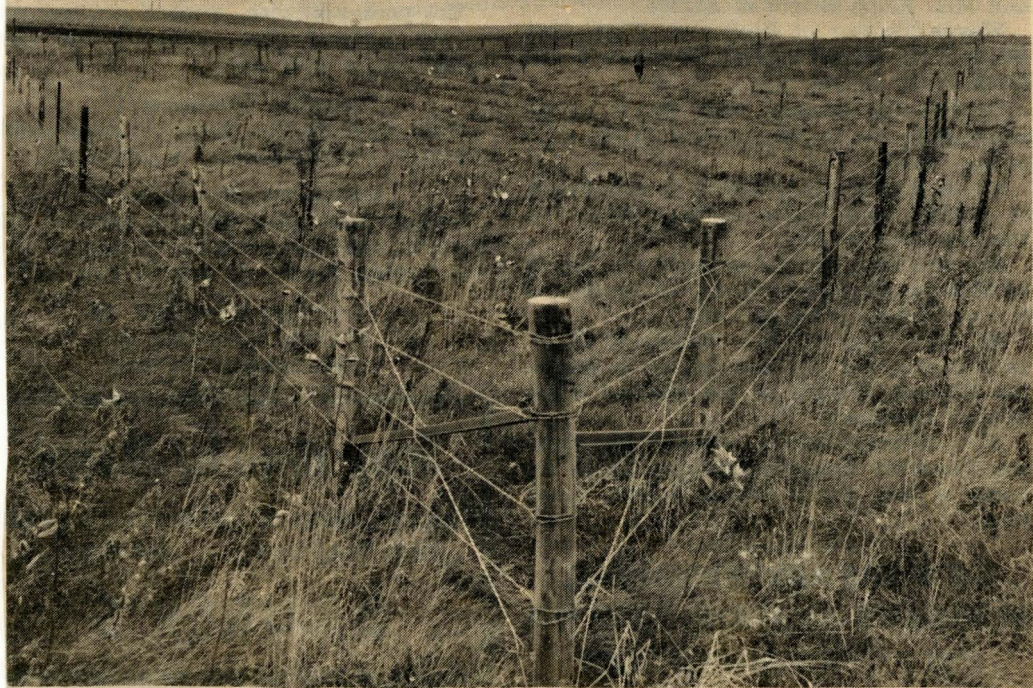




TRIANGLE OF COVER — Fencing indicates triangle of land for wildlife on the Robert McCord farm northwest of Iowa Falls. Dr. L. F. Parker is walking the area (just right of photo's center) to see how seedlings planted this year have fared. Creek runs along left fence just outside view of camera.

UNDER ASC COST-SHARE PROGRAM — — —

Marginal Land Becomes Refuge For Wildlife On McCord Farm

It's just a start, but there's a project near Iowa Falls that will give wildlife a tremendous boost if enough people join in.

A triangular refuge amounting to one and three-quarters acres has been established on the Robert McCord farm. The idea came from Blake Parker of Iowa Falls, and his father, Dr. L. F. Parker. Blake, now a university sophomore, has worked off and on for McCord. All three have been known to take out after pheasants in a season. (McCord is the best shot.)

The senior Parker noticed a story on the Times-Citizen farm page telling about an ASC program for refuges. So Blake approached McCord.

GOOD LOCATION

"I thought it was a good idea, especially because of the nature of the land," said McCord. He explained that the triangle is protected by a hill and runs along a creek which has water 99 percent of the time. The land is part of a permanent pasture and because of its shape would never be farmed — it would all be point rows, McCord explained.

He noted also that there isn't any good cover in the area. To make it about ideal, the refuge is in the center of a section of land, as far away as possible from the farm-

steads which ring the perimeter.

80 PERCENT OF COST

The refuge comes under an ASC program which pays 80 percent of the cost of trees, shrubs and planting, and a fence to keep it from being grazed.

A project of this size would cost from \$100-\$150 and the farmer is reimbursed for 80 percent of this.

"The cooperation was great," McCord stated. The ASC requires professional assistance and this was obtained from the state forester at Charles City. The Franklin ASC office coordinated the project. The State Conservation Commission furnished the trees and shrubs, and a man and planter to do the work. So in about two hours this summer, 1,000 honeysuckle bushes, 500 nine-bark bushes and 250 Austrian pines were planted.

The shrubs are located along the outside of the refuge and the pines in the center. McCord said this is so the wind will be forced up by the shrubs and over by the pines. Most of the plantings have survived and when they have developed, McCord expects to "seed" some pheasants.

The ASC program also will pay 80 percent of the cost of clearing the land and preparing it, though none was required on the McCord farm. There is no payment for retiring the land from production, but this is where marginal acres can be used. "It would have been different if I hadn't had the space," said McCord.

Now that the refuge is started, McCord is satisfied that it's the right thing to do. And if anything is going to be done to preserve wildlife, he notes, more of the same will have to be done.



PINE SEEDLING — Dr. L. F. Parker of Iowa Falls indicates size of pine seedling planted this summer in what will be a wildlife area.

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