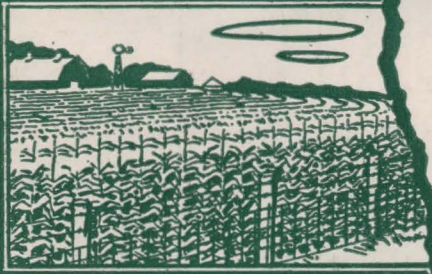


S OIL and WATER



IOWA

Henry Luken Estate
513 1st St NE



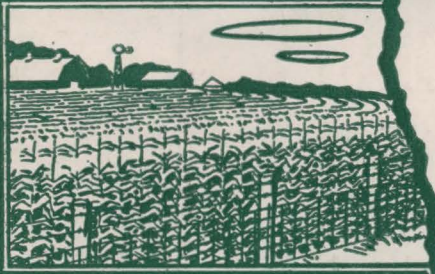
Official Publication of the Iowa Association of Soil District Commissioners and the Iowa State Watersheds Association



SEPTEMBER
1959

Iowa Soil and Water Features
PLYMOUTH County Soil District

S OIL and WATER



IOWA

Henry Luken Estate
513 1st St NE



Official Publication of the Iowa Association of Soil District Commissioners and the Iowa State Watersheds Association



SEPTEMBER
1959

Iowa Soil and Water Features
PLYMOUTH County Soil District

FIRST TRUST & SAVINGS BANK

Remsen, Iowa

"We can use a lot of capital and the labor we have in every community to put complete soil and water use programs in effect on individual farms. Soil Conservation and the kind of farming that goes with it are not only right morally, they pay big dividends in dollars and cents."

---Chester C. Davis



Keeping Water Where It Belongs

Reddy Killowatt and all of us at IPS welcome this chance to salute the Iowa soil and water conservationists for their commendable efforts in behalf of soil conservation. All wealth originates from the soil and our great heritage in Iowa is an abundance of rich black earth. Let's all help to conserve this tremendously valuable resource for ourselves and future generations.

Iowa Public Service Company

IOWA SOIL and WATER

Gilbert Fridley, President of the Iowa Association of Soil District Commissioners, Inc., Indianola, Iowa.

Address changes mail to: Iowa Soil & Water, P. O. Box 1471, Des Moines, Iowa.

POST OFFICE ENTRY: Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Holstein, Iowa.

FREQUENCY: Monthly

PUBLICATION BOARD

Clyde Spry, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture.

Frank H. Mendell, State SCS Conservationist.

Dr. George M. Browning, Assoc. Director Exp. Station, Iowa State College.

Barr Keshlear, President, Iowa State Watersheds Association.

Gilbert Fridley, President, Iowa Association of Soil District Commissioners.

HUBERT BEASLEY,

Managing Editor, Garden Grove, Iowa
Iowa Association of Soil District Commissioners, Publisher

Iowa Soil & Water is published by the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners as information for proper conservation of each acre of agricultural land within its capabilities. The publication supplies information for members of this group and others interested in soil erosion control and flood prevention.

Published at Holstein, Iowa

VOL. VII SEPT. 1959 No. 9
25 cents per copy \$3.00 per year

Officers & Directors of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners, Inc. (A non-profit corporation)

Gilbert Fridley, IndianolaPresident
Newman Lyle, SheldonVice-President
Wendell Pelett, AtlanticTreasurer
Donald L. Johnson, FairfieldSecretary
Everett Rice, Storm LakeDirector
Wilbur Peters, PersiaDirector
Wendell Pellett, AtlanticDirector
William P. Eno, SheffieldDirector
Cameron Stafford, BlairsburgDirector
Maurice Goode, ClioDirector
Wayne C. Mark, Cedar FallsDirector
Donald L. Johnson, FairfieldDirector
Ed Kadera, Iowa CityDirector

CARY BRATT

Terracing — Waterways

Earthmoving Work of
All Kinds

Ph. 9-3257 Sioux City, Ia.

AKRON PRODUCE

CASH BUYERS
of

Quality Eggs & Poultry

Ph. 7091 Akron, Ia.

Iowa Soil and Water



keep your land **RICH**
so you won't be Poor!

Every wide-awake farmer knows the importance of soil conservation. The wrong kind of farming has cost America much valuable land. When you need a loan to help in the most effective cultivation of your land, call at this bank.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF AKRON



PRESERVING THE LAND
IS LIKE
FLYING OLD GLORY
FULL MAST

PHONE 2811

AKRON, IOWA

Le Mars, Iowa Implement Dealers

PEW'S

International Harvester

AL SCHENKELBERG
Implement

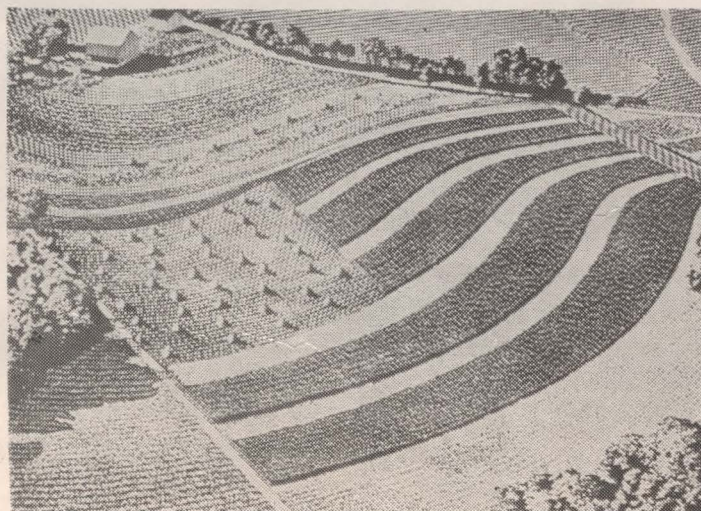
Buick

&

Pontiac

Phones

41 & 955



John Deere

&

New Idea

Phone

266

APPLY FERTILIZER THIS FALL

SAVE \$\$\$\$ WITH
SIMONSEN
FALL and WINTER
DISCOUNTS

QUANTITY DISCOUNT

5 ton load — \$2.00
15 ton load — \$2.00
30 ton load — \$2.00

SEASONAL DISCOUNT

November — \$3.00
December — \$2.00
January — \$1.00

PLOW DOWN 1 TO 2
POUNDS OF HEPTACHLOR
PER ACRE WITH
YOUR CORN FERTILIZER



Simonsen Mill - Rendering Plant - Quimby, Ia.

KEEPS YOUR
LAWN
TRIM and
BEAUTIFUL



TAMES THE WILDEST
HIGHEST WEEDS
OR TOUGHEST
BRUSH PATCHES



LIKE GETTING **3** MOWERS... *for the price of one*

MOZ-ALL

BEST for Power Lawn Mowing
BEST for Tough Weed Cutting
BEST for Brush Clearing
BEST for Leaf Mulching

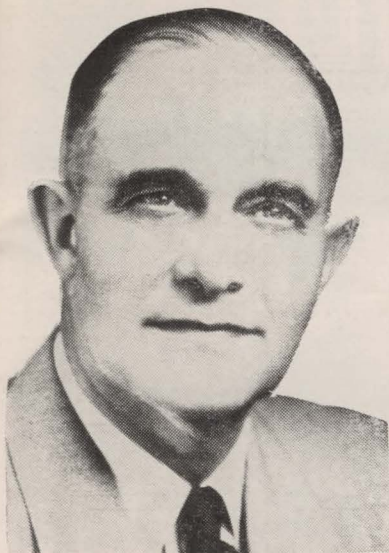


MULCHES LEAVES
INTO NATURE'S
FINEST FERTILIZER

Heavy duty, power drive models in 17", 20" and 22" cutting widths, with 2 3/4, 3.6 and 4 h.p. engines, take care of every mowing problem. Lightweight, 19" model with 2 or 2 1/4 h.p. engines ideal for smaller yard. Buy MOZ-ALL—when it's time to mow.

WIND-KING ELECTRIC MFG. CO., Merrill, Iowa

President's Corner



NEWMAN LYLE

Meet the new President of the Iowa Association of Soil District Commissioners, a gentleman from O'Brien County and retiring vice-president, Newman Lyle.

The new Vice President is Joe O'Hara, Page County,

New directors are Cecil Gillespie, Madison County, replacing Maurice Goode in Region 6; George Hosfeldt replacing Wendell Pellett in Region 3; and Ed Kadera, re-elected director in Region 8.

The Cover



Aerial view of Leo Schroeder farm near Kingsley showing 19.7 miles of terraces built by Schroeder himself to prevent erosion and conserve moisture for benefit of crops. A concrete gully control structure and spillway and 7,000 feet of tiling are other conservation features.

Iowa Soil and Water

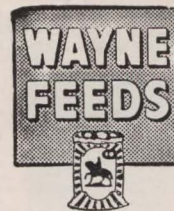
NELSON HATCHERY

— 32 Years in Business —

HY-LINE CHICKS



WAYNE FEEDS



Phone 2851

Akron

Iowa

Organized 1901

Le Mars Mutual Insurance Company of Iowa

— — Of Le Mars, Iowa — —

FIRE — TORNADO — PLATE GLASS & AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

M. H. Tappan, President

John H. Alesch, Secretary

ADAMS IMPLEMENT

INTERNATIONAL

Farm Equipment — Trucks

Sales & Service

PHONE 2441
AKRON, IOWA



SHEEHAN PRODUCE

Joe Sheehan, Owner

Processors of

Fine Poultry & Eggs

LE MARS, IOWA

MAIN OFFICE

Le Mars, Iowa

Phone 315

BRANCH OFFICES

Kingsley, Iowa

Phone 8-8341

Akron, Iowa

Phone 4511



PLYMOUTH COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE



Plymouth County Extension Personnel are: Left to right, front row: Mrs. Elmer Lund, County Extension Home Economist; Rae L. Becker, Office Assistant; Helen Davis, County Extension Home Economist (in training). Left to right, standing: Elmer Lund, Area Soil Conservationist; Arlie A. Pierson, County Extension Director, and Allan Eich, County Extension Assistant.

PLYMOUTH COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE

By Arlie A. Pierson
County Extension Director

The 56th General Assembly, meeting in 1955, passed a new extension act known as the "County Agricultural Extension Law." This legislation transfers the responsibility for conducting the extension educational program within the county to a newly created group, the County Agricultural Extension Council.

The Extension Council is a legal subdivision of the County government. It further provides that local financial support is provided entirely by local taxation. In 1959 sixty cents was set aside for this purpose by the County treasurer from each \$100 of property taxes paid.

All resident qualified persons of voting age in each township have the opportunity of selecting the persons who are to represent them in the responsibility of planning the extension program.

The new law clearly states that the program shall be available to all persons in the County.

Furthermore, the County Extension Council shall employ a County Extension Service staff. The Extension Service staff shall be the joint representatives of Iowa State University and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. They shall function in such a way so as to disseminate useful and practical information on subjects relating to Agriculture, Home Economics, and rural and community development to all people in the County, in addition to the conduct of a 4-H Club program for all boys and girls in the County.

The 1957-61 Extension program was developed by and approved by the Plymouth Extension Council assisted by nine subcommittees, and the County and state extension employees.

The needs and interests of the people of the County are reflected in the planned program

THE FLOYD VALLEY

By Elmer J. Lund
Extension Area
Soil Conservationist

The Floyd Valley drains an area of about 600,000 acres from parts of Osceola, O'Brien, Sioux, Cherokee, Plymouth and Woodbury Counties. About one-third of the Floyd Valley lies in Plymouth County and drains about one-third of Plymouth County.

During the past 80 years there have been 60 floods; five of these have been severe. The latest, and one of the worst, came in June of 1953. It took 14 lives and cost \$25 million dollars in damage to farms, towns and cities in the valley. There was untold damage to farm fields, railroads, and public roads. Inspection of some topsoil losses by the Soil Conservation Service revealed soil losses up to 150 tons per acre. This represents a little more than one inch of topsoil from an acre of land. The Floyd River carried a 20% silt load as it emptied into the Missouri River.

which is intended for the next five year period. Major emphasis will be placed on: 1. Land use — including soil and water conservation, 2. Farm Management and adjustments, 3. New developments by Agricultural research, 4. 4-H Club Programs.

Crops and Soils

About one-half of the cropland in Plymouth County is planted to intertilled crops.

Monona and Galva comprise 56% of the soil in the county and Ida and Hamburg make up 16%. These soils are deep wind-blown soils which are extremely permeable. The bottom-land colluvial soil is 26% of the total with only 2% till soils.

The nature of the cropping pattern and the soil types most commonly found in the County lend themselves to a conservation type of farming. Contour farming is an adopted practice. Contour listing and terrace construction is increasing at a rapid rate.

—Continued on Page 24

Almost one-third of the land in Plymouth County Soil Conservation District lies in the Floyd Valley Watershed. Some over 200,000 acres of Plymouth County land contributes silt and water to the Floyd River. The soils are of loess or wind blown origin. They soak up much water when the structure is maintained and either vegetative or mechanical conservation practices are used to make the water "walk" down the gentle slopes.

The agencies of the Department of Agriculture, Iowa State University, and the Plymouth Soil Conservation District have estimated the needs of conservation on the area in the Floyd Valley as contour farming, 160,000 acres; level terraces, 6,700 miles on about 100,000 acres of land; 1,500 acres of waterways and four million feet of tile drainage.

Many farmers have started on this conservation program and others will as they see the beneficial results of those now practicing them. 1959, with the heavy rains of May and early August rains have clearly demonstrated the value of terraces and contour farming.

The Floyd Valley Watershed Association is spearheading the conservation program throughout the Floyd Valley in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Districts and other agencies and groups who are in a position to assist in furthering the program.

The association is directed by a board of 30 directors living throughout the valley. Twelve of these directors are from Plymouth County. Gilbert Wagner of Remsen; George Eason, Louis Toel, Al Engbers, Lloyd Weidauer, Ralph Wendt, George Binder, Jack Kloster, Alvin Henrich all of Le Mars vicinity; Don Beitelspacher of Struble; Raymond Anderson of Merrill and Russell Held of Hinton.

These men with the other directors and several hundred members of the association believe it is much more beneficial for everyone in the valley to save the water where it falls, for crops and other uses, rather than let it run off and be held in the valley streams by a series of dams. Progress in conservation is being made as there are over 70,000 acres of contour farming and almost 700 miles of terraces applied in the past few years. They strongly urge other farmers to join them and participate in the program.

Iowa Soil and Water

GUS PECH DRILLING CO.

"For A Well Job Well Done"

— ALL TYPES OF DRILLING AND REPAIRING —

Nationally Advertised Pumps

Phone 61
Le Mars, Iowa

Phone 9-9412
Sioux City, Iowa

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

SOIL CONSERVATION AND FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION IN PLYMOUTH COUNTY

By Carl Marcue

Supervisor F. H. A.

The Farmers Home Administration is a Government agency whose primary purpose is to help people in agriculture. To assist us in guiding families we are authorized to make loans to eligible farm folks who are unable to secure the credit needed from normal lending agencies. FHA has a three-man committee, at least two of whom are farmers, that acts upon all applications for loans. To be eligible an applicant must be of legal age, a citizen of good character, and must own or have a satisfactory lease on a family sized farm. He must have some equipment which, when supplemented with an FHA loan, technical assistance and three to five years of hard work, will under normal conditions prepare him for established sources of credit.

Farmers Home Administration makes operating loans for chattels and, under some conditions, for refinancing. Real estate loans, including farm ownership, farm housing and soil and water, are available to eligible applicants. Chattel loans are written on a one to seven year basis, other loans for five to forty years, depending on the type of loan and conditions under which they are acquired. Where major adjustments and reorganization of the farm business are involved, FHA personnel help in the development of and carrying out of a sound farm and home plan and, when major conservation practices are involved, technical assistance is obtained from the Soil Conservation Service. FHA has always cooperated with all agencies and especially with SCS. I feel like somewhat of a pioneer in the service as my first work was for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company on a farm west of Kingsley in May of 1938, when contour lines were established and two earth dams erected in a gully 14 feet deep. About one and one-half miles of waterways were established which in some places had gullies three and four feet deep. These were plowed in with a walking plow, starting at the bottom and working out, using a 20 foot log chain with a team of mules at the end. After about six rounds the team was hitched to the plow and another six to eight rounds made plowing in. Then a slip scraper was used, packing and leveling was done by discing and floating with planks, always working the soil in to the

center. Waterways were then seeded to brome grass.

