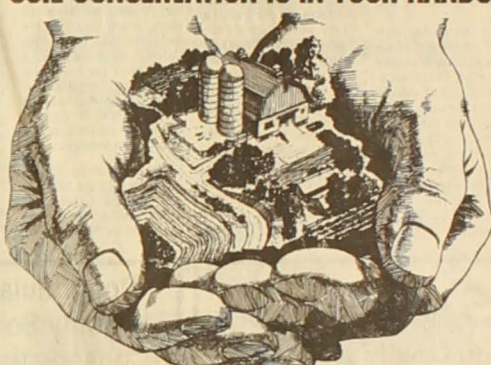
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Golden Memories...

Don Kauffman

(Editor's Note: Don Kauffman of Ida Grove, who served as Ida County District Conservationist from 1968 to 1993, comments on significant occurrences of the past 50 years.)

The Little Sioux Flood Prevention Law was passed by Congress in 1946, almost coincidental to the district's formation in 1945. The first products of that law were Kirkholm and Perion water-sheds east of Ida Grove in 1949.

Godbears-Smith Construction Co. was the contractor. Major funding during the first 25 years of the program was for erosion control structures, either earthen dams or concrete structures. In the early 70's, emphasis in funding shifted from building dams (which were

becoming harder to justify economically) to land treatment in the form of terraces. Funding for terraces from then on gradually increased, affording Ida County farmers an unprecedented opportunity to apply land treatment with government assistance.

During the first 25 years of the district movement, a mix of crop rotations, contouring and a few terraces was the normal conservation plan. As rotations gradually reverted to only corn and soybeans, greater emphasis was placed on terraces to reach adequate treatment.

As terraces gained emphasis, they underwent significant changes in design. Broadbase terraces were common prior to the 70's. These terraces had been designed for two- or four-row equipment, weren't parallel, and became a problem to farm as equipment became

larger.

Within a few years almost all terraces built were "push ups" or grassed backslope design. By building them from the lower side, a flatter, more farmable terrace was created. This was the dominant design for 15 years until they became prohibitively expensive to build. Fortunately, someone conceived the idea of narrow base terraces, a design utilizing the push up principle, still suitable for large farm equipment, but much cheaper to build. Because they cost less than half the cost of grassed backslope terraces, many more miles were able to be built with the available funds and equipment.

Methods of tillage also have made drastic changes during the 50 years of conservation practice in Ida County. At the start, straight row gradually gave way to

contour rows. And tillage was basically "clean." Generous tillage before and after the crop was planted left the ground essentially void of crop residue.

Gradually, however, conservationists learned that crop residues could be very beneficial in controlling erosion. The end result is what we know today as no-till. I'm sure the practice of planting this year's crop in last year's undisturbed residue was the farthest from the minds of our district founders, and only illustrates the point that we are constantly undergoing change. It will be interesting to see what changes occur in the next 25 years!

The conservation movement was based on the voluntary adoption of conservation practices with encouragement and assistance of the

'Throughout my tenure, I have received great satisfaction from working with people who believed it was their responsibility to be good stewards and take care of their land for future generations.'

— Don Kauffman



Don Kauffman

These people served as commissioners of the district and spent many hours of service to their community. The only pay they received was the self-satisfaction they got from knowing they were doing their part to preserve our natural resources. I thank these people for their unselfish and unifying efforts, and consider it a great privilege to have been able to work with them.

Lou Collins: A Secretary Remembers

(Editor's Note: Lou Collins, a long-time employee at the Soil Conservation Service, shares her memories. The Ida Grove resident worked as a secretary in the office from 1966 to 1990.)

In the latter part of November 1966, my friend, Ona Lee Jacobson, told me that Alice Turin was quitting her job at the SCS office and that she (Ona Lee) had put in a good word for me, so I should apply for the job. She said, "Alice really isn't busy, does knitting and reads magazines. (Who wouldn't want a job like that?)"

I needed a full-time job so I did apply and did get the job. I was interviewed by Arnie Patensen, Marvin Volkert and J. Henry Bruck — district commissioners. Alice was getting married to J. Wesley Graham and wanted to leave immediately.

We worked together for a couple of days, and then I was on my own. During the winter months the SCS employees have a lot of training meetings and are gone a lot. So there I was — all by myself. All except for Ona Lee, who was employed by Selective Service and whose office was down the hall from ours.

At that time our office was in the basement of the post office. Kenneth Burnett was the Work Unit Conservationist. Ken had a small office with his desk, chair, mapping table and high stool. In the other office were four desks, all the file cabinets, a table with my manual typewriter and some very thick file books. I had a manual adding machine that didn't subtract. That's all the

equipment I can remember.

Don Goodnow and Dutch Kraft were the technicians. Dutch was born and raised in the Mapleton area, as I was, so he was always pulling something on me. In the summertime I'd get a pretty bouquet of purple thistle flowers. He put a bumble bee in my desk drawer once. It was kind of funny when I opened the drawer and he flew out like lightning. Only LeRoy Dose came into the office about that time, and he was very allergic to bees. So, Dutch felt bad, and I think caught a little heck. I was told Dutch tried to get a turtle once, but there was too much traffic on the highway, so gave up. God only knows where I would have found it. Burnett liked to dictate his farm plans and letters, so I did climb up on this high stool, which was in the corner. I always felt like I was sitting in the dunce's chair. If I didn't understand something about procedure or anything, Ken had a way of explaining it, so you could understand EVERYTHING about the subject. He was a nice boss, and he was very considerate.

In the summer months we had college kids interested in conservation training, so the office was full. At one time we had seven employees and five desks. No one wanted to do my work, so they'd stay clear of my desk. Finally, we got permission to remodel the "coal" room across the hall, and Don Kauffman, who replaced Burnett, and I moved over there. Burnett still worked in the office for a while, but then was transferred to the Anthon Field Office. Ona Lee was still down the hall. Her meeting room was used by the FFA one day a week. The main

'The commissioners do a good job selling conservation with their programs to the youth.'

— Lou Collins

FHA office was located in Denison.

When Ona Lee was on vacation, I would register the 18-year-olds for her. In fact, I registered both my sons. She'd give me the key to her office in case I'd need something, but with strict orders not to let anyone in. Especially no recruiter. Well, one day this military person came in (I thought he was a recruiter), and he asked for Ona Lee's keys. I said she told me not to give her keys to anyone, so no, he couldn't have them. Well, he said, "I'm Colonel so and so and I want her keys. The way he said it, I thought I'd better. But, as soon as he left the office, I flew upstairs to tell Tell. Murphy, postmaster and Selective Service board member. He beat me down the stairs. When Ona Lee got back, she came in and said Colonel so and so said I could leave the keys with Lou any day — they'd be safe. When I told my husband about the deal, he couldn't believe I couldn't tell a colonel from a recruiter.

There was always a lot of confusion with the SCS and ASCS offices. I always explained the ASCS has the funds and we (SCS) did the

work. When I first started I can't remember of any state funds we had for conservation work. The ASCS office was located where they are now. The Extension office was also located there. The ASCS would send their referrals to us in the mail. Our technicians would survey the waterway or whatever work was involved, do the needed paperwork, and most times I would return the paperwork. I did that mostly to see all the "fancy" equipment they had and to talk to the girls.

Our office was a federal office. When I started I think the men were all federal employees. The state of Iowa furnishes every SCS office with a "clerk" (or secretary), which was me. Later, the state also hired conservation aides. The clerk had to answer to a lot of people — the state office in Des Moines, the federal office in Des Moines, the area office in Sioux City, besides everyone in the office. Needless to say, I never even thought about bringing any knitting or magazines — or anything else.

The commissioners were really my bosses. Of all the commissioners I worked for,

there was only one I didn't care for. I knew he tried to get me fired, but the state office shot him down. They said my work was good, complete and on time. It wasn't until after I retired in 1990 that I found out why, over something I wasn't even aware of. I feel the commissioners are dedicated people. They are not salaried and only receive mileage and meal expenses, paid for by the state of Iowa.