The dams were made with two-wheel scrapers and two slip scrapers. They are 24 feet wide at the bottom and 12 feet at the top with a slight curve to upstream. They were seeded to Reed's Canary Grass by hauling a load of starter roots from another farm. We were lucky and it held and five years later you could drive across this gully any place.

In the period from 1938 to 1940 I assisted in establishing contour lines on about 20 farms. Some stayed on the contour and some did not but, today, I think they are all back in line, thanks to Soil Conservation Service.

It is a law of nature that all life, including humans and what they control, go through three stages of maturity. First, after birth they must explore and that is one way in which youth becomes educated. Second comes exploitation and that is what our farmers and Government, to a large extent, have been doing the last 50 years. As the wild oats have been sowed and we approach the harvest, we reach the third or last stage of maturity, conservation.



Plymouth County Farmers Home Administration personnel, left to right: Miss Helen Brucher, clerk; Ed Dakan, Assistant Supervisor, and Carl Marcue, Supervisor.

How long can the majority of our people who live in areas with slope that warrants its use, sit idle—watching our soil go down the river, ignoring good,

sound soil and water conservation practices? What are the reasons? Let's take a look at a

—Continued on Page 13

Farmers Cooperative Company

Dial SU 6-1134

Remsen, Iowa



GRAIN — SEED — GRINDING & MIXING

FERTILIZER — FEED — BULK & BAGGED

VETERANS INSTRUCTION



Veterans (on the farm training) Instructors in Plymouth County are left to right: George Eason for Kingsley and Lloyd Schultz for Le Mars.

VETERANS TRAINING IN PLYMOUTH COUNTY

By

**Lloyd Schultz & George Eason
Veterans Instructors**

The Veterans Training program in Plymouth County is carried out under Public Law 550 for Korean Veterans. Starting shortly after the Korean War, the program has been in operation since. The training centers are Le Mars and Kingsley with the present instructors Lloyd Schultz and George Eason respectively.

The program of work consists of approximately five hours of classroom work per week plus individual on-farm training. The on-farm work is primarily a follow up of classroom instruction. All phases of agriculture are included in this program of work; since Plymouth County has a particular conservation problem, a large portion of the training program is devoted to soil and water conservation.

The teaching of soil and water conservation includes periodic tours and inspections of local conservation programs. At such times, we try to evaluate the practical aspects of the practices carried on and apply these to the individual veteran's farm. Problems arising at this point include absentee landlords, tenant operated farms, and reluctance to change methods of farming because of previous experience and family and neighborhood influences.

These particular problems require special attention and special methods of solving. Often visual inspection and instruction are the most effective methods of overcoming the problems. Whenever possible, full use is made of all public and private organizations whose work is in the field of soil and water management and related problems of farming.

One of our objectives is to get each veteran to follow a farm

—Continued on Page 21

Iowa Conservation Commission



E. F. Newel, Iowa Conservation Officer for Plymouth and Sioux Counties.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

By E. F. Newel
Iowa Conservation Officer
Plymouth and Sioux Counties

Plymouth county probably has as great a variety of soils and topography as any county in western Iowa.

From the rich soils and rolling hills of the north eastern part to the loess hills of the western part of Plymouth county, there is a great difference in agricultural practices and wildlife populations.

Many natural areas exist in parts of the county and need only to be excluded from livestock to make good wildlife areas. Other areas have been improved by planting multiflora rose fences and by the use of terraces and contours.

In recent years, idle acres created by the conservation reserve program, have done much to

help improve wildlife populations inasmuch as food, cover and nesting areas are necessary for better wildlife reproduction and survival.

The Soil Conservation Service has done much to help wildlife populations by setting up good crop rotations and farm practices in their farm plans. Many farm ponds have been constructed along with contours, terraces and grassed waterways.

The State Conservation Commission has recently purchased a public fishing access area on the Big Sioux River west of Westfield. This area is a natural for wildlife so little has to be done to improve it. This is the only State owned area of this kind in Plymouth county.

Some experimental game bird plantings of quail have been made in the county and where the habitat was suitable, there has been natural reproduction. These areas are under cultivation where multi-flora rose fences have been planted. Severe climatic conditions could change this entire picture, but so far, good habitat seems to be the answer.

Excellent cooperation has been given by all concerned agencies in the county toward good conservation education.

All wildlife will respond in direct proportion to the amount of favorable environmental conditions that exist. Plymouth county has a vast potential for this condition.

Iowa Soil and Water

Barwick Implement Co.

YOUR JOHN DEERE DEALER

Service is Our Speciality.

PHONE 3711

AKRON

IOWA

Vocational Ag Instruction in Plymouth District



Seated at left in front row is Fred Goudge, Vocational Agriculture Instructor at the Akron Community School with his FFA Chapter.



Carl Kensil, Vo-Ag Instructor in Le Mars Public School with the officers of his FFA Chapter. Left to right: Kensil, Ron Beeck, Secretary; Val Buss, Vice President; Dean Miller, President; Dick Werth, Reporter, and Marc Chapman, Sentinel.

LE MARS VO-AG DEPARTMENT LE MARS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Carl J. Kensil, Inst.

The Le Mars Community Schools included vocational agriculture in its high school curriculum for the first time in 1939. During the past 20 years the Le Mars Vo-Ag Department has always promoted sound soil and water management. Included in the departmental program of instruction are many field trips, demonstrations, and hours of conservation each year in addition to the individual undertakings of students of the department.

During the 10th grade, crops and soils are emphasized. In Iowa Soil and Water

struction includes a brief history of the soil and its formation with emphasis on how Plymouth county soils were formed. Soil properties, characteristics, and profiles are studied in the classroom and on the farms. The students learn the different properties and how they affect soil production and why they respond to different management practices.

All types of vegetative and mechanical means of controlling water erosion are studied in the classroom and are observed on field trips. Practice in laying out contours, grass waterways, terraces, buffer strips, gully control, building terraces and farming on the contour is offered to all students.

Adult farmers and former GI's in the veterans training classes have devoted phases of their instructional program to soil and water conservation, and in cooperation with the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District are employing all types of erosion control practices.

All classes are kept informed of the progress of the Floyd Valley Watershed Association in attaining its goals and objectives. The Vo-Ag department has had a close tie-in with the Floyd Valley Watershed Association through George Eason, veteran's training instructor, who has served as chairman of the organization.

F H A—

(Continued from Page 11)

few: finances, education, habit, and about as many more as we have letters in the alphabet. But why? First, all real wealth originates from the soil whether it is crops, fish, meat, metal or timber. It takes, I am told, twenty inches of plant growth to build one inch of top soil, and one real cloudburst can take that down the river in a matter of hours. Since it takes three to five years to grow one inch of soil, one does not need a college education to prove that it is not financially sound to continue to let soil and water get away when contouring, terracing, and dams can so easily prevent it.

As to habits, we are slow to change but, as a people, we have one trait that seems common to all. As an example, Mr. Jones decides he will go to SCS and secure expert help to conserve

F.F.A. AT AKRON
By Fred L. Goudge
Vo-Ag Instructor
Akron Public Schools

The Soil and Water Conservation Plan is the guide used by the Akron Vo-Ag boys in their Farm Management Course. This unit of Farm Planning includes planning the cropping system, livestock system and finally developing a farm budget. The boys considered land classes and conservation practices before selecting the desirable crop rotations. Thanks to the local SCS Office each boy received a copy of a Soil and Water Conservation Plan.

Crops and Soils are studied in the Sophomore year. This includes preparation for Land Judging Contests. Land judging introduces a large number of new terms associated with the study of soils such as soil structure, texture, slope, erosion, permeability, organic matter and soil profile. Field trips, audio visual materials, models, "mock ups," bulletins and many other references are used bringing new insights to soil and water conservation practices.

Back in 1941 a small watershed was formed in Mount Hope Creek, Union County, South Dakota as a result of an Adult Farmer Vo-Ag class taught by Kenneth Decker. Then, as now, you will find the Vo-Ag Dept. here at Akron Public Schools encouraging the farmer and his sons to "Treat land according to its needs and to use it according to its capability."

his soil. The technician goes to his farm, makes a survey, and in due time completes his study of the farm and maps it with the location of contour lines, terraces and dams. The next season, his neighbors are watching and, first thing he knows, they are trying to keep up with him. It is my opinion that keeping up with the Joneses has been a leading factor in the development of soil and water conservation. If you must keep up with the Joneses, by all means do it the soil conservation way.

"BUD" HIGMAN

Sand and Gravel

Phone 6011

Akron, Iowa

CONSERVATION OF OUR SOILS AND WATER BEING TAUGHT IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



Left to right: Mrs. Christine L. McCormick, Plymouth County Superintendent of Schools and Mardros Cummicke, Administrative Assistant.

Conservation Education In Plymouth County, Iowa Schools

By Christine L. McCormick
County Superintendent of Schools

As one who grew up on a hilly farm in the southwest part of Plymouth County, Iowa, I recall often surveying storm damages following the heavy spring rains. Not only were the fences washed out and some of the poultry and livestock drowned, but the corn, a few inches high in the surrounding valleys, was covered with deep, black mud—the topsoil which had been washed down from the hills. Replanting the corn resulted in at least a partial crop, but much of the fertile soil from the hilltops could never be replaced; it had already “muddied” the Missouri River.

These first-hand experiences of my childhood and the work being

done by the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District convinced me several years ago that we must teach conservation to the Plymouth County rural boys and girls, despite their already crowded curriculum. With the publication of the 1949 Iowa Elementary Handbook, “The Teaching of Conservation,” by the Iowa State Department of Public Instruction, as the teachers’ guide and the out-of-doors for our laboratory, we initiated the study of soil and water conservation in our rural schools about a decade ago. The conservation handbook and over 2300 free pamphlets and booklets on soil and water conservation were distributed by our office to the elementary teachers in Plymouth County. Filmstrips and slides on conservation were made available for loan.

The Plymouth County Soil Conservation District and the Plymouth County Extension Service, ever ready to serve, met frequently with groups of rural teachers did not feel adequately prepared to teach.

Additional impetus was given to the conservation program in 1951 by the Extension Office when, in a series of meetings, films on conservation were shown to approximately 600 rural students and teachers. This was followed later in the year by an essay contest on conservation. In the spring, rural teachers and upper grade pupils made field trips to observe terracing and contouring on Plymouth County farms. The next year, the rural schools participated in conservation activity projects; such as, planting trees and re-seeding school grounds, establishing fertilizer demonstration plots of oats and legume seeding, planting and maintaining wildlife covering of trees and shrubs. Packets of wildlife covering and trees were also supplied free of charge to several schools.

The “Iowa Conservationist” and a student’s workbook on soil conservation, prepared by Miss Anna Marie Gruber, Elementary Supervisor of Woodbury County Schools, have been used in the Plymouth County elementary schools since 1954. In 1959, the Plymouth County Board of Education purchased approximately 1000 copies of the workbook entitled “Conservation Activities,” for use in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Two Plymouth County teachers were awarded scholarships to the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp.

What has been done is little, in comparison with what needs to be done. The conserving of our natural resources requires wisdom, vision, and devotion. It is not enough for children to mem-

orize the Conservation Pledge and glibly quote: “I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country—its soils and minerals, its forests, waters, and wildlife.” Our schools must teach boys and girls to realize their own personal responsibility in conserving the earth for the generations which follow them. “For truly the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, but the responsibility for its stewardship is vested in man.”

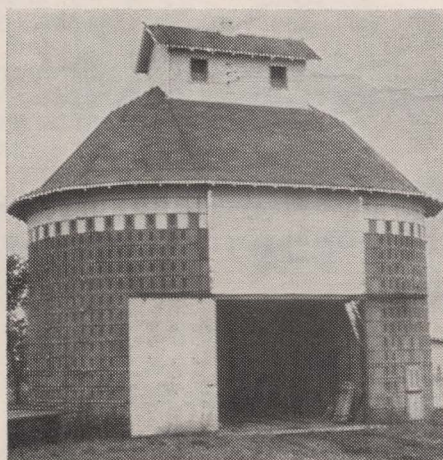
CASSMAN Motor Co.



**AUTHORIZED FORD
SALES — SERVICE**
Ford Farm Equipment
Gas—Diesel Tractors
New Holland
Implements
Used Cars
Ph. 3331 Akron, Ia.

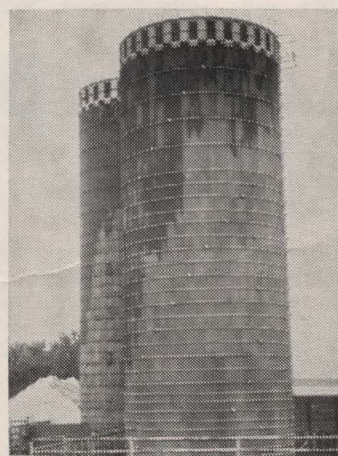
E. L. SCOTT

Contractor
Terraces — Waterways
Earthwork
Ph. 3461 Merrill, Ia.



E. L. PAGE & SON

Manufacturers and
Builders of
Iowa Forced Draft Con-
crete Crib and Silos.
Lumber, Coal & Retail
Builders Supplies
Phone 8-4133
Kingsley, Iowa



Schaafs Store

— JOHN DEERE —
— NEW IDEA —
SINCE 1885
Phone SU 6-1125
Remsen, Iowa

Banker Views Conservation



A BANKER'S VIEWS ON SOIL CONSERVATION

By O. E. Fristad, President
The First National Bank
in Le Mars

Le Mars, Iowa

The past several decades have brought about many changes in our way of life. Great advances have been made in the fields of education, industry, entertainment, transportation and agriculture—all of which concerns our way of living.

In our local area considerable progress has been made in the field of agriculture. The use of better farm equipment and labor saving devices, improved seed, fertilizer and better methods have meant a great deal to the farmer. A benefit of considerable importance to the farmer in his operations is available through the Soil and Water Conservation Service. More and more farmers are commencing to realize that the proper use of the soil is good business. With increased costs in the operation of a farm and reduced net farm income, it is very important that proper use be made of every acre of land and that every acre be made to produce to its maximum capacity.

As bankers, we are interested in the success and welfare of the farmer. Naturally, a bank is as prosperous as the community it serves. Therefore, our chief concern is to help our customers succeed. If agriculture prospers, business will prosper—it will carry more money in the bank; it will employ more people; and through its payrolls and purchases will add to the business activity of Le Mars and Plymouth County. Such a practice is good for everyone. We all prosper together.

Our responsibility for the future is to use the land to the best of our ability and protect it so it may produce food and provide for our coming generation.

Iowa Soil and Water

Conservation In Many Forms

By Wayne Ducommun,
Area Engineer

As part of the Area staff, we assist Plymouth County on engineering practices and structures of the more complex type. This involves mainly erosion control structures such as earth fills with an important area of permanent water averaging one to three acres in surface area, and including an outfall pipe to discharge the water slowly in time of heavy runoff. Sometimes these earth fills are part of the county road which means that often times a bridge can be eliminated and replaced by installing this fill and a pipe. Western Plymouth County has some extremely severe gullies (20-40 feet deep) due to the steep land and easily eroded loess soil which covers the area. Conservation also can be accomplished many times by adding a reinforced concrete box (3-20 feet in height) to a present road culvert and then filling and shaping the gully into a grass waterway. This particular structure is very inexpensive and with ACP help, the cost to the land owner is small.

Another structure used is the concrete drop spillway which

PLYMOUTH COUNTY COOPERATES WITH DISTRICT IN CONSERVING ITS SOIL



Plymouth County Personnel, seated left to right: Ray Richardson, Vice Chairman of Board of Supervisors; G. F. Moritz, Chairman of the Board; I. H. Schulte, Supervisor. Standing, left to right: H. D. Floyd, Plymouth County Engineer; Fred J. H. Plueger, Supervisor and Henry Dirks, Supervisor.

lets the water down just like a stair step. These are used when three to ten feet is needed. Practically every type of conservation engineering practice is be-

ing used in Plymouth County. Besides the ones I have mentioned, we have: drainage by

—Continued on Page 34

REMSSEN IMPLEMENT

SALES — PARTS
and
SERVICE

BADGER SILO
UNLOADERS

Phone SU 6-2335

Remsen, Iowa



DORRS Produce & Feeds

Complete Line
of WAYNE'S Feed

Phone SU 6-2234

Remsen Iowa



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 13TH ANNUAL

Bill Richards, President of the National Register and Tribune Awards



Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Streigle of Keokuk County, winners of the Des Moines Register and Tribune Sweepstakes Award, as they receive their \$500.00 prize in Mason City at the annual conference. Mr. J. S. Russell, Farm News Editor and Glenn Cunningham of the Register and Tribune news staff presented the awards.