The commissioners do have local funds now. The maintenance fund is monies received from maintenance payments from farmers who own a watershed structure on the farm or might have been draining from their farm into the main structure. They pay an initial payment and then a yearly payment for 5 years. This money received can only be used for maintenance repair, etc. in a watershed area. The district had to maintain these structures for years, and that money was in the general fund. That money could be used wherever the commissioners see fit — like office equipment the federal or state don't provide and conservation programs like the art center, outdoor classrooms, fifth grade tree program, fair booth and prizes, etc. The commissioners do a good job selling conservation with their programs to the youth.

Our second office was on Second Street in a new building built for the SCS and FmHA offices. It was good to look out of windows by then I had an electric basic typewriter and a two-part copier machine. Every month a copy of the minutes of the district meeting was required to be sent

to the present commissioners, as well as the past commissioners, state office, area office and then in the "minute" book. It took forever to get the copies ready, as we could only type about three copies at a time using carbon paper. With this used "fancy" copier it probably took a half hour to make 18 copies. The commissioners had bought me a calculator from their general funds. What more could I ask for?

Dutch was still up to his old tricks. He was the eldest in the office and then me, so I felt like the "mom" of the family. We had received Little Sioux funds by now, for terracing (federal funds), so the paperwork increased each year. The state also had funds for conservation work, so paperwork — paperwork! At times, Dutch's tricks were the only fun.

Lots of trainees had come and gone. I think most of them are still with the SCS. I think they all received good training from our office — even from Dutch, who was a good technician.

Our second move or third office is the present one on Taylor Street. It was there that Dutch was forced to retire due to health problems. A few months later he passed away. Dutch had a habit of singing a little song almost every morning. If he didn't, you knew something was wrong. As he entered the office he'd sing, "Good morning to you, good morning to you. We're all in our places with sun shiny faces." As much as he bugged me, I kind of missed his little song.

In this office, the paperwork really increased. We received a lot more Little Sioux funds. The commis-

sioners bought the first computer in our office, along with a printer. Later, the federal government bought more computers for the fellows. About six months before I got a computer, the state had bought me a typewriter with correction tape and a memory. It took 20 years to get one with correction tape. I was so happy with it that I never cared much about the computer.

Unless you've worked for the federal government, you have no idea the amount of paperwork they demand. The state of Iowa isn't too far behind. At one time we were our own post office. Instead of using "franked" mail, we'd have to order in advance, three months of stamps. Only the Air Force and the SCS had to do that. Finally after a year or two, we got a postage meter. Lots of changes!



Lou Collins

I retired in January 1990 because my husband had retired in July 1989. We wanted to travel, and I wanted to do the things I missed out on for 28 years. When I walked out on Jan. 4, 1990, I never looked back. I never missed my work. The people, yes — but not my work. Guess it was time.



Technician

Clarence "Dutch" Kraft is on the job site as a soil conservation technician. The late Mr. Kraft is mentioned many times in Lou Collins' "golden memories" contained in this edition.

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The Past District Commissioners

David Brueck

(Editor's Note: David Brueck of Ida Grove served as an Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District commissioner in 1952. Since that time, he has served in many places of the world.)

between each two rows, and hard rains had a natural soil erosion course every 40 inches across the field on hilly land.

Corn was planted three seeds to a hill so that straight rows could be cultivated for weed control in one

fertility. The two methods of replenishing soil fertility were livestock manure application and rotating with legume crops for nitrogen.

Some people were becoming more concerned about soil losses, and with the corn now being commonly cultivated with tractors instead of horses, corn was drilled instead of planted three to a hill so it could no longer be cross cultivated. In 1940 as an employee of my brother, Henry Brueck, a device was purchased that was attached behind each of the wheels of the cultivating tractor which scraped the dirt into a small pile between each row, such that a small dam was built about every six feet. It was fairly successful but slowed down the cultivating process and subsequent field operations. During this period contour farming began to be tried in Ida County by a few innovators and was found to be very good for control of soil erosion.

Following the intensive farming required during World War II, there was extensive concern over the amount of soil erosion, and government assistance for soil conservation increased rapidly. About the time the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District was formed the Little Sioux Watershed projects were started and progressed rapidly. It was

tributaries flowing into the Little Sioux River, and the first one that I was aware of was completed about 1947 south of Mapleton called the Nepper Watershed Project. These projects consisted of a series of dams with drop inlets on land of the farmers, feeding water into the Little Sioux tributaries. These farmers were required to establish soil conservation practices, including contour farming and terraces.

Henry Brueck became interested in progress being made in soil conservation and quit farming in 1946 to purchase two war surplus bulldozers for building soil conservation structures for farmers. Soon after the Nepper Watershed was constructed near Mapleton, bids were asked for the Kirkholm Watershed, northeast of Ida Grove, north of Hwy. 175 and west of county pavement M25.

Kenneth Burnett was the soil conservation technician for Ida County at that time and was instrumental in moving these projects ahead. Henry Brueck was the earth moving contractor on the Kirkholm Watershed, and Harold Godhersen was the concrete structures contractor. A short time later Henry Brueck also built the Clark Watershed in Cherokee County, east of Quimby. The dams and structures for all of these projects can be

District, I laid out contour strips on terrace interval of 84 feet width, with two parallel strips and one contour adjustment strip down each slope. Each corn or oats strip had an alfalfa strip below it for erosion control, in a six-year rotation. Since phosphate levels are critical to alfalfa yields and the Ida County Farm Bureau had a steady supply of 0-20-0, superphosphate, left from the previous year that hardened like cement, I purchased it for spreading with an E-Z Flow spreader which could grind it for even application.

In 1952, I was appointed Soil Conservation District Commissioner to fill out the term of Henry Dall, my uncle and a charter commissioner, who had died in July of that year.

Much was accomplished in just a few years following World War II to stem the years of soil erosion and fertility loss on Ida County soils. The excellent yields now realized is the result of many people in Ida County that led to the soil protection now in place.

One of the problems is that much of the gain from good soil stewardship is long term, and when farmers are economically pressed they sometimes have to eliminate soil conservation practices if those practices postpone cash returns. Such short term farm planning became prevalent during the 1970's when government farm programs encouraged intensive corn and soybean production while livestock production was becoming relatively less profitable.

Working in foreign countries where farming had been carried on for centuries made me much more aware of the importance of soil conservation in our young country. When we arrived in Shanghai, China, in 1945 and proceeded up the Yangtze River, the water arriving from inland China was a muddy "soup" of soil and water. Occasionally, as a human body came floating by, I thought of the importance of maintaining soil resources that could feed the people.

During the 1970's while working with FMC International and the Northern Trust Bank on Agricultural Development, I developed planning methods in Iran to increase animal protein for human consumption because young people were developing a disease of the brain caused from a lack of animal protein in the diet. The feed supply necessary for milk and meat production had to come from soil that had been abused over the years.

The wealth of a nation and the welfare of its people is closely related to its soil. The Ida County Soil Conservation District has been an important part of that relationship for over 50 years.

George Hartley

(Editor's Note: George N. Hartley of Battle Creek served as Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner from 1977 through 1982. Then he became an assistant commissioner and served through 1986.)

By George Hartley

My first exposure to soil conservation was when I worked briefly for Brueck Construction Co. after I had returned from Army service in World War II. Henry Brueck, the owner, had formed the company for the purpose of doing earth moving for farmers in the construction of small dams, waterways, etc., which represented farmers' earliest attempts at soil conservation.