Mr. and Mrs. Leo Schroeder, owners, and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Langel, operators, from Plymouth District, winners of the Landlord-Tenant Division of the Register and Tribune contest receiving their award and certainly a lot of well deserved praise at the annual conference in Mason City.

SWEEPSTAKES SOIL AWARD TO CLIFFORD STREIGLE

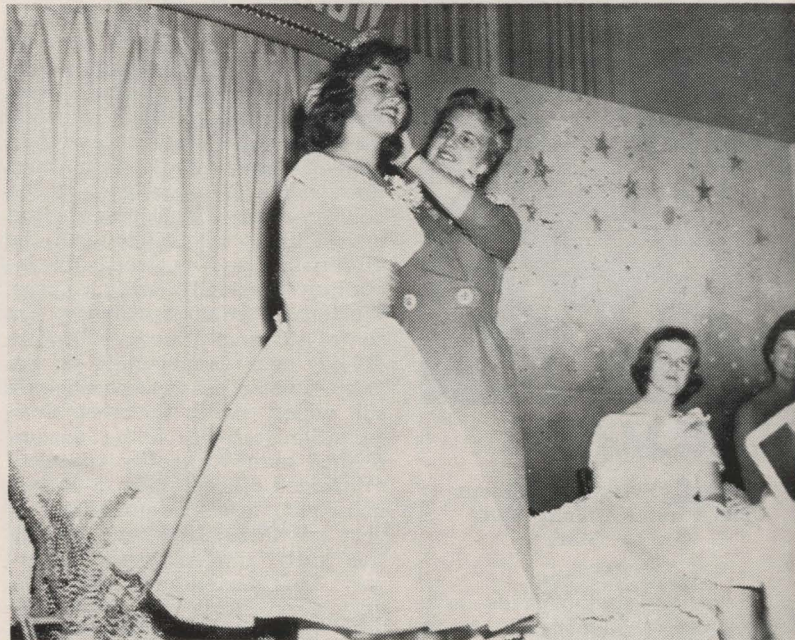
Clifford Streigle and his 225-acre farm near Delta in Keokuk county have been selected for the sweepstakes award in the 1959 Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program.

Streigle and his wife, Valburga, who made a high producing farm out of a tract of run-down land

they bought for \$25 an acre in 1939, will receive the sweepstakes award of a U. S. savings bond of \$500 maturity value.

Close Contest

The Streigles, along with other state and regional winners in the awards program sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and Iowa Farm and Home Register, were honored Tuesday noon,



Iowa's new "Queen of the Furrow," Miss Janice Radabaugh, Ames, Iowa, being crowned by retiring Queen Miss Kay Klingaman. Janice was chosen state winner from a field of nine regional winners. American Steel and Wire presented Miss Radabaugh with a \$250.00 wardrobe. Miss Radabaugh reigned as Queen at the State Plowing Matches and Field Day, September 25 in Woodbury District.



"Queen of the Furrow" Miss Janice Radabaugh with, "not so much of a King," Gilbert Fridley, retiring President of the Iowa Association of Soil District Commissioners.

September 22, at a luncheon in Hotel Hanford, Mason City.

The judging committee headed by Frank Mendell, state conservationist for the U. S. soil conservation service, had a difficult time deciding on the sweepstakes, the other contender being Leo Schroeder and his farm near Kingsley.

Both farms rank exceptionally high conservation-wise, as a result of years of hard work on the part of the owners and their management skill and their desire to develop them into profitable farming enterprises.

The Streigle farm is a rough and rolling tract five miles south-

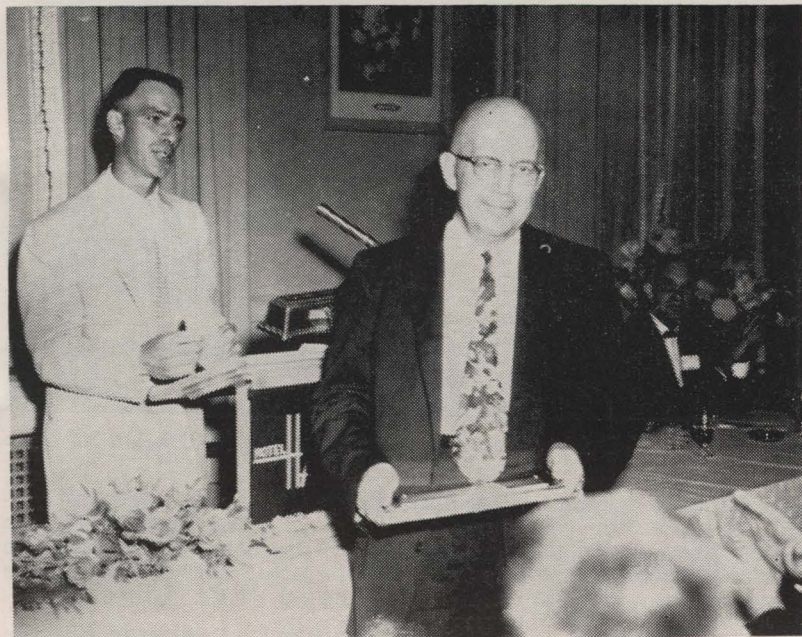
Iowa Soil and Water

COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE

Association Main Speaker at Monday Banquet

State Committee Award

Ladies' Auxiliary Speech Contest



Clyde Spry, Iowa's own secretary of agriculture, receiving the State Soil Conservation Committee award at the Conference of Commissioners in Mason City, Iowa. Glenn Cunningham, with the farm news department of the Register and Tribune and the Iowa Farm and Home Register received a similar award. George Eason of the State Committee shown in the background.



Dan Berry, newspaper publisher, Indianola, Iowa, receiving Lifetime Associate Membership Award in the Iowa Association of Soil District Commissioners from Gilbert Fridley, retiring president.

west of Delta which is now protected by terraces and grassed waterways with all row crops grown on the contour except those planted on river bottom land.

Improvements

Schroeder and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Le Mars and work closely with Lawrence Langel,

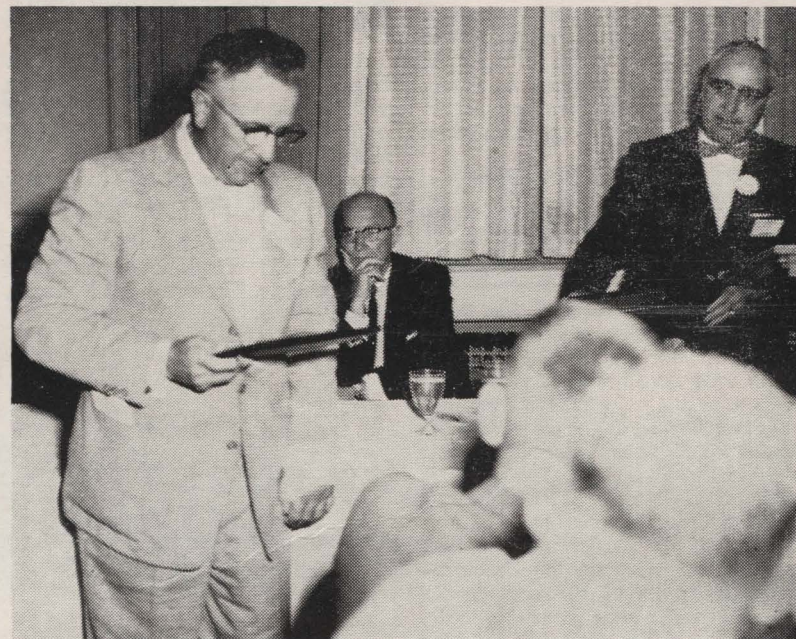
Iowa Soil and Water

operator of the Kingsley farm, and tenants on three other farms they own in Plymouth county, in improving the land and buildings.

The recognition luncheon held Tuesday, September 22, was a feature of the annual conference of Iowa soil conservation district commissioners.



State Speech Contest winners sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary and Midwest Metal Culvert, makers of metal pipe for conservation structures, as they appeared in Ames at the Annual Conference of Soil District Commissioners. Left to right: Mr. Verne L. Peterson, vice president of Midwest Metal Culvert; 1st place winner, receiving a \$50.00 cash prize, Diane Troyer, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Melvin Anderson, Marne, Iowa, winner of a \$25.00 cash award and Lora Lee Swanson, Moville, Iowa, also winner of a \$25.00 cash award. The speeches of these three winners will be printed in the next three issues of Iowa Soil and Water.



Dewey Cornell with the State ASC office in Des Moines looking at his Lifetime Membership Award presented by the State Association. Others receiving awards were Richard Wilcox, Deputy State Conservationist; Bill Mitchell, Grundy Center and A. J. Marken, Hampton, former Directors of the State Association.

Iowa's Outstanding Soil District Commissioner on Page 31

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR SOIL



FATHER A. W. BEHRENS
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Sioux City
St. Joseph's Church
Hinton, Iowa

Why Conserve Soil?

By Fr. A. W. Behrens

Thousands of volumes have been published on the subject of care of the soil down through the years. Much time, expense, and effort has been put forth to educate the farmer in the use of good farm practices. Yet, in spite of the noble efforts of scientists, statisticians and a host of reliable educators, Mr. Farmer, for the most part refuses to take heed. The stubborn blindness of some of our farm owners and operators even in Plymouth County, where according to the Globe Post "the best people live," perturbs many thinking men and women interested in feeding our great nation.

Moral Obligation to Conserve

When God formed the earth by a mere act of His will, He made it lush with green meadows, wild flowers and dark forests. He placed man in this paradise with other wonderful works of His creation. He commissioned man (who was made with an intellect and a will) to use His created acts to the best of his ability. Millions of years later we still have the obligation to use His created acts to the best of our ability. God, the Supreme Lawmaker, setup the laws of nature, movement of planets, the seasons, the cycle of life and death, preservation, conservation, etc. We in the 20th century abide by the same dictates as did our forefathers. Reason alone would suffice, but we do have the Scriptures, to caution us in the correct use of the created gifts of the Supreme God.

Erosion Control

An Absolute Must

The power Greater than Ourselves, not only created the universe with all the marvelous

trimmings, He contained the elements (wind, sunshine, rain, etc.) as well.

A few years ago, June 7, 1953, to be exact, He permitted a devastating rain—a deluge, to plague Plymouth and Woodbury Counties. If our farm element had been prepared, using flood control methods, and good farm practices, millions of tons of top soil would still be productive in our area. John Maddy, soil conservationist for Plymouth County at the time, estimated conservatively, that some 9,000,000 tons of rich top soil (150,000 railroad cars, with 60 tons per car) floated down the Missouri basin. What a deplorable loss of Northwest Iowa! Mr. Farmer—have we forgotten? This happened but six short years ago. It could happen again. Are you prepared?

Conserve Soil to Feed Nation

Some of our die-hard theorists in the field of agriculture, in spite of the tremendous loss of top soil in the last century, nevertheless, maintain that our soil is so chemically balanced today that micro-neutrient deficiency is not a problem in producing properly balanced, nutritious foodstuffs. Pray tell—why do we find so many additions in the supplement—the pig starter—the chick starter? Why are millions of dollars being spent yearly by Mr. America Public on vitamin tablets, both for himself and the farm animals? Are we in Balance, or Out of Balance Nutritionally?

The health of our great nation hangs in balance. Mr. Farmer, you feed the nation. Are you conserving the soil and adding the chemical elements which will produce quality food for your animals and your fellow man?

Conservation is not a joke—not an idle word. The challenge is yours Mr. Farmer—read, study, think!

—o—

A SERMON FOR RURAL LIFE SUNDAY

Delivered by Clarence W. Dehne
Calvary Evangelical United
Brethren Church
Le Mars, Iowa

Topic: "Salvation For Soil and Soul."

Text: "... O God of our salvation who art the hope of the ends of the earth ..."

In the calendar of the Christian year one Sunday is designated as Rural Life or Rogation Sunday. The purpose of this special



Reverend C. W. Dehne, Pastor of Calvary Evangelical United Brethren Church.

cial day is to remind us that the soil we till is the handiwork of Almighty God, Creator of the world. Likewise, Rural Life Sunday motivates us to think about our relationship to the people who plant, cultivate, and harvest the crops upon which we depend for our daily food.

The Christian experience of salvation is inclusive of all of these relationships. The Christian knows by faith that he is a child of God. He faces the choices, the temptations, and the fruits of life in the assurance that the heavenly Father cares.

The Christian also knows a sense of responsibility to God for his use and care of the soil. If we are going to keep the good earth good, maintain its fertility for future generations; then we must redeem the souls of men from the powers of sin. The state of the soul can be known by looking at the condition of the soil. If the nation's soil is eroded and wasted, then we can know that there is something wrong with the soul of that nation. The salvation of soil and soul are intimately related.

I

A Deeper Awareness of Our Stewardship to God and Man

Let us give thanks today that we are gradually coming into a deeper awareness of our stewardship to God and man. "Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion, and unto thee shall the vow be performed" is the opening thought of the Psalmist's song of joy. The ancient Hebrew was very careful to bring the first sheaf of grain to the local priest to be presented to God as an act of thanksgiving for the harvest. We are doing this at the beginning of the growing season. Rogation

Sunday is to help us realize our relationship to God as we farm the land and enjoy the fruits of the harvest later in the year.

Last fall it was my privilege to visit a farm a few miles east of Le Mars and thus be able to see how farming practices have been changing in the past six years. The statement was made that this farm had doubled its yield since these new practices of soil and water conservation were used. This farm is only one example of what is happening on many farms throughout our nation.

Jean Lesage, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, said to a service club in Toronto, Canada: "We have come to realize that our present productivity and prosperity are not due to any innate virtue of our own. They are not due to any superiority over other peoples. But rather they are due to our having been endowed with the great and varied natural resources we have. As we have recognized this fact, we have come to realize also that unless we continue to have resources that are economically usable for decades to come, our productivity and prosperity will not go unendingly. We know, as we never knew before, that it is our resources that have made us great."

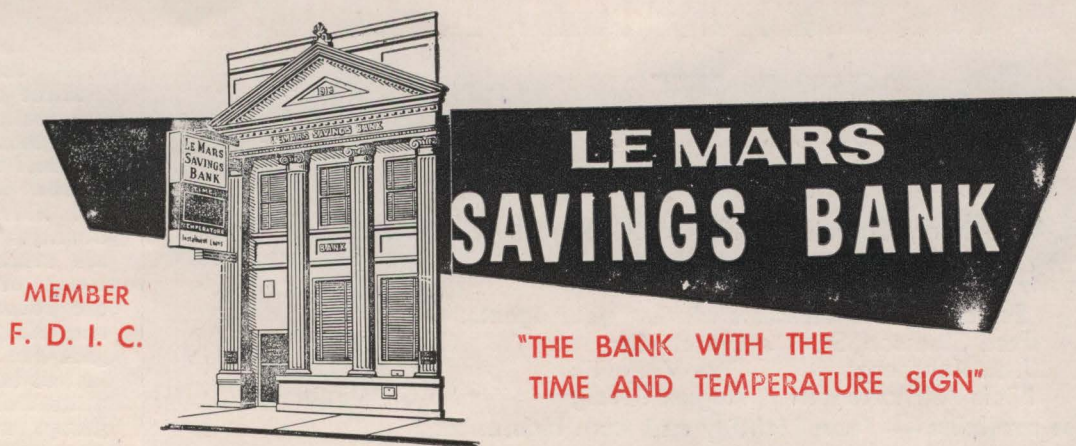
II

Overwhelmed With the Goodness of God

The major portion of the Psalmist's song of joy expressed his observations of the goodness of God. He is overwhelmed with God's goodness when he looks upon the verdant hills of Palestine.

—Continued on Page 31

Iowa Soil and Water



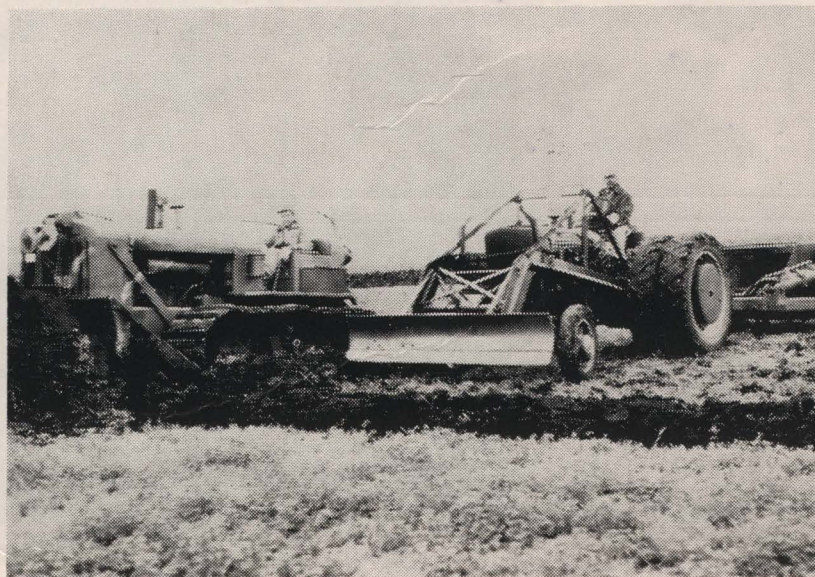
An Eleventh Commandment

"Thou shalt inherit the Holy Earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land, thy fruitful fields shall become sterile, stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from off the face of the earth."

—Walter Clay Lowdermilk

ROBERT SIMONS

Earthmoving Contractor



Terraces — Waterways — Pond Building — Ditch Filling — Free Estimates

Phone 8-3341

Kingsley, Iowa

PLYMOUTH FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

Bertsel Brown, President

Chas. R. Tucker, Secretary

Office — 20 Central Avenue S. E., Le Mars, Iowa

Writing in Plymouth, Woodbury, Cherokee and Sioux Counties. Complete coverage in one policy. Fire, Lightning, Extended Coverages and Windstorm. Over 90% of the farm insurance in Iowa is with the County Mutual Associations.

See any of the Directors who are your agents.

Harold Albert
H. C. Baldes
Bertsel Brown

Fred Claesson, Sr.

J. L. Kehrberg

Niels A. Mortensen

Everett Orr

Geo. V. Pavlik

August Riediger

Clarence Schroeder

Chas. R. Tucker

R. C. Winter

Also available — Farm Liability and Auto Insurance

SOIL GROUPS OF PLYMOUTH COUNTY

By John Worster
Area Soil Scientist

Three different groups of soils are found in Plymouth County. The Moody association is the smallest in area, occurring in a narrow north-south strip along the northwestern edge of the County. The Ida-Monona soils are found in the southwestern fourth of the County and along the south side between Hinton and Kingsley. The Galva-Primghar-Sac association covers the rest of the County.

Most of the soils in all three groups are formed on material (loess) deposited by wind. Why then are they different? The Moody soils differ mainly because they have developed under slightly less rainfall through the years than the other soils. The loess cover becomes thinner and the size of the particles becomes smaller going from southwest to northeast in Plymouth County. This helps explain why the Ida-Monona soils are different from the Galva-Primghar-Sac soils.

Position on the slope makes a difference in what type soils develop. Primghar silt loam is darker colored and a little wetter than Galva silt loam because it is on flatter land. Sometimes the silt loam loess is very thin and gravelly clay (glacial till) is found within two or three feet of the surface. This soil is called Sac silt loam.

Classifying the Soils

When a farmer works with a Soil Conservation Service (SCS) technician to develop a conservation plan on his farm, he needs information about soil types and other land conditions on that farm. This inventory (soil map) is made by one of the soil scientists assigned to the SCS staff at Sioux City. The soil scientist spends several hours walking over the farm with a soil auger and hand level. He maps on an aerial photograph the types of soil, steepness of slopes, depth of topsoil, and location of gullies and waterways.

SCS is now cooperating with other agencies in getting soil maps completed for entire counties. This work is progressing in Woodbury County now. Preliminary work will be started in Plymouth County this year. When Woodbury County is completed, effort will be concentrated in Plymouth County. These maps will, of course, have many uses in addition to conservation planning.

GILMORE GRAIN COMPANY

GOOCH'S FEEDS --- SEED
FERTILIZER

Phone 929

Le Mars, Iowa

BOCK EARTHMOVING

All types of dirt work: Trees — Dams — Lanes — Terracing
Channel Changing — Waterways — Etc.

DOZERS --- SCOOP --- MAINTAINER

— 29 Years Experience —

FRED "Pete" BOCK — 626 4th St. S. W.

Phone 1226W

Le Mars, Iowa



Akron Savings Bank

Phone 2-411



Akron, Iowa

Congratulations to the Plymouth County Soil District for their fine work in promoting Soil Conservation.

**E. F. NELLE
Lumber & Coal
Co.**

Phone 390

Le Mars, Iowa

Iowa Soil and Water

VETERANS TRAINING —

(Continued from page 12)

plan and to use it as a guide in his overall farming operations. We feel satisfactory progress is being made in this direction and that within a few years these men will assume the responsibility of community leadership in promoting and furthering good soil and water management.

In the final analysis we would say that classroom meetings tend to draw the individuals out of their shell and introduce them to newer concepts which are more readily grasped and accepted through the group approach. Individual training is then much more easily carried out. We feel that the veterans program has added much to the conservation of resources in Plymouth County.

KLUVER Locker Plant

BUTCHERING

Tuesday
and
Friday

Phone 2101
Merrill Iowa

Bulldozing --- Plowing --- Terracing

Scraper Work

Flood Control

Grothaus

CONSTRUCTION

C. E. (Chuck) Grothaus

Kingsley, Iowa

Phone 8-8551

Rural Electrification

The uses of Electricity on farms, to save work and to make more money for the farmer, has greatly increased during the past few years. However, the future farm operation will require still more electricity to get the job done. To supply this electricity, at the lowest possible cost, is the job the Plymouth Electric Cooperative Association and the Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative have to do. The Co-ops are justly proud for the part they have had in bringing electricity to over 2500 rural consumers in Plymouth County and hope to continue to do it for many years to come.



Plymouth Electric Cooperative Association

Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative



**BE KIND
TO
YOUR
LAND!**

The First National Bank in Le Mars



It's your greatest asset. Buildings can be replaced; so can worn-out machinery. But what can you do with land when its fertility has been destroyed?

Crop rotation, contour cultivation for erosion control, and similar modern methods of promoting farm prosperity are very important. This bank is strongly in favor of making safe loans, giving advice, or doing anything that contributes to the permanent welfare of our farmer friends.

**THE BANK FOR
YOUR SAVINGS**

**See Us For Your
Livestock Loans**

PLYMOUTH CO-OP OIL COMPANY



**H. F. Gralapp
Mgr.**

**101 1st Ave. N. W.
Le Mars, Iowa**

**Phones
74 & 84**



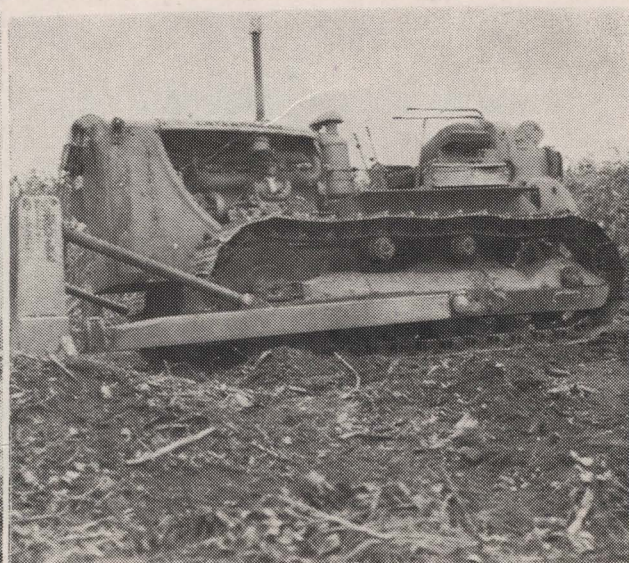
Good Morning Mills



MEIS Seed & Feed

ELMER REINDERS

Earthmoving Contractor



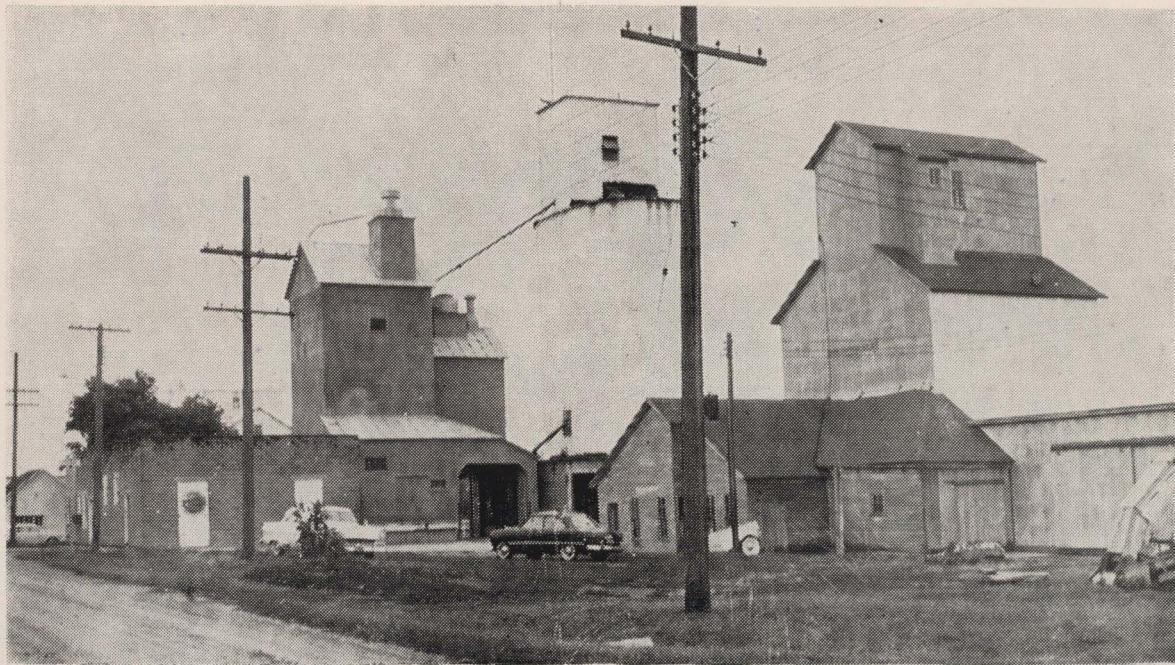
We do all types of conservation work: channel changing, waterways, open ditches, terracing and land clearing.

Phone 430

Orange City, Iowa

FARMERS ELEVATOR COMPANY

Since April 1905



PHONE 8-8381

KINGSLEY, IOWA

Your Savings
Earn 3½ Per Cent Per Annum
at the

LE MARS FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

Each account is insured up to \$10,000

by an instrumentality of the United States Government.

Funds are free from market fluctuations!

Remember that "WHERE YOU SAVE DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE."



LE MARS FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

Box 910

Le Mars, Iowa

Phone 678

EXTENSION —

(Continued from page 10)

The teaching objectives of the Plymouth County Extension program are as follows:

1. To maintain a high level of production per acre and do it efficiently to give higher net returns and standard of living.
2. To decrease financial losses from flooding soil loss and drought.
3. To get maximum returns by using improved crop varieties which have performed best in the State Crop variety performance tests.
4. To get fertilizer and rotations used efficiently so that maximum returns will be realized even under adverse weather conditions.
5. To make better use of all cropland by elimination of weed competition.
6. To keep farmers informed of the most effective up-to-date method of disease and pest control so that they will not suffer unnecessary losses.

The County Extension Director meets regularly with the Soil Conservation District commissioners and the ASC County Committee. He writes all limestone and fertilizer recommendations for the County and also writes a weekly column which deals with crops and soils.

In early winter a two-day Farm Clinic is held at Kingsley and Le Mars. The Akron community requested that the Clinic also be extended to that town. Therefore, it will be held at three locations in 1960. Experimental data from the Experimental farms at Doon, Sutherland and Castana is used in these meetings.

The Plymouth County Extension Council works cooperatively with the Floyd Valley Watershed Association in helping to coordinate soil conservation activities in the Floyd Valley. A full time area soil conservationist is employed by Iowa State University for this purpose. His expenses are shared by O'Brien, Sioux and Plymouth County Extension Councils and the Floyd Valley Watershed Association.

The County Extension staff conducts demonstrations on weed control, terrace construction, fertilizer use and insect control.

**ALL AGENCIES SHOULD
TAKE A MORE ACTIVE
PART IN ACQUAINTING
AMERICANS OF THE
NEED FOR SOIL CONSER-
VATION.**

Iowa Soil and Water

New Liquid Feed For Beef Cattle



TANK truck delivers new liquid supplement to storage-tank feeder on the farm. Beef cattle enjoy this unique type of feed, called Morea® supplement, while farmers benefit from new-found "automation in the feed lot." All ruminant animals, including dairy cows and sheep, can consume the liquid "free choice" and balance their own ration. Morea supplement speeds up fermentation in the rumen and aids the breakdown of cellulosic roughage materials, such as hay, ground corn cobs or silage. Animals are provided with better nutrition because ethanol in the supplement acts as a hydrogen donor to assure more efficient use of nitrogen for building protein. They receive more high-quality nutrients at lower feeding costs, according to U. S. Industrial Chemicals Co. and Feed Service Corporation, manufacturers of the new feed product. Beef cattle fed on a Morea supplement program produce better meat with improved flavor, tenderness, marbling, and less waste cover fat because of better nutrition, the companies state.

Morea Liquid Feed

Vito-Mino Feeds

PUETZ & WILLIS INC.

Le Mars & Merville, Iowa

Phone 15-F-210 or 115

Phone 3-7555

Distributor — Dealer

Greentop Fertilizer

Agricultural Ammonia

Trace Minerals for Soil and Livestock

ACP PROGRAM —

—Continued on page 8

funds in this state and county to encourage the use of more conservation on individual farms. There is a great need for conservation on most farms in every community.

By the use of this program, we get needed soil and water conservation practices started, some which would not be possible if farmers were to depend entirely on their own resources.

The farmers, businessmen and other citizens of Plymouth County can be justly proud of the services rendered by their county ASC employees and the Soil Conservation Service in the years gone by.

I am sure that they can expect and will receive continued excellent service and assistance from these agencies.

State Farm Insurance

Leo R. FLAHERTY

Le Mars, Iowa

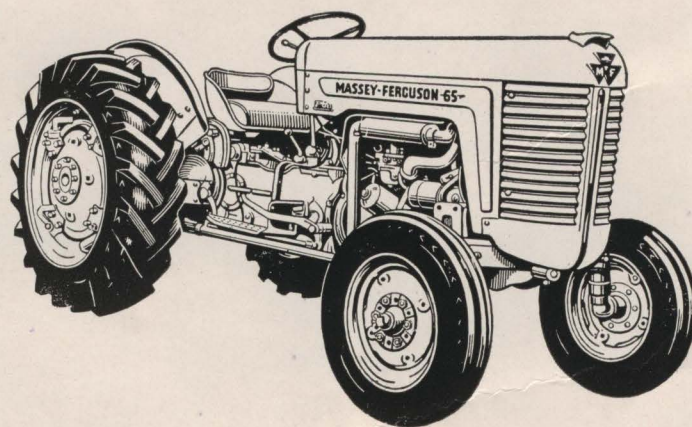
Iowa Soil and Water

ARNDT'S GARAGE & IMPLEMENT

PHONE NO. 619

HINTON

IOWA



WILTGEN READYMIX

YOUR ARMCO STEEL BUILDING DEALER



The Right Machine For Your Job
International TD 18 -- TD 14 -- TD 9
AW Road Patrol -- Dragline

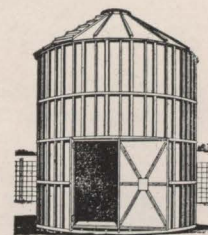


See us for your Conservation Work.
Terrace Building -- Concrete Structures -- Waterways -- Tree Removal
General Earthmoving Work.