Henry, in conjunction with Harold Godhersen, had been the successful bidder on the first watershed projects authorized by the Little Sioux Flood Control law passed by Congress in 1946, the Kirkholm and Perion watersheds located northeast of Ida Grove. Henry's interest in soil conservation convinced him that there was a need for terraces on the hilly farms of Ida County, and he became one of the first contractors to own a machine designed primarily for constructing terraces, a small Allis Chalmers elevator grader powered by a four-cylinder gas engine. It was pulled by a two-cylinder John Deere diesel tractor that was used for other purposes in Henry's construction work.

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) at that time was trying to promote terrace construction on hilly farmland to control sheet and gully erosion, which were responsible for annual soil losses in the thousands of tons on western Iowa farms.

The broad base terrace was the design in use by SCS during the early days of terrace construction, and consisted of a level ridge laid out on the contour with slopes on either side of the ridge that were supposed to be

gentle enough to be farmed. Henry's machine was designed to perform the task. Since the entire staff of the Ida County Soil Conservation District consisted of a district conservationist, Kenneth Burnett, and a clerk typist, Gladys Thornhill, it was left to the farmer or contractor to help the district conservationist lay out the terraces. Henry, on occasion, assigned me to the job of

assisting Mr. Burnett in staking out some of the first terraces built in Ida County. Terraces on the Lou Sales farm south of Battle Creek and the Hugh McGuire farm in the Holstein vicinity were some of the early ones built by Henry's machine.

Henry was quite proud of the terraces that Orion Pattison, the operator of his machine, could build, so he welcomed the invitation to take part in a terrace building demonstration held at the Pilot Rock Plowing Match, which was an annual late summer event held south of Cherokee.

However, as terracing became a more common practice, contractors soon learned that the bulldozer was by far the most efficient machine for building terraces, and it quickly became the implement of choice and has remained so ever since.

About 1950 a watershed project was proposed for the East Aldrich Creek northwest of Battle Creek, but unlike earlier Little Sioux projects that had been approved, it was required that a certain number of miles of terraces had to be built within the project boundaries before construction of stabilization



George Hartley

PAST COMMISSIONERS - Continued On Page 8



David Brueck

The Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District was organized at a time when concerns were increasing about soil erosion in Ida County. When Ida County was settled during the latter part of the last century, farmers were breaking up prairie sod which had built up organic matter from grass growing for hundreds of years. After plowing, this soil remained like a sponge, absorbing rain as it fell even from intense storms. Farmers rotated crops so that corn was not often planted where corn had been planted in the previous year on some fields, and with a rotation including oats, hay and pasture some organic matter was replenished before the next corn crop, in some cases.

However, tillage with horses was difficult, and a common practice during this early period was to take the cornstalks from the previous year's corn into windrows and burn them in the spring so the light disks and plows of that period could better till the soil for planting. This destroyed the organic matter that could be added back to the soil, and over the years it became hard and less absorbent. When hard rains fell erosion increased, and more soil began to be washed into streams as ditches formed in the fields. With mechanical corn planters a "good" farmer was one who could plant straight rows over the hill since most fields were laid out in rectangles. With this practice a ditch was formed

direction, then cultivated the next time across the fields, 90 degrees from the previous direction. This allowed erosion to take place in different directions during the growing season, one direction probably more than the other, depending on the steepness and length of slope each way.

By the 1930's, the Loess (wind blown) soil in Ida County had lost much of its organic matter and ability to absorb rains. In 1930 and 1931 I can remember swimming and fishing in the Maple River and being able to see bottom in clear, clean water between rains. Later in that decade the water in rivers began to continually stay murky, and rarely one could see the bottom. People were also becoming much more conscious of the loss in soil

direction, then cultivated the next time across the fields, 90 degrees from the previous direction. This allowed erosion to take place in different directions during the growing season, one direction probably more than the other, depending on the steepness and length of slope each way.

'The wealth of a nation and the welfare of its people is closely related to its soil.'

-- David Brueck

recognized that the whole drainage area needed to be engineered for best results in stopping soil losses.

These projects were designed to control water flow and thus soil erosion on the

open at these locations today 40 plus years after they were built.

During the years immediately following World War II, the Greater Sioux City Area Chamber of Commerce became interested in promoting soil conservation and gave annual awards to farmers and soil conservation districts. I recall receiving awards in 1949, 1950 and 1951.

I graduated from Iowa State College (as it was known at that time) in Agriculture Engineering with a major in Soil Conservation in March 1949, following Navy service in World War II, and returned to the home place southeast of Battle Creek to farm. Soil tests on that farm in 1948 showed a deficiency of 80 lbs. per acre of elemental phosphorus, typical of Ida County hill farms. Phosphates, one of three principle crop growing nutrients, do not leach into the soil as does nitrogen, so much of that loss was a result of erosion that had taken place in previous years.

In 1949, with technical assistance from the Ida County Soil Conservation

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The Past Commissioners - -

Continued From Page 5

structures could go forward. Earl Mickelsen, the local banker, owned a farm within the boundaries of the proposed watershed project and was one of the biggest supporters of the project, but he found it very difficult to find enough farmers to sign up for the necessary miles of terraces.

He himself became an enthusiastic participant in terrace construction, and did a thorough job of terracing his eligible land. This helped the cause enough, and eventually enough miles were signed up so that the project was approved for construction. Henry Brueck and Harold Godbersen were again the successful bidders. Fishermen in the area have enjoyed fishing the ponds on the W. P. Hansen and Joe Stapleton farms, which were part of the project.

As my family owned a farm which had a smaller number of acres in the East Aldrich, we became a participant in the terrace program. Since the project was the first of its kind to require terraces and the SCS wanted the program to succeed, they agreed to pay for 75 percent of the cost of terrace construction and agreed to apply 400 lbs. of dry fertilizer on the areas disturbed by the terrace construction. The al-

more to their liking. The elimination of some of the sharp bends, the wider spacing between terraces and the gentle wide foreslopes made them much easier to farm, especially with the wider equipment that was now in use on most farms.

I became the owner-operator of my family's farm soon after the grass back slopes appeared on the scene, and after having a mile or so constructed on my farm my experience with them convinced me that they were far superior to the old broad base terraces which had been built earlier, and I proceeded to replace the originals with push-ups as fast as I could. I set a goal of protecting every hillside on my farm with terraces and am happy to say that I eventually accomplished my goal. I consider a terrace program to be one of the best investments that a farmer can make on his land, and have never regretted the considerable sum of money I have spent on them.

In 1978 I was asked to serve as a commissioner for the Ida County Soil Conservation District, and I was glad to accept the challenges presented as a district commissioner in promoting soil conservation on the farms of Ida County. I found my fellow commissioners to be a

ing soil losses to five tons or less annually per acre per year. The 1985 farm law set up a timetable for implementing an approved plan that would accomplish that goal, and compliance with this provision was made a requirement for participation in all future federal farm programs.

The 1985 farm bill has no doubt gone a long way toward making the SCS goal a reality on almost every Ida County farm, but one should not overlook the contribution of the businesses, schools and volunteers of Ida County in sponsoring educational programs and other events promoting soil

conservation. It was the cooperation of these people, plus the hard work and dedication of the personnel of the SCS, particularly on the local level, district commissioners, contractors and last but not least the farmers who have made this success story possible.

As a result of progress in the battle to control soil erosion, Ida County farms are no longer sustaining the huge annual soil losses that were so common when the district was formed 50 years ago. I hope that in some small way I have played a part in this outstanding achievement.

Robert Mitchell

(Editor's Note: Robert Mitchell, formerly of Arthur and now of Tucson, Ariz., was an Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District assistant commissioner from 1967 to 1971 and a commissioner in 1972. He shares some of his golden memories.)

boxes of cherries. Mother canned cherries and made jellies and pies.

Then I heard a 17-year-old could join CCC camp and get \$30 a month, board, room and clothing. I hitchhiked to Denison, signed up and was accepted. On July 11th, my birthday, I hitchhiked, mostly hiked, to Moorhead



Robert Mitchell

First of all, you must realize why and how it all started. The years 1934 to 1940 we had the drought, then the Great Depression. We were all broke and hungry. Instead of handouts, food stamps or grants to go to school, we had WPA and CCC. It gave us a chance to work.