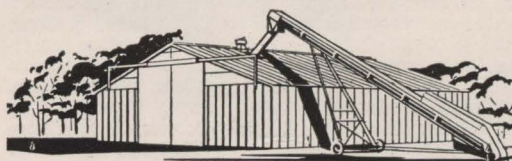
How to Solve Your Farm-Building Problems

Use Armco Steel Buildings and gain these advantages

- A Type and Size to Fit YOUR Need
- Fast, Easy Erection
- Weathertight Construction
- Lower Maintenance Costs
- Protection from Fire, Lightning, Wind



New Armco Grain Bins are erected in hours.



Armco Grain Storage Buildings can be converted to machinery storage, other farm uses.



Armco 24-foot Special Buildings are ideal for low-cost machinery storage and shop space.

Write or call us for complete data.
Ask about our erection service.



TD 14 with Combination Dozer and Loader missing from picture.

Phone 298

Le Mars, Iowa

SPRINGBROOK STATE PARK PLYMOUTH COUNTY'S STATE REPRESENTATIVE



LORAINNE NEVILLE
Fifth Grade Instructor
Hinton Community School

IOWA TEACHERS' CONSERVATION CAMP

Springbrook State Park
Guthrie Center, Iowa
By Loraine Neville
Menville, Iowa

Session I of the 1959 Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp was Biology 104 — Iowa Conservation Problems B. I had the privilege of attending Session I this summer with part of my expenses provided by the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District and the Sioux City Kiwanis Club.

One could never begin to write here all of the many useful and enjoyable experiences and activities that were undertaken. They included experiences in soil nutrients, wildlife and balance in nature.

We learned conservation by seeing and doing rather than by reading and listening. Instruction in each field was given by specialists selected because of their ability to give practical, usable experiences and information.

Making the collection of at least 12 herbaceous plants was most educational. Plants collected were local uncultivated specimens and may have been wild flowers or weeds. The entire plant—leaves, stems, flowers, and roots had to be collected. I gathered mine from roadside areas, near railroad tracks and in virgin prairies. The plant was not taken unless there were five others available in a five foot radius. Following all other rules and every delicate detail each of the plants was pressed in the plant

press that everyone was required to construct.

When dry, we mounted them on individual cardboard or paper that was sufficient weight to provide backing for the plant. An identification card including the common name, scientific name, where collected, habitat in which found, date, your name, and any general characteristic of the flowering plant that might not be seen on the specimen was placed on each mounting. Keying some of these required many hours of study.

Another of the activities that I must tell you about was the establishing of a nature trail. This project was based primarily on observation and identification of the natural environment. The principal equipment that we needed was a strong back, patience, and acute eyes. In some places a trail had to be made. We had to observe the influence of weather conditions on various animal and plant groups. We studied the plant life within 20 feet of each side of the trail and identified it, especially the permanent plant life including trees and shrubs. We put up markers for them. As a finale each person had to give a report of the particular area that they had been assigned. This included the light intensity, direction and percent of slope, kinds of birds, soil compactness, all plants and trees, temperature, insects, kind of soil, soil temperature, humidity and other miscellaneous items. From this personal experience of helping to set out a nature trail I feel I will be better able to appreciate the problems involved in ecological studies.

Every phase of conservation studied was filled with new experiences for me. I have only told about two of them. There were many others.

Some of the teaching aids I made included the plant press, insect net, anttarium, animal cage, and a weather-vane bird feeder.

Our natural resources and their conservation and down to earth explanations and ideas which could be adopted for use in the school room were well covered. I plan to use many of these activities in the fifth grade which I teach in Hinton Community School, Hinton, Iowa. What children learn about conserving our resources will greatly benefit our country in the next generation.

**Conservation Doesn't
Cost — It Pays!**



J. HENRY LUCKEN
State Representative
Plymouth County

My 6,000 Mile Trip

By J. Henry Lucken
State Representative from
Plymouth County

We have just returned home from a 6,000 mile trip through several west and northwest states. One of the most interesting things I noted was the amount of public and privately owned facilities for irrigation purposes. We saw very little in the way of abundant crops except in irrigated areas. An agricultural minded person could hardly help being a little more appreciative of our natural farm resources in Iowa, after visiting these more arid areas of our country. Conserving the fertility and productiveness of the 25% of our nation's grade A land located in Iowa is just good foresight for the future welfare of our country.

It was in 1937 that I first planned part of my corn crop on the contour and the fall of that year we built about ¼ mile of terraces as a demonstration project. In 1938 we took up all of the cross fences and started following a recommended conservation and cropping program. Contour lines and field boundaries were laid out by the S.C.S. with the help of Herb Jones, then Plymouth County's extension Agent. In the fall of 1938, we also built another mile or more of terraces. These were constructed in co-operation with the extension service, in demonstrating for the first time in this area a whirlwind terrace.

Most of our cultivation, during those first years of conservation farming was with horse and

mule power. Although it is unusual for this area, it happened that we had hardly any runoff precipitation for about four years in succession, consequently it was in the fifth year when our conservation practices really began to pay dividends in the form of higher yields.

It has been an interesting and satisfying experience to watch the growth of conservation practices, the improvement of power and tillage equipment, progress in methods of weed control, use of newly developed chemicals, etc. Doing a good job of conservation farming is comparatively easy today as compared to twenty years ago, if one has the available modern equipment. Most of the former logical reasons for not accepting conservation farming practices are no longer applicable. Maintaining the productivity of our rich farm land is in the best interests of all. Progress in conserving these precious natural resources should continue to gain momentum.

It has been my privilege, during the past seven sessions of our State Legislature, to have a small part in formulating and adopting legislative measures which have helped to make possible some of the progress we have made in solving some of our conservation and drainage problems. It has been a pleasant and interesting experience to work with those, of our citizens, who have taken a special interest in promoting this good work.

All of us owe a vote of appreciation to the many individuals who have been giving so generously of their time and ability in promoting the cause of conservation. We, in the legislature, have reason to be especially appreciative of the wholesale cooperation between rural and urban people and their representatives in working for practical progress in the field of soil and water conservation.

FRANK GRETEN

Truck Service

LOCAL AND

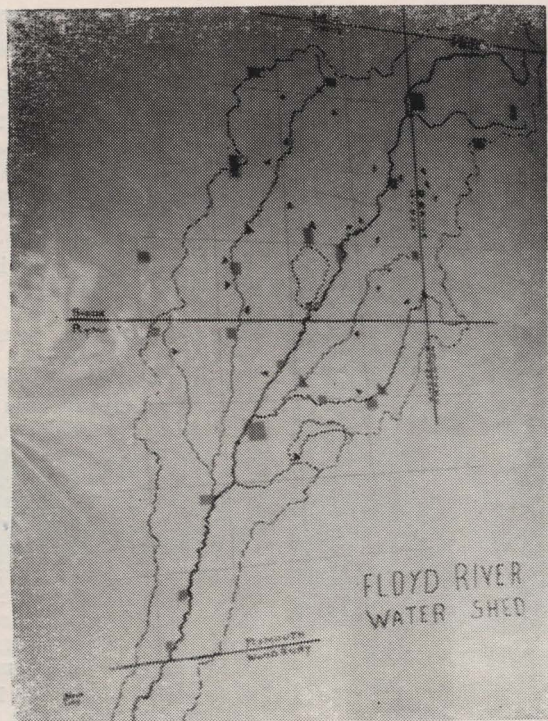
LONG DISTANCE

HAULING

Phone SU 6-2810

Remsen, Iowa

The Watershed Approach for Complete Conservation



Floyd River Watershed which lies in six counties, Osceola at upper end of watershed, O'Brien, Sioux, Cherokee, Plymouth and Woodbury Counties.

STEPS IN WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT

By Merle Lawyer
Soil Conservationist

A watershed is the entire area which contributes runoff to a given location below. Individual watersheds range in size from only a few acres to nearly half a continent as is the case with the Mississippi River and its tributaries. So you can see that we all live in a watershed of some type whether we live on a farm or in town. If the watershed which you live in has a severe gully problem, or if flooding and drainage of bottom lands is a problem or if other problems exist which can not be solved by individual action such as terracing, contouring, waterways, or small structures, but could be solved by group action then a watershed organization for your watershed may be the answer.

There are two watershed programs available to farmers in Plymouth County. For those whose land drains into the Little Sioux River there is the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Program. In other parts of the county assistance is available through the Public Law 566 Act. Action necessary to get a watershed program started is essentially the same under either program.

First there must be neighborhood interest in corrective action within the watershed. Then the local Soil Conservation District should be asked to give information to the land owners and operators in the watershed and ex-

plain the necessary steps in completing a watershed project. At this time the watershed committee should be selected and organized. Also all farmers should become cooperators with their local Soil Conservation District.

The third step is to ask the Soil Conservation District to assist the watershed by:

1. Developing Basic Farm Plans for all farms.
2. Assisting in application of the needed conservation practices such as terracing, contouring, strip cropping, grass waterways, etc.
3. Act as sponsors for the watershed in applying to the State Soil Conservation Committee for approval of your application for assistance.

The final step in your watershed is planning and construction of the necessary practices with Federal Assistance which can not be done by individual farmers. Before construction can begin at least 50% of the total watershed area must be under cooperative agreement with the local Soil Conservation District and a major portion of the conservation practices be on the land or scheduled for application before construction begins under the watershed program.

There are four watersheds, including 18,500 acres, organized in Plymouth County for Federal Assistance in controlling erosion. They are the Elkhorn No. 2 in Elkhorn Township, the South Hungerford No. 2 in Hungerford Township, the Held Watershed in Hungerford and Perry Township, and the Gant Creek Watershed in Sioux and Westfield townships. The Elkhorn No. 2 Watershed is organized under

the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Program and construction necessary is currently being planned by the Little Sioux Flood Prevention people. The Gant Creek and South Hungerford No. 2 Watersheds will apply this fall for approval from the State Soil Conservation Committee. The Held Watershed has been approved for Federal Assistance by the State Soil Conservation Committee; however, before a final watershed plan can be developed more conservation practices such as terracing and waterway development will have to be applied to the land.

ARKANSAS COUNTS WATER AREAS

A recent survey conducted by the State Game and Fish Commission indicates that Arkansas has 479 natural lakes covering 52,527 acres and 91 artificial lakes covering 165,700 acres, according to information provided the National Wildlife Federation. The figures do not include farm ponds.

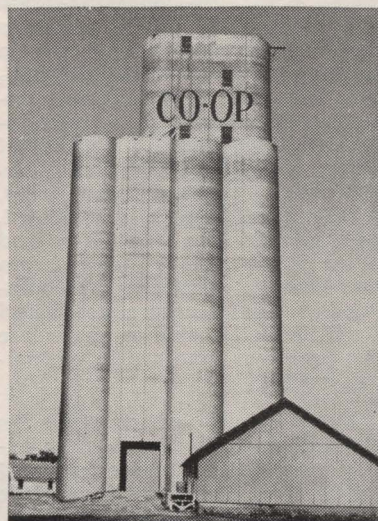
THE GANT CREEK WATERSHED

By Don Banks
Assistant Commissioner

In the fall of 1957 several landowners south of Westfield gathered to discuss conservation practices necessary to improve their mutual drainage problems. After such a meeting the Soil Conservation Service personnel at Le Mars was contacted and LaVern Fuesner analyzed it and suggested a watershed be organized under Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 566). This Act provides that each project shall be a local undertaking with federal aid, not a federal project with local assistance. The initiative for all projects must come from people within the individual watershed. After organizing into an approved watershed, federal funds will be made available for the development of flood retarding structures and gully control that cannot be handled individually—but only when it is felt that soil and water conservation practices are sufficiently applied to the uplands.

Directly, a meeting was arranged and as a result The Gant Creek Watershed was organized. A committee of three was appointed: Donald Banks (chairman), William Welch and Lum Nelson. It was decided the watershed would cover an area south five miles from Westfield, to the Big Sioux River on the west, and to the western sloping waterways east. This watershed consists of 8,000 acres. Our problem is water draining from the hills and flowing down three main waterways and flooding bottom land along the Big Sioux River. There is much needed gully control in the uplands. In the watershed you begin on the uppermost lands of the drainage with conservation practices continuing down the small streams, tributaries and ending with retention structures so as to tie together every part of the watershed.

Thus, several cooperators already have much of the needed conservation practices on the land.



Farmers Co-Operative

Dealers in

Lumber — Coal

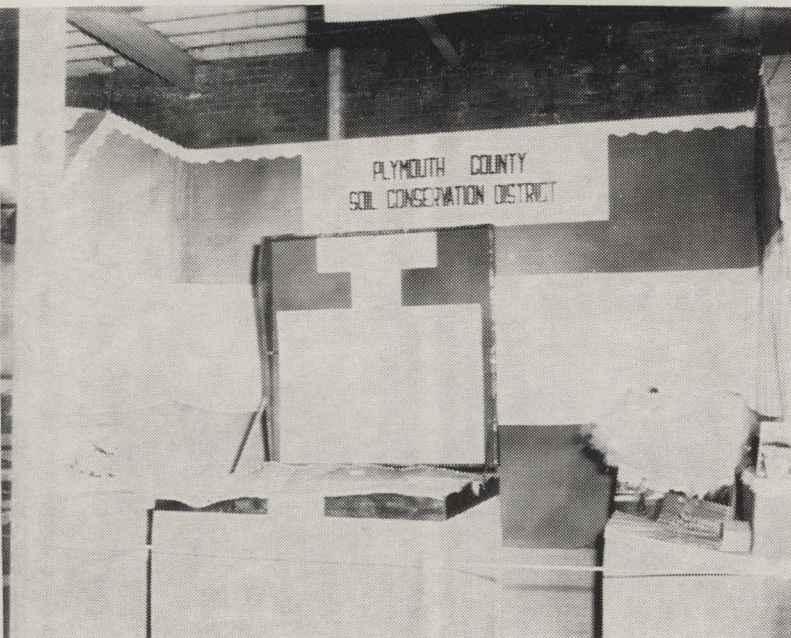
Grain and Seed

Building Supplies

Fertilizer — Feed

M. B. WOODLEY, Mgr.
AKRON, IOWA

FAIR BOOTH DISPLAY



Plymouth Soil District's fair booth which won the district second place at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines.

AREA ONE—

(Continued from Page 9)

ies and procedures for carrying out the Little Sioux Flood Prevention work. Under this program the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture has funds and facilities available to aid with the planning and installation of major structures which can be economically justified. The Soil Conservation District is responsible for securing rights and permits as needed, to make surveys, prepare plans and install the program. The District is also responsible for developing a maintenance plan which is acceptable to the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture. Under the program, land owners are required to plan and install such conservation practices as will normally increase crop yields and return significant benefits within a period of a few years. Such practices include crop rotation, use of fertilizers, contouring, terracing and grassed waterways. Under the established maintenance plan of the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District, land owners receiving aid under the Little Sioux Program are required to contribute to a maintenance fund which is administered by the District. Total assessments over a 15-year period amount to less than 5% of the construction costs of the major gully control structures. Farmers are responsible for maintenance of all other conservation practices.

The small subwatershed approach is used to carry out the Little Sioux Program. Subwatersheds normally include 1,000 to 10,000 acres. All lands drain-

ing to a common creek or watercourse are included in a subwatershed. Two subwatersheds have been organized in the portion of Plymouth County Soil Conservation District which is eligible for assistance under the Little Sioux Program. Elkhorn No. 2 has been selected for program assistance within the next two or so years.

Other land owners of the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District are eligible for watershed protection assistance under the Watershed Protection Act known as PL-566. Federal State, District and farmer responsibilities under PL-566 are quite similar to those under the Little Sioux Program.

Soil Conservation Service assistance to the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District includes a staff of two professional and two subprofessional em-

ployees headquartered at LeMars, and part-time aid of an Agronomist, three Soil Scientists, a four-man Area Engineer's staff, and the Little Sioux Watershed Planning staff headquartered at the Area office, Sioux City. Primarily, the Area office staff provides technical assistance to the Le Mars and other work unit officials for soil mapping and for treatment of the more complex soil and water management problems. Procurement of equipment, supplies, etc., is handled by the Area office. Perhaps most important, the Area office is responsible for carrying out an in-Service training program designed to thoroughly acquaint each employee with criteria, policies and procedures relating to each duty assigned to the individual.