I had just finished my freshman year in school, and couldn't find a job for the summer. (Three previous years I had a job on a farm for \$12.50 a month - 5 a.m. 'til 8 p.m. with one Sunday off a month. This was fine at first, but two of those three years when it came time to go back to school, the boss would take me home and say, 'I'll see you when I sell my hogs! Guess he hasn't sold his hogs yet; consequently, I'm short \$12.50!')

The spring of '37 I'm 16 years old, and school's out. An old farmer stopped me on the street and asked if anyone wanted to make hay. I said, 'I know I would. He said he lived one mile west and two miles south of town, on the right side of the road down the field. Come out the next morning.

So each morning for a week I ran out there, made hay all day and ran home each night. When the hay was done, he said, 'Boy, you're a devil of a worker, but I don't have any money; we do have several cherry trees, so if you'd like you can have all the cherries you want to pick.'

The next day I picked cherries until dark. The farmer hauled me home, in an old pickup loaded with many milk buckets and

and was issued clothing, shoes, bedding and assigned a bunk.

My first job on the crew was tree planting. Since tree planting was in the spring and it's now July, it was called tree cultivating. I was introduced to a short handled spade, and we crawled across the side hill, taking two rows each, cutting weeds and mulching across the trees. The foreman was pleased with me, and offered to either make me an assistant leader at \$6 a month raise in pay, or a commendation and transfer to another crew. I chose the survey crew, where we made, exactly to scale, eight feet square, 10-inch deep farm models. One, as it was when put in the program, and the second one, when completed.

We had some kind of celebration at the end, with a carnival - a three-day affair. I got to help explain the thing to the public, telling about

what could be done by soil conservation. It must have got in my blood.

Next, I transferred to a concrete crew where we dug out, built forms, tied steel and poured cement. We made risers, flumes and drop inlets. While we were bucketing out mud and wheeling cement, I watched the fellas on the caterpillars moving dirt. I liked what I saw, so asked and was given a chance to skin cat (drive the caterpillars). Soon I was assistant leader, and teaching other boys to operate them. We built the roads in Moorhead State Park, creek fills, waterways and terraces.

I went to classes some evenings and on weekends. While some went to dances, skating, shows or just out to drink, I got my high school equivalency diploma.

Then came the big blow! They passed a law stating we could only stay two years. That would put me out of CCC camp in July, too late to get a decent job, so I left March 1 and got a job on a farm in Sac City. Next at Pheasant Produce, and married. Then I was off on an excursion with Uncle Sam for three and a half years in the South Pacific (1942-1945).

In 1946, I started farming. Using the knowledge and skill I learned from the CCC camps, I began building terraces on the hillsides. I took a lot of razzing from others about making hills and ditches (what others called my terraces) all over the farm. The end result of my terracing overshadowed the teasing I took. I was the first in the area to try this. I felt I took one of the poorest producing farms in the county and turned it into one of the highest.

As we terraced more, we had to tile out low lands because the water had to filter through the ground; rather than run to the ditch taking soil along with it.

Marvin Volkert

(Editor's Note: Marvin Volkert of Douglas Township served as Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District commissioner from 1961 through 1970.)

I worked with the following commissioners: Harlan Dues, Henry Brueck, Arnie Pensen and Ken Borchers, assistant commissioners. Wee Bennett and Robert McGill and treasurer Abel Pensen.

To commissioners in-charge all structures in every watershed each spring to find what structures needed repair.

Way Mayne viewed the Little Sioux flood prevention project at Ida Grove in April 1971 also the Pleasant Valley Crawford Creek wa-

I personally did not work with the push up terraces, but feel they were an improvement and do fit better in our modern farming and machinery size.

Some of the biggest mistakes in early years of soil conservation, I believe were: (1) Contouring and strip farming - Instead of paying a farmer for doing this, we should have penalized him for not doing it. (Many did this every third year and got paid every third year.); (2) Terracing - We needed to spend more time teaching the farmers how to farm and maintain the terraces to retain its capacity.

When we had our 25th anniversary in soil conservation, I recall the speaker saying "I have been there, and I have seen it happen."

He told of South American farmers who could have his farm paid for, but couldn't afford to plant or harvest his crops. Most had to take jobs off the farm to eat (mostly government jobs). As he broke for a stretch period, the lady I was sitting beside asked what I thought of the talk so far. I told her that it sounded like that may be where we were headed here in another 25 years. She gave me a big pat on the back and said, "You're the first person I have heard say that. The speaker is my husband, and that's his conclusion."

I enjoyed working with Ken Burnett, Henry Brueck, Harlan Duesel, Don Goodenow, Dutch and Don Kauffman. Don Kauffman was always a pleasure to work with, naturally. Before SCS he taught school at Dow City, and his wife, Wanda, was from Dow City. That's where I grew up.

Lois Collins was exceptionally good in the office. By the way, she stepped in Tucson one day after her retirement and Pat's illness.

I have spent some time at the Tucson SCS office here

since it's on my way to the sale barn where I like to go. SCS here is mainly concerned with developing grass, shrubs and trees that will stand the hot and dry of the desert, plus keeping them disease-free. Also mixing cement and dirt to stabilize a wash or creek bank when it rains. In Arizona, when we get a half inch of rain, we have flood waters running down the street a foot deep, and it washes six feet deep.

I can look at this wasteland with its rocks, cactus, scrub brush and make it produce grain. We need Harold Godbersen to build a big rotor tiller to pulverize all that junk and mix it in the ground about three or four feet deep, dig a shallow well to irrigate and be in business.

I had other dreams, too, that never got to first base. Such as I tried to promote the idea of planting hedges as wind breaks on the top of each terrace (honeyuckle, Russian Olive or multi-floral rose.) The purpose was to keep snow in the fields instead of farm yards, building sites, road side ditches and towns. That would help with dust or dirt blowing in the fields. I really thought the idea would go when we introduced the idea of wildlife refuges, since the public liked to hunt pheasants, but it died.

I enjoy coming home and seeing that what I have done is only better today than when I left there. Oh, I would rather see the strips of different crops, but I understand that all farming has changed so drastically that the old way wouldn't work today.

When I left Iowa, a very energetic young man wanted to rent my farm (a boy I had in 4-H). I told him that his big machinery wouldn't work on my farm since I had four-row terraces. His reply was, "Oh, I have big plows; it

won't take much to plow them out." But I said, "Not until after I die will that happen. I sure hope I can stick to that."

There was an old saying - there will never be more land made. I guess that's right, but no one ever said how much we could improve what we now have.

Not long ago one man could produce enough to feed four people. How many can one man feed today? One man had to work five to eight hours a day to feed his family of four. Today, a man with a good job can feed that same family with one hour of work.

Who manufactured the phrase "economically unfeasible"? When we were in a position to qualify an area as a water shed, the project would call for risers or concrete flumes. The modern specs called for 10- to 12 inch-concrete with half-inch or greater steel reinforcement rods when what we built in CCC camp were mostly four-inch to six-inch cement with 1/4- to 3/8-inch reinforcing rods. At best I know they were in good shape 30 years later. You might check cast of town at the old Kirkholm and Floyd Lindberg farms.

I also enjoyed working on the Clean Water Act for several years on first the county level and then the district and on to the state level.

I would still like to see soil conservation promote the idea of putting hedges on the tops of terraces as mentioned before. Or how about planting miles every 40 to 60 rows? It could be planted and harvested at the same time as corn and beans. The stubble must be left standing until spring to help your residue cover. I think it would really benefit in the flat lands of Nebraska and Kansas to prevent dust erosion.

'...we once fixed up a dam for \$40, in place of \$5,000.'

-- Marvin Volkert

During my term, I worked with Ken Burnett and Don



Marvin Volkert

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1946: Henry Dall, chairman, Battle Creek; Edwin C. Perion, Ida Grove; and J.B. Scott, Danbury.

1947: Henry Dall, chairman, Battle Creek; Edwin C. Perion, Ida Grove; and Ross E. Baumann, Cushing.

1948: Henry Dall, chairman, Battle Creek; Edwin C. Perion, Ida Grove; Ross E. Baumann, Cushing; and Ray D. Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1949: Ross E. Baumann, chairman, Cushing; Henry Dall, Battle Creek; H.L. Elk, Galva; and Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1950: Ross E. Baumann, chairman, Cushing; Henry Dall, Battle Creek; H.L. Elk, Galva; and Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1951: Ross E. Baumann, chairman, Cushing; Henry Dall, Battle Creek; H.L. Elk, Galva; and Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1952: Ross Baumann, chairman, Cushing; Henry Dall, Battle Creek; H.L. Elk, Galva; David Brueck, Battle Creek; and Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1953: H.L. Elk, chairman, Galva; W.F. Burrow, Battle Creek; Wm. Rossow, Battle Creek; and Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1954: H.L. Elk, chairman, Galva; W.F. Burrow, Battle Creek; Wm. Rossow, Battle Creek; and Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1955: W.F. Burrow, chairman, Battle Creek; Wm. Rossow, Battle Creek; C.C. Challman, Galva; Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove; and Arnold Putensen, secretary, Holstein.

1956: W.F. Burrow, chairman, Battle Creek; Wm. Rossow, Battle Creek; C.C. Challman, Galva; Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove; and Arnold Putensen, secretary, Holstein.

1957: C.C. Challman, chairman, Galva; Wm. Rossow, Battle Creek; W.F. Burrow, Battle Creek; Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove; and Arnold Putensen, secretary, Holstein.

1958: C.C. Challman, chairman, Galva; Wm. Rossow, Battle Creek; W.F. Burrow, Battle Creek; Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove; and Arnold Putensen, secretary, Holstein.

Burrow, Battle Creek; Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove; and Arnold Putensen, secretary, Holstein.

1959: Chester Challman, chairman, Galva; W.F. Burrow, Battle Creek; Wm. Rossow, Battle Creek; Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove; and Arnold Putensen, secretary, Holstein.

1960: Wm. Rossow, chairman, Battle Creek; W.F. Burrow, Battle Creek; Henry Brueck, Battle Creek; Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove; and Arnold Putensen, secretary, Holstein.

1961: Wm. Rossow, chairman, Battle Creek; W.F. Burrow, Battle Creek; Henry Brueck, Battle Creek; Arnold Putensen, secretary, Holstein; and Ray Bresnahan, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1962: Wm. Rossow, chairman, Battle Creek; W.F. Burrow, Battle Creek; Henry Brueck, Battle Creek; Arnold Putensen, secretary, Holstein; and Abel Peters, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1963: Arnold Putensen, chairman, Holstein; Henry Brueck, Battle Creek; W.F. Burrows, Battle Creek; and Abel Peters, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1964: Arnold Putensen,

commissioner, Ida Grove; Lester Vohs, chairman, Galva; Ramon Johnson, Holstein; Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek; Burdelle Knudsen, Ida Grove; George Hartley, Battle Creek; and Henry J. Brueck, assistant commissioner, Ida Grove.

1969: Marvin Volkert, chairman, Washita; Kenneth Borchers, Holstein; Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek; Robert Mitchell, assistant commissioner, Arthur; Wayne Bennett, assistant commissioner, Galva; Robert Mitchell, assistant commissioner, Arthur; Henry Brueck, assistant commissioner, Battle Creek; and Abel Peters, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1970: Harlen Dausel, chairman, Battle Creek; Kenneth Borchers, Holstein; Marvin Volkert, Washita; Wayne Bennett, assistant commissioner, Galva; Robert Mitchell, assistant commissioner, Arthur; Henry Brueck, assistant commissioner, Battle Creek; and Abel Peters, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1971: Kenneth Borchers, chairman, Holstein; Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek; Robert Bumann, Battle Creek; Robert Mitchell, assistant commissioner, Arthur; Wayne Bennett, assistant commissioner, Galva; Henry Brueck, assistant commissioner, Battle Creek; and Abel Peters, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1972: Wayne Bennett, chairman, Galva; Kenneth Borchers, Holstein; Robert Bumann, Battle Creek; Robert Mitchell, Arthur; Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek; J. Henry Brueck, assistant commissioner, Battle Creek; and Abel Peters, treasurer, Ida Grove.

1973: Robert Bumann, chairman, Battle Creek; Kenneth Borchers, Holstein; Ramon Johnson, Holstein; Richard Orner, Holstein; and Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek.

1974: Robert Bumann, chairman, Battle Creek; Ramon Johnson, Holstein; Kenneth Borchers, Holstein; Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek; John Higgins, Galva; J. Henry Brueck, assistant commissioner, Battle Creek; Betty Walker, assistant commissioner, Holstein; Richard Hagemeier, assistant commissioner, Ida Grove; and Wilbur Rohik, assistant commissioner, Ida Grove.

1975: Ramon Johnson, chairman, Holstein; Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek; John Higgins, Galva; Leonard Ernst, Ida Grove; Burdelle Knudsen, Ida Grove; Henry Brueck Sr., Ida Grove; Wilbur Rohik, Ida Grove; Betty Walker, Holstein; and Richard Hagemeier, Ida Grove.

1976: Burdelle Knudsen, chairman, Ida Grove; Leonard Ernst, Ida Grove; John Higgins, Galva; Ramon Johnson, Holstein; and Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek.

1977: Ramon Johnson, chairman, Ida Grove; Burdelle Knudsen, Ida Grove; Lester Vohs, Galva; George Hartley, Battle Creek; and Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek.

1978: George Hartley, chairman, Battle Creek; Burdelle Knudsen, Ida Grove; Ramon Johnson, Holstein; Lester Vohs, Galva; Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek; and J. Henry Brueck, assistant

commissioner, Ida Grove.

1979: Lester Vohs, chairman, Galva; Ramon Johnson, Holstein; Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek; Burdelle Knudsen, Ida Grove; George Hartley, Battle Creek; and Henry J. Brueck, assistant commissioner, Ida Grove.

1980: Lester Vohs, chairman, Galva; Burdelle Knudsen, Ida Grove; Ramon Johnson, Holstein; Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek; and George Hartley, Battle Creek.

1981: Burdelle Knudsen, chairman, Ida Grove; George Hartley, Battle Creek; Lester Vohs, Galva; Roger Schmidt, Holstein; and LeRoy Dose, Ida Grove.

1982: Roger Schmidt, chairman, Holstein; George Hartley, Battle Creek; Lester Vohs, Galva; Burdelle Knudsen, Ida Grove; and LeRoy Dose, Ida Grove.

1983: Roger Schmidt, chairman, Holstein; Mason Goodenow, Battle Creek; Robert Croxell, Holstein; Norbert Bumann, Galva; LeRoy Dose, Ida Grove; George Hartley, assistant commissioner, Battle Creek; and Earl Evans, assistant commissioner, Correctionville.

1984: Mason Goodenow, chairman, Battle Creek; Robert Croxell, Holstein; LeRoy Dose, Ida Grove; Roger Schmidt, Holstein; Norbert Bumann, Galva; George Hartley, assistant commissioner, Battle Creek; and Earl Evans, assistant commissioner, Correctionville.

1985: Robert Croxell, chairman, Holstein; LeRoy Dose, Ida Grove; Roger Schmidt, Holstein; Wm. Ulrich, Arthur; Mason Goodenow, Battle Creek; George Hartley, assistant commissioner, Battle Creek; and Elvie Dreeszen, assistant commissioner, Cushing.