Commendable conservation progress has been made over the years in the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District. It is well recognized that other Federal, State and local agencies and organizations have contributed greatly to the success of the Plymouth County Soil Conservation program. The Extension Service has put on special drives with soil conservation information and education, the Plymouth County ASC Committee has been very cooperative; it has guided the use of cost-sharing funds under ACP in the direction of assisting the farmers with the more permanent type and most needed conservation practices. The Plymouth County Board of Supervisors has displayed considerable support to the District's program. In several instances, the Board of Supervisors has cooperated with the installation of erosion control public road structures.

Editor's View of Conservation

THE PUBLIC'S STAKE IN SOIL CONSERVATION

By Chan Pitts, Editor
LeMars Daily Sentinel

Of all the reasons put forth at one time or another to convince folks in the Floyd Valley area they would be better off practicing more soil conservation, it's quite probable that the poorest is the reason which appeals most to the "public interest."

After the "Big Flood" in 1953, which prompted formation of the Floyd Valley Watershed Assn., we heard a good deal about the flood damage in Sioux City, which was certainly terrible. And it's also indisputable that complete soil conservation tilling of all the land in the valley on which it's needed would—had it been going on in 1953—have materially reduced Sioux City's suffering.

But, strangely enough, despite the traditional good neighborliness of farm communities, arguing for soil conservation on the basis that its good for your neighbors miles away downstream, just doesn't carry much weight, no matter how true it is.

What we need is some way of "branding," or labeling, our soil; as wild birds are captured and "banded" so that later, miles away, if the bird is shot or caught, their pattern of movement can be identified.

Suppose we could "brand" the top inch of soil on a square yard, or acre, on some rolling Plymouth county farm. Then, after a heavy rain, it would be possible to see just how that soil had washed into a neighbor's field, or been carried downstream, or covered the fences in the lower corner.

We could see the need for conservation in terms of where the soil on that farm had gone.

But instead, almost our only way of judging the cost of soil

READY-MIX CONCRETE COMPANY

Akron

Hawarden

— Free Estimates — Dependable Service —

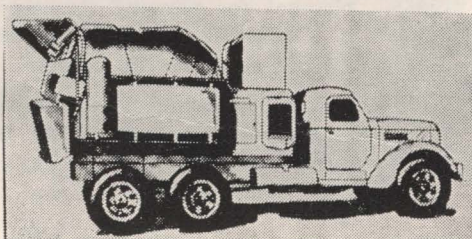
Toll Call — Hawarden

For Don 596-W1

For Bill 390-W

DON McMANAMAN, Prop.

AKRON 7121



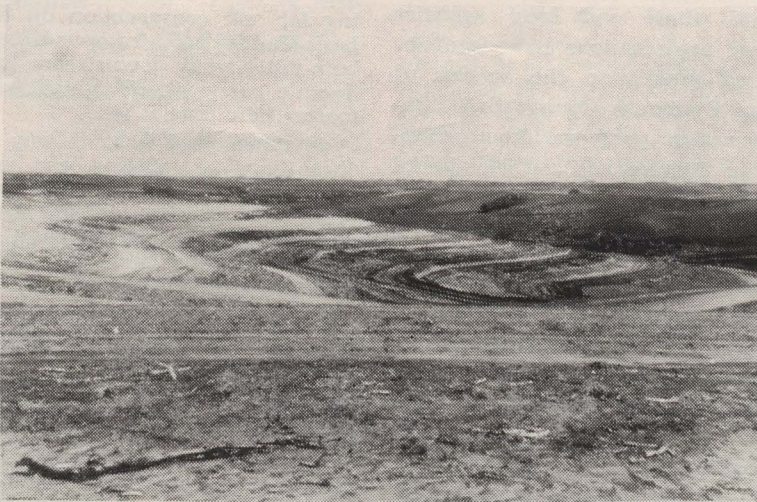
LEVEL TERRACES IN PLYMOUTH DISTRICT



New level cropland terraces on the Don Wormley farm in Union Township. These cropland terraces are built on slopes in Plymouth County ranging from 2% to 18%. They are designed to hold 2 inches of runoff after the ground is saturated or a 10 year frequency rain.



A view of part of the 9.9 miles of terraces on the Leo Schroeder farm in Marion Township.



Part of the 7.4 miles of cropland terraces built on the R. L. Zimmerman farm in Plymouth Township this spring.



These terraces full of water on the Don Vondrak farm in Garfield Township show the reason why terraces are built. These terraces not only protect the land from soil loss but also preserve the moisture for future crop use.

Terrace Maintenance

By James L. Warrender
Conservation Aid

U. S. Soil Conservation Service

It has often been said, "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link." We can also apply this to our terrace. One weak terrace high on the hill can damage the whole system.

Silted in channels and burrowing animals are the greatest hazards to terrace capacity. Terraces with reduced capacity frequently over top during heavy rains. When this happens the effective-

ness of the entire terrace system is greatly reduced. In extremely heavy rains serious gulying can take place below these breaks.

A good well planned crop rotation is one of the most effective means of controlling silting in the terrace channels. Fields low in organic matter silt in much faster and require more maintenance.

When plowing the back furrow should be placed on top of the ridge. This practice replaces the ridge height lost in other farm-

ing operations. It is a good idea to plow so that the dead furrow occurs in a slightly different place each year it is plowed. This tends to prevent benching in the area between the terraces. A two-way plow is an excellent implement for plowing terraces as it is possible to place the dead furrow right in the channel.

Each year burrowing animals take a tremendous toll on terraces. Trapping or poisoning can reduce this hazard to some extent. If a terrace does break through a burrow, and old sack packed as deeply into the hole as possible, seems to be about

the most effective method of stopping them up.

Periodically and after every hard rain the farm operator should inspect his terrace system. If over topping has occurred this area should be filled. The area filled should be higher and broader than the rest of the terrace to compensate for settlement of the loose fill earth.

Terraces can do the job of conserving our soil and water for better crop production, but without proper maintenance they can become useless tools lying in our fields.

RURAL LIFE SERMON

(Continued from Page 18)

tine, the majesty of her mountains, and the mighty roaring of the sea nearby. I'm glad he received such inspiration. It would be a thrill to read what he would have written had he been able to see the Rockies, or the grand Tetons, or Mount Rainier.

Another manifestation of the goodness of God was the fact of moisture coming to the soil. "Thou visitest the earth and waterest it. . ." This inspired the Psalmist. I must confess that it was a little difficult to write this last Thursday and Friday as the winds were blowing and the dust clouds almost darkened the sun from our sight. Perhaps this was due to the memories gnawing at my soul—memories that go back to 1932-34 when drought plagued western Minnesota. There flashed into my conscious thought the memory of my mother leaving the table with tear-stained cheeks because all she could offer her family was oatmeal and toast. But then last evening as I was reviewing all of this in final preparation for today, the rain began to fall, so gently, so steadily—and in shame I realized that the Psalmist's faith was so much stronger than mine.

In great jubilation the Psalmist testifies, "Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly. . . Thou crownest the year with thy goodness. . . the pastures are clothed with flocks. . . the valleys are covered with corn." Is it any wonder that our Lord said to his disciples, "Consider the lilies of the field. . . ?" Here you can see the goodness of God.

III

Man's Side of This Picture Is Blurred

Several years ago I began using a 35 m.m. camera. One of my first attempts in this type of photography was a farm scene which has long, deep gullies caused by erosion in the background. On the left side, somewhat nearer to the foreground stands a load of freshly husked corn. It's rather mediocre "stuff," especially for Plymouth County, Iowa. In this immediate foreground is a power line pole with a meter attached and nearby is an old-fashioned hand water pump with pump jack and electric motor. All of these are symbols of man's relationship to the soil, to his fellowmen, and to God.

The Psalmist noted that "because of sins, man needs to come to the temple of the Lord. . . 65:3. The gullies serve as stern reminders that we have sinned in our use of the soil. We have sinned grievously. The electric power is ours with the cooperation of our fellowmen. It also reminds us that we can easily forget God when we feel more dependent upon a power company than upon the creative power and goodness of God.

Iowa Soil and Water

Some important danger signals are being flashed these days that ought to give us serious reasons to pause in solemn reflection. A University of Michigan professor foresees a day when that state may be without birds because of the excessive and often unnecessary use of 24D. In the summer of 1958 some farmers in a certain area of Iowa were warned not to let their cows drink from ponds in the fields because the water was highly contaminated due to atomic fall-out. Or come with me to farmyard one afternoon last August and hear a young couple tell of the death of their oldest child. . . and they tell you how the doctors at the University are deeply distressed because his death is related to atomic fall-out.

God has done and is doing His part. He created the world with its marvelous capacity to sustain life. He is still watering the earth, settling its ridges, and clothing its fields with crops and flocks. But what is man doing with God's creation? The salvation we

offer the world must include both soul and soil. There was a time when we thought if a man did not play rook or smoke tobacco that he was saved. It is drawing upon us now that he is saved only when he takes his stewardship a holy reverent use of the soil and of all God's gifts in terms of natural resources.

On this Rural Life Sunday may we like the ancient Hebrew lay our sheaf of devotion upon the altar of God.

Prayer: O Thou who art the Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that dwells therein: We would proclaim Thee anew today as our God and heavenly Father. We praise thee for thy creative and redeeming power. Accept our most hearty thanks for the refreshing rain which is bringing new life to the good earth. Even so, gracious Father, let thy redeeming grace descend upon our hearts so new deeds of love and mercy may be born in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

STARVATION OF THE SOIL LEADS TO STARVATION OF PLANTS WHICH RESULTS IN STARVATION OF ANIMALS INCLUDING HUMAN BEINGS

—A. G. KILBURN

Iowa's Outstanding Commissioner



Wayne Casey, Buena Vista Soil District Commissioner was chosen outstanding Soil District Commissioner for Iowa at the Commissioners conference in Mason City. Wayne competed with eight other commissioners for this honor.

Congratulations, Wayne, for the fine job you are doing. (The Editor.)

Geo. V. Pavlik

REAL ESTATE — HYBRID SEED CORN

COMPLETE LINE OF INSURANCE

PHONE 23

LE MARS, IOWA

Soil Conservation has been our goal for over 50 years. We help you make lakes and dams out of your gullies with our Bull Dozer. In 13 years time we made 68 water basins and lakes on our own farms. This picture shows our 5 acre dam and one 30 feet below this dam is 3 1/2 acres and lots of fish. Wild ducks and geese, deer, otter, mink, muskrats, timber squirrels, quail, partridges, pheasants and prairie chickens multiply here. A recreation place for sure. Three miles West of the Liberty Consolidated School. We are at your service.

Geo. V. Pavlik and Sons, Phone 23, Le Mars
We also sell Real Estate, Insurance, Manage Farms, and we have doubled the value of many farms with Soil Conservation practices.



GALVANIZED STEEL CULVERTS

ANTI-SEEP COLLARS

CONNECTING BANDS

DIAPHRAMS

RISERS

ELBOWS

IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE

Asphalt Coated or Plain

THE LEVINE COMPANY

4400 E. 14TH ST.
DES MOINES, IOWA
PHONE: AM 2-5613

COTTAGE ST. AT 18TH
CENTERVILLE, IOWA
PHONE: 50

PLYMOUTH'S OWN SOIL CONSERVATION WINNERS



Schroeder and his wife Elizabeth, right, shown with the tenants on their farm near Kingsley, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Langel. In background is new two bedroom home the Schroeders built for their tenants on this farm.

Schroeder Farm Wins State Achievement Award

In Landlord-Tenant Class

Leo Schroeder, owner and Lawrence Langel, operator of a 320-acre Plymouth county farm near Kingsley, are state winners in the landlord-tenant division of the 1959 Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards program.

Conservation practices, including 19.7 miles of terraces, three miles of grass waterways and a crop rotation to build up fertility have converted the onetime run-down farm into a high-producing model conservation farm.

Frank Mendell, state conservationist for the U. S. soil conservation service, and chairman of the state judging committee, praised Schroeder and his wife, Elizabeth, for their landlord-tenant relationship and leadership in the conservation movement.

Schroeder, 52, who lives in Le Mars, owns four other Plymouth county farms which also are farmed the soil conservation way and he is classed as a good salesman in selling the advantages of conservation farming to his tenants and friends.

While he leases all farms on a grain-share and cash-rent basis for hay and pasture, he permits the cutting of only two crops of hay, the third crop to be left standing until the next spring when it is plowed under as a green manure.

Pasture Use

Where meadow is used for livestock grazing, pasturing is permitted all season long. Schroeder believes that the benefit from the manure equals that obtained from plowing under the third hay crop on land not grazed.

Langel, 29, and his wife, Charlotte Ann, are in their third year as tenants on Schroeder farms. They feed 150 beef cattle and raise around 450 pigs a year and have 100 laying hens. They plan to expand cattle feeding operations.

The Schroeders built a new two-bedroom, modern home for the Langels two years ago, tenants and their wives from the other Schroeder farms helping with the construction during the slack work season in the fall.

Farm Bureau Personnel



Pete Spanjers, Plymouth County Farm Bureau Fieldman and Office Assistant Mrs. Joan Vondrak.

"It's the landlord's fault when a farm is run-down, yields get lower and lower and buildings deteriorate," Schroeder said. "If you don't work with the tenants and keep the farms up the land gets beat down to where tenants don't make any money."

Schroeder and his wife farmed for themselves as renters from 1928, the year they were married, until 1943 when they moved to Le Mars. They had no money when they got married, only some livestock and equipment given him by his father.

They Made It

They bought their first farm, 240 acres near Le Mars, in 1937 for \$75 an acre. In 1941 they bought 160 acres near Oyens for \$85 an acre. Next came the purchase of the 320 acres near Kingsley at \$100 an acre. Last purchase was 160 acres northeast of Le Mars in 1945 at \$165 an acre.

Friends verified the fact that the Schroeders "made it themselves" by buying land as they could, going in debt and working hard. They still work hard going to one of the farm five days a week to work in improving the land or buildings or killing weeds.

Schroeder has built 50 miles of terrace on the five farms himself, using his own tractor and one of two Whirlwind tractors he purchased to do the work. He also has his own heavy duty front-end loader for earthmoving in improving ditches and waterways.

"I can't understand why farmers and landowners won't build terraces," Schroeder said. "With government cost-sharing on this particular practice he can build 10 miles of terrace for \$800. Where could he do more good with an \$800 investment?"

"The first thing we do is get the cattle out of the ditches," Schroeder said. "Then work the ditches into smooth grass waterways or get a growth of Reed canary grass started to check erosion. We hauled in canary grass sod pieces by the truckload."

Langel, too, is an enthusiastic conservationist and has assisted Schroeder in conducting tours and conservation demonstrations. However, he frankly admits that conservation farming "is not as easy as farming up and down hill but that it does conserve soil and water and takes good care of the land."

Yields on Schroeder's Kingsley farm have gone up tremendously as a result of growing row crops on the contour, having the land terraced to halt loss of topsoil and water run-off, and of having only two crops of corn followed by two years of grass.

Average yield of corn was around 40 bushels per acre when he bought this farm 16 years ago. One field south of the house was producing only 30 bushels per acre. The average corn yield this year is estimated conservatively at 80 bushels per acre.

Schroeder and his wife permit the Langels and their other tenants to maintain whatever livestock program they wish, the only requirement that they farm the conservation way, follow the recommendation rotation and take good care of the land and buildings.

Commercial fertilizer is applied at the time the oats and a new legume are seeded. None is applied on corn. An application of 0-45-0 at a rate of 140 to 150 pounds per acre is made on oats and a new seeding.

Good Relations

"Our tenants treat us fine,"
Iowa Soil and Water

Mrs. Schroeder said. "They know that we're working constantly to improve the land and their buildings and that means better crops, more income and better living conditions for them and their families."

Schroeder's leasing arrangement provides that the landlord's share is one-half of the corn and soybeans, two-fifths of the oats, and \$10 an acre cash rent for hay and pasture with only two cuttings of hay to be removed.