1986: Robert Croxell, chairman, Holstein; LeRoy Dose, Ida Grove; William Ulrich, Arthur; Mason Goodenow, Battle Creek; George Hartley, assistant commissioner, Battle Creek; and Elvie Dreeszen, assistant commissioner, Cushing.

1987: Robert Croxell, chairman, Holstein; Mason Goodenow, Battle Creek; Bill Ulrich, Arthur; Everett Still, Cushing; and Wilbur Rohik, Ida Grove.

1988: Robert Croxell, chairman, Holstein; Bill Ulrich, Arthur; Everett Still, Cushing; Mason Goodenow, Battle Creek; and Wilbur Rohik, Ida Grove.

1989: Robert Croxell, chairman, Holstein; Wilbur Rohik, Ida Grove; Marelle Knudsen, Ida Grove; Everett Still, Cushing; and Dan Snyder, Arthur.

1990: Wilbur Rohik, chairman, Ida Grove; Dan Snyder, Arthur; Robert Croxell, Holstein; Marelle Knudsen, Ida Grove; Everett Still, Cushing; and George Hartley, temporary district secretary/treasurer, Battle Creek.

1991: Everett Still, chairman, Cushing; Robert Croxell, Holstein; Wilbur



Terraces Galore

These terraces were recognized as award winners in August 1987. They were the work of the Miller Brothers in Section 17 of Corwin Township. By that time they had completed 21,880 feet of grassed backslope terraces and 5,400 feet of grassed waterways.

Terrace Accomplishments

1946	57024 feet	1970	158400 feet
1947	36960 feet	1971	237007 feet
1948	51216 feet	1972	186384 feet
1949	31680 feet	1973-74	204290 feet
1950	79200 feet	1975	88012 feet
1951	31680 feet	1976	140498 feet
1952	37857 feet	1977	152064 feet
1953	117902 feet	1978	165360 feet
1954	364320 feet	1979	17128 feet
1955	228677 feet	1980	272448 feet
1956	232320 feet	1981	201696 feet
1957	269280 feet	1982	189600 feet
1958	195360 feet	1983	240768 feet
1959	232320 feet	1984	206250 feet
1960	110880 feet	1985	147840 feet
1961	221760 feet	1986	111486 feet
1962	232320 feet	1987	475200 feet
1963	198528 feet	1988	660000 feet
1964	187968 feet	1989	606672 feet
1965	285120 feet	1990	787776 feet
1966	205920 feet	1991	797250 feet
1967	253440 feet	1992	719207 feet
1968	242880 feet	1993	826615 feet
1969	65765 feet	1994	753805 feet
TOTAL		12,444,683 feet	

The Original Commissioners



Ed C. Perion



J. B. Scott



Henry Dall

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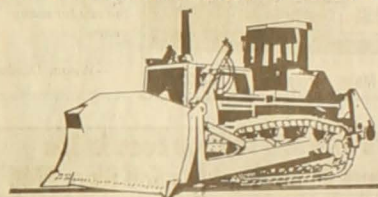
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Soil & Water
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THIRD GENERATION OF
SOIL CONSERVATION**

Ida County Soil Survey

Wayne Dankert Led The Way

(Editor's Note: Wayne Dankert of Ida Grove, now retired, served as the party leader for the Ida County Soil Survey. He shares his thoughts.)



Wayne Dankert

Ida County soils were classified and mapped by Soil Conservation Service soil scientists from October 1984 to July 1988. Office checking and joining soil maps was completed during the summer of 1988.

While we were mapping the soils in Ida County we also made numerous detailed soil profile descriptions and collected samples of soil profiles for laboratory analysis. As a result of these activities we expanded what is known about the soils of Ida County.

For example, we found that the Monona soils in Ida County have more clay in

their topsoils than was recognized in Monona soils in other places. The increased clay content of the Monona soils in Ida County makes them more likely to form clods if they are tilled when they are wet than are the Monona soils in central

Woodbury or Monona counties.

We also classified and mapped 1,105 acres of a "new" soil, Arthur Silty Clay Loam. Arthur soils are not as productive in dry years as are the Marshall soils they are adjacent to because they have sandy material below a depth of about 20 to 40 inches.

We met many interesting and friendly people during the soil survey of Ida County. We hope the residents of Ida County will be able to use the soil survey for many years. The new published Soil Survey is expected in about two years.

The following soil scientists helped me classify and map the soils of Ida County at various times during the survey: Craig Busskohl, Dale Ceolla, David Reeves, Max Sherwood and Jeff Talisky.



The Final Acre

Wayne Dankert, left, with probe in hand, prepares to map the final acre of Ida County soil during a special ceremony at Crawford Creek Recreation Area. Among those looking on during the windy day in October 1988 were, from left, Don Kauffman, Everett Still, Geraldine Dankert, Mason Goodenow, Dale Ceolla (in back), Roger Spotts and Wayne Swanger (in back).

'We hope the residents of Ida County will be able to use the Soil Survey for many years.'

—Wayne Dankert

Crawford Creek Recreation Area: Journey From Dream To Reality

Ida County's Crawford Creek Lake and Recreation area, located three and a half miles south of Battle Creek, was only a dream when landowners, farm operators and Soil Conservation Service personnel had the first organizational meetings in March of 1965.

Today, Crawford Creek Park, with all its beauty and history, is a reality bringing enjoyment and pleasure to all who travel through its gates. The only one of its kind in the Little Sioux Watershed Flood Prevention Project area, Crawford Creek Park provides its visitors camping, boating, fishing and swimming.

In March of 1965 local landowners, farmers, SCS personnel and other interested parties were invited to many informational meetings. Discussions dealt with the financial cost of the project, cost sharing opportunities, land treatment needs of the surrounding area, along with objectives and rewards of the project.

For the next seven to nine years much planning and preparation took place. Twelve drop inlet detention structures, three drop inlet full flow structures and four inlets on culverts, along with the main lake structure, were planned.

In January of 1974 final approval was given to the watershed lake and recreation area. The total cost of the lake was figured at \$833,240. The whole watershed project involved 55 landowners and 8,300 acres. The lake and recreation area was centered on four land owners and included 247 acres.

Construction of the structures above the dam was started in July of 1975. In the spring of 1976 construction work on the lake itself started. In August of 1976 construction had to stop due to the finding of an archaeological site. A team of archaeologists spent several days searching for pre-historic buffalo bones. Work was able to resume after evidence concluded this was a pre-historic site and not an unusual finding in this area.

By the fall of 1976 the lake project was completed. It took several more years for the entire recreation area to be completed. In 1981 the park was officially dedicated.

Today one is able to enjoy all the benefits that this project has created: wildlife, camping, swimming, boating, picnicking, fishing and the beauty of nature.



Crawford Creek Ground Breaking

In the summer heat of July 1976, Ida countians gathered for a ground breaking at Crawford Creek Recreation Area, three miles south of Battle Creek. The ceremonies marked the beginning of the largest structure in the park project. Participating in the ground-breaking ceremonies were, from left, Burdette Knudsen, H. W. Godbersen, Emmett Sahl, Elvin Leonard, Tom Odgaard,

Ernest Schmidt, Vernet Worth, George Witters, George Leonard, K. W. Gray and Jim Lipton (standing in center). Sponsors of the \$1.3 million Crawford Creek project are the Ida County Soil Conservation District, the Ida County Conservation Board and the Ida County Board of Supervisors. The 63-acre lake which the dam impounds is enclosed in a 252-acre park, developed by the Ida County Conservation Board.



Crawford Creek Recreation Area

Ida County's Crawford Creek Recreation Area is one of the prime destinations in the county for outdoor enthusiasts.

Soil makes up the outermost layer of our plant.

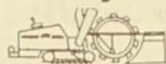
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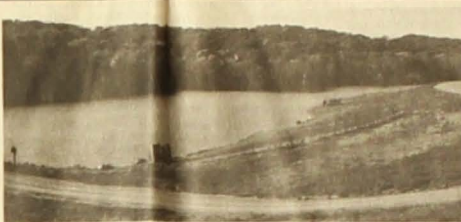
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Facing A Formidable Task In The Little Sioux Valley

Nearly 50 years ago, stopping flooding and mass erosion on 4,500 square miles of land in the Little

Sioux River Watershed area in Northwest Iowa seemed a formidable task. Yet, nearly two-thirds of

that gigantic job has been accomplished. Conservation treatment has been completed in 87 of 127 potential sub-

watersheds, and work is being planned on all remaining subwatersheds. The conservation concept

in the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Project has grown from stopping flooding and erosion to include total community benefits such as recreation and water supplies. The plans are being carefully reviewed to ensure that the project continues to be one of total environmental improvement.

Early historians called the picturesque Little Sioux River Valley a promised land. The fertile area with gently rolling prairie soils in the uppermost one-third and the level lands at the lower reaches with steep slopes in between abounded in food for the Sioux Indians and early settlers.

One county historian predicted only a small portion of the deep soil would ever wash. Yet, 80 years later about one-fourth of the land in the county had lost half its original topsoil. The other land in the county had lost one-fourth of its topsoil. Huge gullies, 20 to 50 feet deep and 100 to 200 feet wide, were common. The loose soil that washed from the land moved downward to clog vital bottomland drainage ditches, causing an equally serious and expensive problem. A century of careless agricultural development had taken its toll.

Local people began to organize to fight the problem in the 1940's. Soil Conservation Districts were formed in each of the counties in the Little Sioux River Watershed to bring attention to erosion problems on a local basis. Each district, in turn, was then represented on the Little Sioux Works Committee for overall planning.

The Works Committee was responsible for setting up policies of cooperation with the federal government in flood prevention work; raising help of private organizations and public agencies; securing legal aid; and setting up priorities for assistance to subwatershed groups of farmers. Individual districts were responsible for working with local farmers to install conservation measures and to obtain legal land rights and permits from landowners to install and maintain program measures.

In 1946, the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Project was put into operation. The Soil Conservation Service increased technical assistance to districts and provided funds for installation of flood prevention measures.

The present landscape of the Little Sioux Valley contrasts sharply with its rugged, worn out appearance in the early 1940's. Water sparkles in the 498 miniature lakes that have been formed to stop gully and prevent excessive flooding. More

than 9,280 miles of terraces lace the countryside, protecting uplands from erosion. In addition, 457 "full flow" structures have been built. Of a total of 1,151 completed stabilizing structures, 196 were built to help stabilize roads and eliminate costly bridge replacement and repair. More than 16 miles of floodways have been built, along with more than 615 acres of structural waterways.

The 498 lakes and numerous farm ponds provide fishing, swimming and habitat for wildlife, in addition to doing their erosion control job. All the conservation practices have helped to improve land values in the area. The concept of multiple uses of land and water is being included in plans for the future.

Fourteen subwatersheds are in the construction phase. A planning priority has been given for the 24 remaining subwatersheds, and they are currently being planned. With current projections, all structures could be built by 2016 and all land treatment accomplished by 2041.

All projects are reviewed for their impact on the environment. The completed subwatersheds have proven their beneficial effects on the environment frequently during heavy rains. The structures have had no significant damage while holding back runoff from hard rains to curb flooding. A Program Environmental Impact Statement was prepared for the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Project in 1976.

Eight Soil Conservation Districts are principally concerned with executing the program. They are O'Brien, Plymouth, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Woodbury, Ida, Sac and Monona. Four other SCD's with a limited involvement are Osceola, Dickinson, Clay and Palo Alto. Very small portions of Crawford and Harrison SCD's are included in the Little Sioux Project area.

With the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Project, the people throughout the Little Sioux River Valley are helping to maintain the soil resource base and ensuring generations to come that they will have a better place to live.



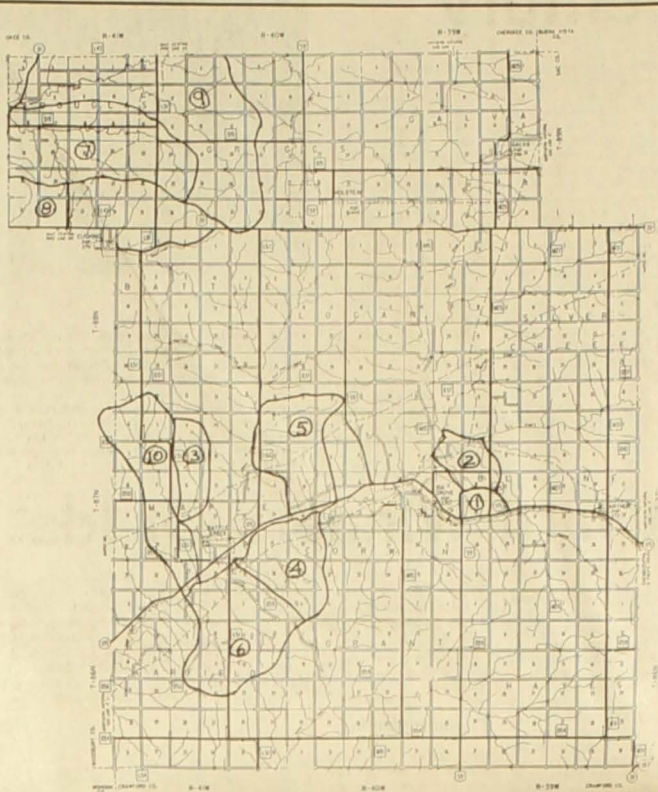
Conservation Trio

Gathering to prepare for a conservation-related event are, from left, the late Roland Jensen, George Hoffman Jr. and George Grouell. Hoffman hosted the Quad State Minimum Tillage Field Day in 1968 and Iowa Corn Stalk Day in 1973. It was common for the events to draw over 5,000 people to the Hoffman farm, located northwest of Ida Grove in Logan Township.



Corn Picking Days

David Bruce shows off his corn picker he was using in the fall of 1950.



Watershed Progress

MAP NO.	Name of Watershed	Acres Within	Total No. Structures	No. of Ponds	Date of Organization	Date of Completion
1	Kirkholm	818	18	3	1946	1949
2	Perion	2,030	7	4	1946	1949
3	East Aldrich	1,852	8	3	1953	1956
4	Pleasant Valley	3,664	20	9	1958	1965
5	Quad Valley	4,681	18	3	1960	1969
6	Crawford Creek	8,300	15	13	1965	1976
7	Bitter Creek	11,000	5	5	1952	1995
8	West Side	1,800	3	3	1973	1985
9	A.F.M.S.C.S.	17,700	1	0	1980	1987
10	West Aldrich	5,000	4	1	1957	1993

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Mice take seeds and other plant materials into their underground burrows, where this material eventually decays and becomes part of the soil.

The present landscape of the Little Sioux Valley contrasts sharply with its rugged, worn out appearance in the early 1940's. Water sparkles in the 498 miniature lakes that have been formed to stop gully and prevent excessive flooding. More

Top soil is the most productive soil layer. It has varying amounts of organic matter (living and dead organisms), minerals, and nutrients.

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A Daughter Remembers ...

Kenneth Burnett Serves For Quarter Of Century

Any golden anniversary celebration of Ida County's Soil and Water Conservation District would be incomplete without remembering one man who gave 25 years of his life to the district.

Kenneth Burnett served as Ida County's Work Unit Conservationist from 1946 until his retirement in 1971.

His daughter, Anne Burnett Wyma, has lived in New York City for many years, where she has been employed with a financial services company. She is now headquartered in London. She said she remembers some especially good times with her father when she was just in second grade.

"I got to go out into the fields with him when he was first laying out terraces."