The cost of seed corn, grass seed and commercial fertilizer is shared 50-50. The landlord pays for spray materials used for controlling weeds, but if chemicals are used to control corn borers or other crop pests, this cost is shared 50-50. Tenants pay all harvesting costs, put baled in barns, store chopped hay outside.

"We could make more money under a 50-50 livestock, crop-share lease but we prefer the crop-share, hay-and-pasture rent plan," Schroeder said. "This way we concentrate on care of land and buildings and have nothing to do with the tenant's livestock program or purchase and upkeep of machinery and equipment."

Langel, 29, is a navy veteran, having served four years starting in January, 1951. His brother, Victor, has been a tenant on another Schroeder farm for nine years and their sister, Mary Ann, and her husband, Henry Boren, are tenants on another Schroeder farm.

Suffered

The Schroeder farms suffered some neglect during World War II when Schroeder took a job as an electrician and worked full-time at that trade which he had learned from a "how to do it" electrician's manual purchased from a mail order firm.

He does all of his own wiring and both he and his wife help with the construction of all buildings erected on the farms. Tenants help with this work on the various farms during the slack work season in late summer and early fall.

All of them pitched in to help with wrecking a house in Le Mars to salvage lumber for use in erecting farm buildings. Dimension lumber and even the old bricks were salvaged. Some of this was used in building the new tenant home for the Lawrence Lengels.

The Schroeders enjoy three-day week ends at the lakes during summer, and spend much of their time water skiing, a recreational sport that both of them have enjoyed since learning to ski five years ago.

They make it a practice to take the tenants and their families from each of their farms on at least one of these week end va-

cations every summer. Most of the tenants have taken a liking to skiing as a result of these trips.

And during summer, there's hardly an evening that some of the neighborhood children don't call on the Schroeders for a ride in their station wagon and a stop at a drive-in ice cream stand before the return trip home. The Schroeders enjoy these evening rides and playing host, too, as they have no children of their own.

Preventing Soil and Water Losses With Waterways

WATERWAYS

By Robert E. Abels
Conservation Aid

The removal of excess water is a problem common to almost every farm in Plymouth County. The runoff from only a few acres is sufficient to cause a gully to develop, especially in the western sections of the county. The need for a solution to this problem is obvious and the answer to the problem is a grassed waterway.

The success of a waterway will depend on proper shaping and seeding. A waterway should have a parabolic shape (saucer shaped bottom). This shape will confine small flows better and keep them from meandering within the waterway. Any waterway is designed on runoff from a given watershed without any erosion damage along the sides. A waterway is designed on a velocity of about four feet per second. Success of a vegetated waterway depends on having conditions favorable to growth and maintenance of the vegetative cover. Fertilizer should be applied on the waterway and then seeded to alfalfa and brome along with a nurse crop of oats or rye. The nurse crop seeding will help protect

WATERWAYS



La Vern Feusner, Work Unit Conservationist, standing in a grassed waterway on the Wesley Taylor farm in Liberty Township.

the waterway until the seeding is established. Rye works very well in a fall seeding. The recommended seeding rate for alfalfa is five to eight pounds per acre and for brome is fifteen pounds per acre. The first two years are the most critical in waterway development. There are times when areas of the waterway need reseeding in order to maintain good vegetative growth.

A waterway should have a stable outlet so that it will not erode back into the newly built channel. A stabilizing structure may be required when a suitable outlet cannot be found.

Waterways can improve farming operations in contoured and terraced fields. They provide access areas to get in and out of fields without driving over terraces or around the headlands. A well drained waterway is essential to permit the most economical operation of the field

and to prevent damage to the waterway when it is crossed with farm machinery or being mowed. Tile drainage may be needed in some cases, especially in the Northeastern part of the county.

Conservation practices such as terracing, contouring and good land management are all taken into consideration when a waterway is designed for a particular watershed. All these conservation practices reduce the amount of runoff and therefore reduce the size of the waterway. Also silt will not be deposited in the waterway as readily if good conservation practices are used in the watershed. Mowing the waterway and removing the hay twice a year will help to reduce the silting hazard.

If you have a waterway problem or any other erosion problem, feel free to stop at the Plymouth County Soil Conservation Office.

Farmers Savings Bank

Resources \$3,000,000.00



"A Home Bank Where Home Interest Comes First"
Dial SU 6-1143

REMSEN, IOWA

Mrs. Schroeder said. "They know that we're working constantly to improve the land and their buildings and that means better crops, more income and better living conditions for them and their families."

Schroeder's leasing arrangement provides that the landlord's share is one-half of the corn and soybeans, two-fifths of the oats, and \$10 an acre cash rent for hay and pasture with only two cuttings of hay to be removed.

The cost of seed corn, grass seed and commercial fertilizer is shared 50-50. The landlord pays for spray materials used for controlling weeds, but if chemicals are used to control corn borers or other crop pests, this cost is shared 50-50. Tenants pay all harvesting costs, put baled in barns, store chopped hay outside.

"We could make more money under a 50-50 livestock, crop-share lease but we prefer the crop-share, hay-and-pasture rent plan," Schroeder said. "This way we concentrate on care of land and buildings and have nothing to do with the tenant's livestock program or purchase and upkeep of machinery and equipment."

Langel, 29, is a navy veteran, having served four years starting in January, 1951. His brother, Victor, has been a tenant on another Schroeder farm for nine years and their sister, Mary Ann, and her husband, Henry Boren, are tenants on another Schroeder farm.

Suffered

The Schroeder farms suffered some neglect during World War II when Schroeder took a job as an electrician and worked full-time at that trade which he had learned from a "how to do it" electrician's manual purchased from a mail order firm.

He does all of his own wiring and both he and his wife help with the construction of all buildings erected on the farms. Tenants help with this work on the various farms during the slack work season in late summer and early fall.

All of them pitched in to help with wrecking a house in Le Mars to salvage lumber for use in erecting farm buildings. Dimension lumber and even the old bricks were salvaged. Some of this was used in building the new tenant home for the Lawrence Lengels.

The Schroeders enjoy three-day week ends at the lakes during summer, and spend much of their time water skiing, a recreational sport that both of them have enjoyed since learning to ski five years ago.

They make it a practice to take the tenants and their families from each of their farms on at least one of these week end va-

cations every summer. Most of the tenants have taken a liking to skiing as a result of these trips.

And during summer, there's hardly an evening that some of the neighborhood children don't call on the Schroeders for a ride in their station wagon and a stop at a drive-in ice cream stand before the return trip home. The Schroeders enjoy these evening rides and playing host, too, as they have no children of their own.

Preventing Soil and Water Losses With Waterways

WATERWAYS

By Robert E. Abels
Conservation Aid

The removal of excess water is a problem common to almost every farm in Plymouth County. The runoff from only a few acres is sufficient to cause a gully to develop, especially in the western sections of the county. The need for a solution to this problem is obvious and the answer to the problem is a grassed waterway.

The success of a waterway will depend on proper shaping and seeding. A waterway should have a parabolic shape (saucer shaped bottom). This shape will confine small flows better and keep them from meandering within the waterway. Any waterway is designed on runoff from a given watershed without any erosion damage along the sides. A waterway is designed on a velocity of about four feet per second. Success of a vegetated waterway depends on having conditions favorable to growth and maintenance of the vegetative cover. Fertilizer should be applied on the waterway and then seeded to alfalfa and brome along with a nurse crop of oats or rye. The nurse crop seeding will help protect

WATERWAYS



La Vern Feusner, Work Unit Conservationist, standing in a grassed waterway on the Wesley Taylor farm in Liberty Township.

the waterway until the seeding is established. Rye works very well in a fall seeding. The recommended seeding rate for alfalfa is five to eight pounds per acre and for brome is fifteen pounds per acre. The first two years are the most critical in waterway development. There are times when areas of the waterway need reseeding in order to maintain good vegetative growth.

A waterway should have a stable outlet so that it will not erode back into the newly built channel. A stabilizing structure may be required when a suitable outlet cannot be found.

Waterways can improve farming operations in contoured and terraced fields. They provide access areas to get in and out of fields without driving over terraces or around the headlands. A well drained waterway is essential to permit the most economical operation of the field

and to prevent damage to the waterway when it is crossed with farm machinery or being mowed. Tile drainage may be needed in some cases, especially in the Northeastern part of the county.

Conservation practices such as terracing, contouring and good land management are all taken into consideration when a waterway is designed for a particular watershed. All these conservation practices reduce the amount of runoff and therefore reduce the size of the waterway. Also silt will not be deposited in the waterway as readily if good conservation practices are used in the watershed. Mowing the waterway and removing the hay twice a year will help to reduce the silting hazard.

If you have a waterway problem or any other erosion problem, feel free to stop at the Plymouth County Soil Conservation Office.

Farmers Savings Bank

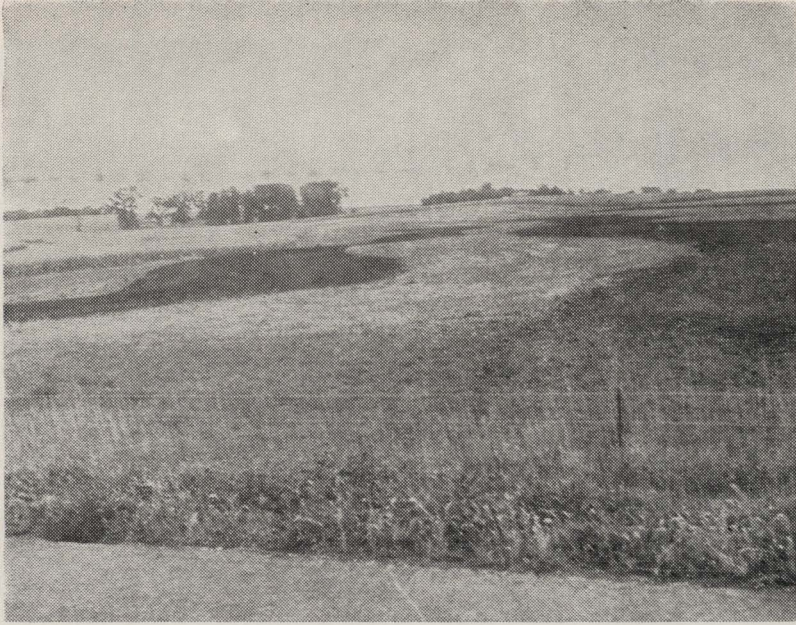
Resources \$3,000,000.00



"A Home Bank Where Home Interest Comes First"
Dial SU 6-1143

REMSEN, IOWA

PARALLEL TERRACES



Parallel level terraces on the Wesley Taylor farm in Liberty Township. Terraces of this type cut point rows down to a minimum, however, very uniform slopes are necessary to make parallel terraces feasible.

EDITOR SPEAKS—

(Continued from Page 29)

erosion is not by where the soil IS today, but by where it WAS yesterday, before that heavy rain—but ISN'T today.

It isn't in the gullies that have developed through the years, nor on the hill sides where the virgin yellow loess shows through on a plowed field, nor in the rills between corn rows which walk over our hill sides.

If that soil could have been dyed, or branded, so that a farmer, traveling down the Floyd Valley, could see traces of the soil color which came ONLY from HIS farm, wherever that soil has been carried; if he could see it in the dirt moved from the river flat for a bridge embankment, and enriching the fields of his neighbor downhill or down stream . . .

Then he could see where it went. And his neighbor, down stream, viewing a flood ruined house, could trace the soil back

to the fellow who let it slip away.

But we can't label our soil; and as a result, soil conservation has to be sold on what it will do for the farmer who practices it—not for the neighbor downstream who benefits, too.

AREA ENGINEER—

(Continued from Page 15)

both open ditches and tile, diversion terraces, level cropland terraces, basin terraces (level terraces used below permanent grass with much more capacity and wider spacing than cropland terraces and installed on slopes over 20%, parallel cropland terraces (either level or graded), and grass waterways.

It is to a man's advantage to see his work unit conservationist (Le Vern Feusner) and get a conservation plan worked out on his farm. This way he can utilize his land to the best use,

TERRACE CONSTRUCTION



Level terrace being built by a road patrol on the Don Vondrak farm in Garfield Township. This is one of the methods of constructing terraces that is being used in Plymouth District.

receive Soil Conservation service technical assistance on his problems and receive financial assistance from ACP on practices installed.

Goodyear Awards Made at Annual Conference

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., conservation awards were made by M. R. Jacobson, Des Moines. First place went to the Audubon and Webster districts. James H. Mullenger, Hamlin, was named outstanding co-operator of the Audubon District and Edgar Licht, Clare, of the Webster District.

IF YOU MISSED

The Annual Conference
in Mason City

You Missed One of
The Best Conferences
We Have Ever Had.

Don't Miss the
Next One!

PETERS IMPLEMENT

INTERNATIONAL

Implements — Tractors
Trucks — Parts

— SALES & SERVICE —

Phone SU 6-1539

Remsen, Iowa



Good Conservation
Farming Will Maintain
Soil Fertility

Iowa Soil and Water

BASIN TERRACES



A newly constructed basin terrace on the Bud Ross farm in Hancock Township. The purpose of the basin terrace is to protect the cropland below from the runoff of the steep land above. The area above the basin terrace must remain in permanent grass.

Conservation Agronomy In Plymouth County

By George V. Holmberg
Management Agronomist, SCS

Plymouth County Soil Conservation District cooperators have made outstanding progress in applying soil conservation agronomy practices on their farms. Over 20% of the farmers in the District are carrying out soil conservation work and are cooperators with the Soil Conservation District.

Soil Conservation cropping systems have been developed by more than 400 farmers in the District with the assistance of the local Soil Conservation Service technicians. These conservation cropping systems include crop rotations with supporting mechanical, cultural and management practices to control erosion and maintain soil productivity. Cooperators in the District are terracing and contouring most of their upland which will be used for cropland. By using these practices, more intensive crop rotations can be carried out and still control erosion. In most cases the extensive use of terraces and contouring with a more intensive crop rotation results in higher economic returns. Other management practices being used, such as fertilizer, manure, liming residue management, drainage and minimum tillage result in more soil conservation by improving the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil. All practices are interdependent either directly or indirectly in the conservation cropping system.

Iowa Soil and Water

The use of these practices where needed will nearly always result in higher economic returns as well as better soil conservation.

Seeding grass waterways, basin terraces, dams and other critical areas in the District. Generally a brome-grass alfalfa mixture is used by farmers in Plymouth District for vegetative cover on waterways, basin terraces and dams. The alfalfa is used with the brome-grass to give quick cover on the areas. Also the alfalfa feeds nitrogen to the brome-grass, thereby reducing the amount needed in the first application. Brome-grass, being a good sod former, fills in gradually when the alfalfa dries out. High rates of seeding are necessary on these critical areas because many seeds and seedlings are lost by erosion before they become established. Seeding rates for the mixture

should be 15-20 pounds of brome-grass and 6-8 pounds of alfalfa per acre. On wetter waterways, which are not tiled, reed canary grass seeded at the rate of 12 pounds per acre has worked best for farmers in the District. Reed canary grass has also been used for wave action control on dams.

Fertilizer treatment on the waterways, basin terraces and dams should be 300 to 400 pounds of 8-32-0 per acre or equivalent in all of Plymouth District except the hilly Monona-Ida-Hamburg soil association area in the southwest part of the District. In this area 400 to 600 pounds of 8-32-0 or equivalent should be used.

Pasture Seeding and Management. Most of the pasture land in Plymouth District is either rotation pasture or semi-permanent pasture. On these pastures alfalfa-brome-grass is the most common mixture used. This mixture is highly productive. In this District, when properly managed, brome-grass is superior to all other grasses in the combined qualities of palatability, grazing yield, drought resistance and winter-hardiness. Fertilization with phosphate fertilizer at the time of seeding results in a more vigorous growth of the mixture. Vernal alfalfa should be used in the mixture for semi-permanent pasture. This outstanding variety is winter hardy and wilt resistant and also is more persistent under grazing than other varieties. Alfalfa can be maintained in the stand for a longer period of time by rotation grazing. Alfalfa-brome is also outstanding for controlling erosion. Alfalfa supplies nitrogen to the soil and brome-grass covers the soil not occupied by the legume crowns, thereby reducing soil loss. When the sod is plowed the fibrous roots of the brome-grass have a soil-conditioning effect. They modify the soil permeability and improve soil aggregation to provide for more water absorption and make the soil easier to work.