And she remembers accompanying him to some meetings when he would carry a large paper chart to illustrate his points. Wyma

said her father taught his daughter well "how extremely important it is that this land be saved." The lessons in saving the topsoil "certainly impressed me," Wyma added.

The longtime resident of New York City said she grew up in Iowa detasseling corn and spending much time outdoors. "I grew up in a place where I learned to drive a tractor when I was 14."

Wyma said her start in Iowa has influenced her entire life. "I have a very healthy appreciation for what it is that makes a lifestyle which puts an emphasis on the soil. I think that's a very solid way to grow up."

Her father's life also began in Iowa, in the city of Ames, where his father was a plant breeder at Iowa State College Agronomy Department. After graduating from Ames High School in 1926, Kenneth continued his stud-

ies and received a bachelor's degree in chemistry and his master's degree in plant physiology and agronomy. In 1935, he worked as a technical supervisor with the Civilian Conservation Corp -- a federal program which hired workers at \$1 a day to help communities build terraces, control gullies, stabilize creek and river banks and plant shrubs and trees for wildlife habitat and erosion control. He worked in several southern and eastern Iowa communities under the program until entering World War II in 1942.

As soil conservationist for the Ida County area, Mr. Burnett's major responsibilities were to develop conservation methods and educate farmers on how to carry out those methods.

Mr. Burnett also developed methods so contractors would change gullies into grassed waterways.

"Some of those projects we put in are still working and others have had to be replaced because they weren't good enough," Mr. Burnett recalled during an interview in the mid-1980s, prior to his death in 1992.

The soil conservation leader also trained farmers on the proper construction of terraces. The first terraces were built by plowing, but conservationists developed a system for building them with bulldozers in the late 1950s. Using bulldozers was cheaper and easier in the long run, Mr. Burnett said.

"That's when terracing took off in the county -- when we (made) land easier to farm," Mr. Burnett added. Water would drain in rather than off a field, which helped to increase yields.

Although terracing has

remained the most popular, contour strip cropping was used some also.

"There's not much of that around, and there never was much," Mr. Burnett said in noting that contour strip cropping is still being practiced and is still very effective in controlling erosion.

In 1948 the Little Sioux Flood Control Project took off, a federal program that consisted of installing dams on small watersheds. Farmers had to cooperate by doing as much as they could to control erosion, such as adding terraces to their farms.

No-till farming also was introduced. Mr. Burnett said that method of farming "has been very effective in leaving a cover of trash on the ground and keeping soil from washing away, plus growing a crop over it to protect it. It

doesn't quite produce the crop yield terracing will, but it's much more effective in controlling erosion."

When he was a college student, the average corn yield was 30 bushels per acre. Because of many conservation efforts, that average doubled. When it was discovered that liquid nitrogen could increase yields, the state average jumped to 90 bushels, Burnett recalled. Until liquid nitrogen was discovered to be effective, manure had to be plowed down into a field.

Mr. Burnett's death came Oct. 2, 1992, when he was 83 years old.

When Ida conservationists gather to recall a half century of effort to save the soil, the name of Kenneth Burnett is likely to be spoken frequently.



The Burnett Era

Did you realize there was such a waterfall in Ida County? Kenneth Burnett, a tall man himself, is dwarfed by the size of the waterfall and the ditch that has been eroded by the water. The scene was captured on the Bruce Goodenow farm southeast of Battle Creek and appeared in the June 2, 1960, edition of the *Ida County Pioneer Record*. Mr. Burnett, who died in 1992, served as Ida County Work Unit Conservationist from 1946 to 1971.

I have a very healthy appreciation for what it is that makes a lifestyle which puts an emphasis on the soil. I think that's a very solid way to grow up.

-- Anne Burnett Wyma

**Thanks, Ida Conservationists,
For 50 Years Of Service!
We're Proud To Be A Part Of
Your Team**



The environment is important to everyone. It is, after all, our source of both income and enjoyment.

At your local cooperative, we can help you profitably grow crops while protecting the environment. It requires a careful balance of pro-

duction inputs, experience and Best Management Practices.

Let's work together to protect our priceless resources--for generations to come.



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The Award Winners Of Ida

Throughout the years, farmers, landowners, farm managers and operators have been recognized for their efforts in saving the soil.

These awards have been presented for windbreaks, wildlife practices, conservation practices or contribution to conservation in general.

Awards have been presented by the Iowa City Journal, Des Moines Register, the Izaak Walton League, the district, the area and the State of Iowa.

Names and types of awards have changed throughout the 50 years, but those who have contributed to the saving and protection of nature's precious gift have been rewarded for their efforts.

The following is a list of those people who were in the history records. Any omissions are unintended:

1950: David Bruud, Waldon Buchanan, Marvin Volkert and Hugh and Pat McGuire.

1951: David Bruud, Elvin Leonard and Marvin Volkert.

1952: Emil Schmidt, Elvie Dreeszen, Ed Perna and Justin Hayward.

1953: Marvin Volkert, Harlan Friedrichsen and Edwin Schug.

1954: East Aldrich Creek Watershed.

1958: Ben Ridlen, Don Goodenow, Elvin Leonard and Fred Grell.

1960: Roger and Eld Schmidt, John Irwin, Ransom Leonard, Marvin Druivenge, H.C. Greenwald and Robert Brenahan.

1961: Norvall Waller, Henry Endrulat, Chester Burton, Arthur Frandsen, Bryce Vollmar and Harold Schreiber.

1962: Harold Irwin, H.C. Greenwald Estate, Albert and Harold Schreiber, Milton Schmidt, Harold Godbersen and Marvin Kreisler.

1963: Chester Burton, Edna Johnson and George Redenhus, B.P. Collins and Ed Marth, B.F. Esner and Ransom Leonard.

1964: Emel and Vernon Stamp, John Irwin, Bob Brenahan, John Helman, Joe Grell, Everett Sill and Pat McGuire.

1965: Albert Bird, Ed and Ray Lohff, Jess and Arlo Graversen, William Meyer, George Hartley and Bert and John Fairchild.

1966: Russell and Bruce Goodenow, Ona and LeRoy Dose, Ralph Finch Farm, C.C. Rasmussen and Robert Webb.

1967: Vernon Reitz, Virgil Linman, Roland Loehr and Arthur Frandsen.

1968: Russell and Bruce Goodenow, Harold Schreiber, Virgil Linman, Leonard Ernst, Robert and Iabella

Smith, Howard Parker and Ray Hargens.

1969: Merle Greenwald, Helen Andresen, Tom Conover, Hazel Welch and George Dreeszen, Elvie Dreeszen and Leon Neubauer.

1970: Joe Grell, Rudy and Ross Jensen, William Davis and Tom Schmidt.

1971: Louie Kerr, Verle Law and J. Henry Bruock.

1972: Walter Hoppe and Carl Huth.

1973-74: Frank Huth, Delbert Shever, Robert Hoppe and Elvie Dreeszen and sons.

1979: Wilbur Rohik, Leon Neubauer, Arnold Grell and Lyle Tietson.

1980: Pat McGuire, Roland Jensen, Murl and Keith Brown, LeRoy Dose, Vern Reitz and Rex Williams.

1981: Wm. Volkerts, Glenn Millicec, Carl Ul-

shafers, Donald Miller and Robert Grells.

1985: George Hartleys, Ransom Johnsons and Dean Ruser.

1986: Walter Johnson, Everett Still and R.D. Thomson.

Contour Planting

Cultivating of corn planted on the contour was progressing on the Phillip Sykes farm south of Ida Grove in June 1961. According to the story appearing in the *Ida County Pioneer Record* at that time, "contour farming permits a tractor to pull a uniform load at steady speeds, allowing more work per gallon of fuel."



Contour Planting

**"Soil Conservation"
It's A Phrase To Preach
AND PRACTICE . . .**

We have the equipment to do the job!

- Conservation Work
- Clearing
- General Earth Moving
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