In the hilly area in the southwest part of Plymouth District there are some native pastures located on the steep Hamburg

soils (bluffs). The dominant grasses on these areas are the bluestems and sideoats grama. They are warm season grasses making most of their growth during the warm summer months. For this reason maximum production is obtained by using these areas for summer pasture. Grazing should be deferred until July 1st and proper stocking to utilize only 50% of the vegetation is important on these catstep areas. Overgrazing decreases production of the pasture, encourages weeds and increases run-off and erosion.

In Plymouth District many of the steep Ida soils (20 to 40% slope) have been converted from cropland to pasture. The areas are seeded with alfalfa-brome-grass and with continuous grazing the alfalfa is gone in three to five years. Once they get a good stand of brome-grass farmers are reluctant to plow this very steep land for renovation purposes. Fertilizer trials are now being carried out on the Lester Williams farm and Amos Ross farm in this area. The effect of various rates and combinations of nitrogen and phosphate fertilizer on yield and economics of production is being studied on these brome-grass pastures.

Trials have been carried out on the use of birdsfoot trefoil for permanent pasture in the District. Results to date on the steep Ida soils indicate that trefoil should not be used on these sites.

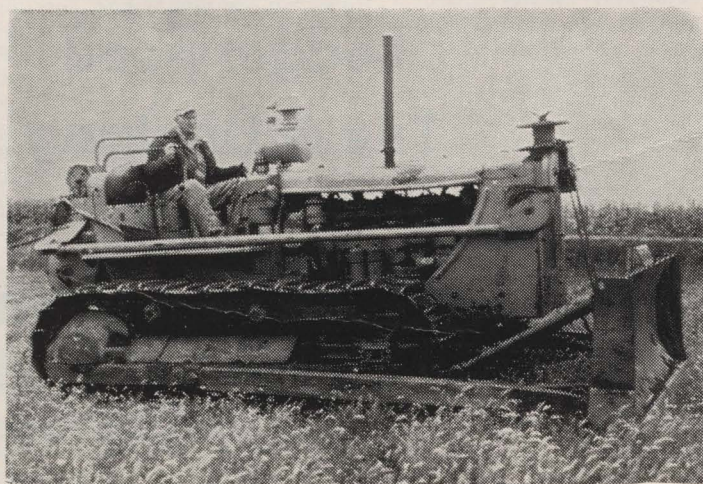
Other trials in the District include:

(1) The seeding of native grasses on steep Ida soils to be used for summer pasture.

(2) The use of a mixture of switchgrass and brome-grass on low fertility grass waterways.

(3) The use of western wheatgrass in grass waterways.

Final evaluations have not been completed on these trials at the present time.



Wayne Hamilton

Earthmoving Contractor

We have 2 - D6 Cats and a
60 Scraper to do your Terracing,
Waterways and Erosion
Control Structures.

Phone 2751 Merrill, Iowa

FARMING THE TERRACES



Preparing the back slope of a terrace for row cropping on the Clifford Tonsfeldt farm in Meadow Township. Notice the farmability of this terrace by the fact that Cliff is pulling a 21-foot disc on the back slope.

Problem Areas In Plymouth Soil Conservation District

By La Vern M. Feusner
Work Unit Conservationist

Plymouth County Soil Conservation District can be roughly divided into two sections with regards to soil and water conservation problem areas. The southwest one third of the county has much steeper topography than does the northeast two-thirds. Also deep gully erosion is becoming a very serious problem to farming in this area. The northeast section of the county is gently rolling with an occasional gully.

The goal of the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District is to have every farm in the District with a Soil and Wa-

ter Conservation Farm Plan. As you know these Plans take the kind of soil, the slope, and amount of top soil into consideration when they are being developed by the farmer and the Soil Conservation Service technician. The Plan consists of conservation practices such as terracing, waterways, and tiling to go with the crop rotations which will best fit the farmer's needs.

These Farm Plans do a very good job of controlling erosion and increasing crop production on individual farms. However, in the southwest section of the county many times deep gullies cross the farm and usually they cannot be controlled by the individual farmer. Here is where

the watershed or group approach comes into the picture. If the majority of the farmers in a watershed area will control erosion on their own individual farms the Soil Conservation District may be able to give them assistance to control the large gullies through watershed laws passed by congress.

In the Plymouth Soil Conservation District two watershed programs are available. In the area of the county which drains into the Little Sioux River the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Program is available. Public Law 566 Watershed Protection assistance may be utilized in the rest of the county.

In the northeast two-thirds of the county erosion problems can usually be controlled by the individual farmer. However, watershed programs may be used in this area where feasible.

Another problem which sometimes presents itself in the northeast area is that of drainage. A farmer may want to drain a wet area of his farm for better crop production only to find that he does not have an adequate outlet for tile. Here again the group approach is the answer. A group of farmers by cooperating together can find the answer to a drainage problem common to all of them.

The Commissioners of the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District and technicians of the Soil Conservation Service assigned to the District stand ready and willing to help with these soil and water conservation problems in the District.

Let's Not Overlook the
Importance of Wildlife
Conservation

A Farm Is As Big As
Its Power to Produce

Wildlife Notes

OHIO WILDLIFERS MAKE GRASS SKIRTS

Ohio Division of Wildlife workers at 2,600 acre Magee Marsh are busy making grass skirts, the National Wildlife Federation is advised. Marsh grass is being sown into "skirts" and placed around waterfowl blinds in the public shooting area to serve as camouflage. Once the blinds are constructed, water will be pumped into the diked area. It will accommodate 56 hunters, determined by public drawings, daily during the 40-day open hunting season.

NEW NATIONAL REFUGE ESTABLISHED IN UTAH

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, has announced plans to withdraw 14,097 acres of public lands in Utah some 90 miles west of Nephi for the establishment of the new Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, the National Wildlife Federation reports. The area is located on an important north-south branch of the Pacific Migratory waterfowl flyway.

AERIAL LITTERBUG FINED IN NATIONAL PARK

Managers of federal, state and local parks have a difficult enough time as it is in cleaning up debris, the National Wildlife Federation reminds, but the problem now threatens to take on a new dimension. A delegate to a convention being held in Grand Teton National Park, Wyo., recently flew over the lodge and let fly with hundreds of propaganda leaflets. A thermal updraft caught the barrage and distributed leaflets over a large area of the park. The red-faced offender was fined \$50 by the U. S. Commissioner.

NATIONAL FORESTS RECEIPTS TOP \$124 MILLION

Receipts from National Forest timber sales and other land uses reached a record \$124,067,682 during the 1959 fiscal year, the National Wildlife Federation reports. The receipts came from the following sources: timber sales, \$115,808,877; grazing permits, \$4,500,000; and land and power use, \$2,500,000. Mineral leases, cropping, haying, seed sales and seed harvesting and recreational concessions accounted for the remainder. Since 1905, the Forest receipts have amounted to \$1,103,000,000.

Iowa Soil and Water

Ledgerwood Tile & Ditching Company

Phone 8-3403 or 8-3381

Kingsley, Iowa



CONTOUR FIELD DIVISIONS ESTABLISHING COVER ON EARTH STRUCTURES



Contour field divisions on the George Greenwood farm in Liberty Township.



This is the result of establishing brome grass by spreading brome hay on the back slope of this structure. Prior to this the back slope was badly rilled from lack of vegetative cover.

What Makes A Farmer Successful?

By Harold E. Johnson
Soil District Commissioner
Plymouth District

When you drive through a farming community and observe the appearance of the various farms, and the different types of operations being employed, do you wonder what it takes to be a successful farmer? Some say you must inherit the land, and thereby get an initial boost, some say it takes plenty of credit, others say capital is the determining factor, and all agree that patience, management, and hard work are essential. Certainly all of these qualifications play an important part for each individual farmer.

Success in itself is a relative word, depending upon just what an individual requires to feel a success in himself. Even a bum is successful in his own way. So we see success in two ways; success in ones self and success in the eyes of others.

For a farmer to be successful in my eye, he must recognize the need for controlling soil erosion on his land, and preventing the

water that falls there from running away. These are his two greatest resources, soil and water. Some say we need not control erosion, that we can apply fertilizer and still maintain high production in spite of soil loss. This may be true, but can we afford to buy back our crop in the fertilizer bag? And what about water? Land that erodes slopes enough to be difficult to irrigate, and many times our crop production is not limited by fertility, but by lack of rainfall.

Terracing and contouring intertilled crops will do a good job of keeping that water where it falls, control erosion, help prevent gullies on your neighbors farm and will contribute to the well being of your community.

If you are already doing conservation farming, my congratulations, and if you are not, why don't you get in touch with your Soil Conservation District and find out what the needs are on your farm? You will get that good feeling that comes from working together with nature to farm this wonderful land, and at the same time, also guarantee future generations the privilege of a bountiful harvest.

Iowa Watersheds Receive Planning Authorization

The U. S. Soil Conservation Service has authorized planning assistance in the development of watershed work plans on the Hound Dog, Hamburg, and Pony Creek Watersheds, announced Frank H. Mendell, State Conservationist of the Service in Iowa.

Hound Dog Watershed covers an area of 5,580 acres in Fremont County and is sponsored by the Fremont County Soil Conservation District and the Fremont County Board of Supervisors.

Hamburg Watershed is also in Fremont County and comprises 2,185 acres. The Fremont County Soil Conservation District is the sponsor of this watershed.

Pony Creek Watershed is in Mills County and West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation Districts and is sponsored by those districts, the Boards of Supervisors of Mills and Pottawattamie Counties, and the Pony Creek Drainage District. Pony Creek covers 19,309 acres.

Planning work is ready to start immediately on these three new Iowa watersheds.

Harmony Creek Watershed in Harrison County Soil Conservation District has been completed,

and construction is under way in the Simpson Creek, Crooked Creek, Rocky Branch Creek, and Big Park Watersheds. Planning work is under way in the Big Creek, Indian Creek, Mill-Picayune, David's Creek, and Badger Creek Watersheds.

Applications from 15 other watersheds in the State are awaiting planning authorization.

REMSEN LUMBER CO.

Complete Line of
Building Material
Builders Hardware
GENE HARTE, Manager
Phone SU 6-1411
Remsen, Iowa



Iowa Soil and Water

SAVE THE THIN LAYER OF SOIL IN WHICH
YOUR LIVING IS ROOTED!

Regional Directors of and the DISTRICTS

President of the State, Newman Lyle

DIRECTOR REGION 1

EVERETT RICE SERVING

Lyon County	Plymouth County
Osceola County	Cherokee County
Dickinson County	Buena Vista County
Sioux County	Woodbury County
O'Brien County	Ida County
Clay County	

DIRECTOR REGION 2

WILBUR PETERS SERVING

Sac County	Greene County
Calhoun County	Harrison County
Monona County	Shelby County
Crawford County	Audubon County
Carroll County	Guthrie County

DIRECTOR REGION 6

CECIL GILLESPIE SERVING

Madison County	Lucas County
Warren County	Monroe County
Marion County	Decatur County
Mahaska County	Wayne County
Clarke County	Appanoose County

DIRECTOR REGION 5

CAMERON STAFFORD SERVING

Hamilton County	Tama County
Hardin County	Dallas County
Grundy County	Polk County
Boone County	Jasper County
Story County	Poweshiek County
Marshall County	

DIRECTOR REGION 9

DONALD JOHNSON SERVING

Jefferson County	Des Moines County
Henry County	Keokuk County
Davis County	Washington County
Van Buren County	Louisa County
Lee County	Wapello County

Iowa Soil and Water

the State Association They Serve

Vice-President of the State, Joe O'Hara

DIRECTOR REGION 3

GEORGE HOSFELT SERVING

West Pottawattamie County	East Pottawattamie County
Montgomery County	Union County
Adams County	Fremont County
Cass County	Page County
Adair County	Taylor County
Mills County	Ringgold County

DIRECTOR REGION 4

WILLIAM P. ENO SERVING

Emmet County	Winnebago County
Palo Alto County	Hancock County
Pocahontas County	Wright County
Kossuth County	Worth County
Humboldt County	Cerro Gordo County
Webster County	Franklin County

DIRECTOR REGION 7

WAYNE C. MARK SERVING

Mitchell County	Fayette County
Howard County	Clayton County
Winneshiek County	Butler County
Allamakee County	Bremer County
Floyd County	Black Hawk County
Chickasaw County	

DIRECTOR REGION 8

ED KADERA SERVING

Buchanan County	Iowa County
Delaware County	Johnson County
Dubuque County	Cedar County
Benton County	Clinton County
Linn County	Scott County
Jones County	Muscatine County
Jackson County	

15,000 Estimated in Attendance at State Field Day and Plowing Matches

WHO RADIO AND TV AND SOIL

DISTRICTS OF IOWA CO-SPONSOR EVENT

Despite the rain a good crowd attended the State Field Day and Plowing matches in Woodbury County, Friday, September 25.

Winners in the Level Land Plowing were Richard Davitt, 1st place winner from Prole, Iowa in Warren County, and 2nd place in the Level Land was awarded to George Negan, Clarksville, Iowa in Butler County.

Winner in the Contour Plowing was a repeat of last year, Arthur Raisch of Sheffield, Iowa in Franklin County.

Competition was stiff in both events with the top plowmen in the State competing.

Raisch and Davitt will compete in the National event next year in South Dakota.

CONTOUR AND TERRACE POPULAR PRACTICES IN SAC COUNTY

Maintaining soil moisture is still one of the most important jobs of the Sac County farmer in his effort to produce crops from the land. As we move into the season of fall plowing, an excellent opportunity is present to put more moisture into the soil through contouring and terracing.

With each mile of terrace capable of slowing down a half million gallons of water, many Sac County farmers are turning to this practice to increase the assurance of a crop. Four hundred farmers certainly can't be wrong. And that's just about how many Sac County farmers are using contour farming or terraces.

Terraces are being completed on the Lester Glass farm southeast of Early. A few ridgetop terraces had been built on this farm in the spring, and now Glass is convinced that they will control his erosion problem on the entire farm.

Northwest of Odebolt, Donald Miller has been contouring for several years and now feels that terracing will do a better job. In the same area Delbert Wunschel has completed laying his farm on the contour in just one year.

In the Schaller community, the Eva Foree farm, operated by Harry Borcheding is now laid out in contoured fields. And in Eden Township, Clifford Blum is continuing contouring on the Emmett Buehler farm.

So contouring is no longer such a frightening practice. It is inexpensive, and most effective in saving moisture. It is important in fall plowing to do everything possible to prevent run off on the bare soil. Contour and terrace now for profit in the future.

TILE DRAINAGE AND WATERWAY PROJECTS IN SAC COUNTY

Tile drainage and waterway improvement have highlighted recent soil conservation work in Sac County, as conservation farmers look forward to saving moisture by contouring and terracing.

Elmer Elias, farming south of Carnarvon has constructed a broad grass waterway completely across his quarter section. The waterway drains more than 300 acres and must be sixty feet wide and about two feet deep to carry the anticipated runoff. A rebuilt rubble dam at the lower end protects the outlet at the county road. Many yards of earth removed from the watercourse have been used as fill where needed around the buildings.

In Richland township a similar watercourse on the John Nelson farm has been completed. Again the problem was a silted level bottomland with no channel for the water-flow. On this place, farmed by Bob Schwaller, a sod chute drops the water to road culvert level allowing a tile drain to run alongside the waterway.

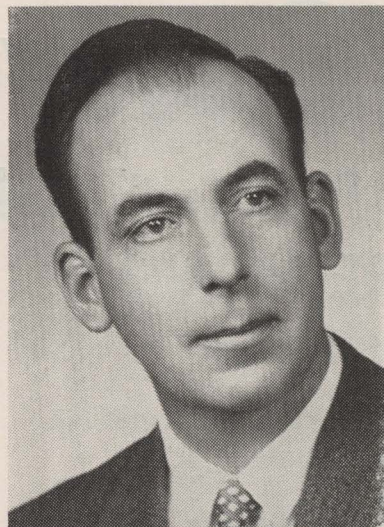
North of Lake View, Ferdinand Obman has been installing a system of tile mains to better carry off the pond water on his farm. A concrete junction box in the field will transfer the water from old 12-inch and 8-inch lines into two 8-inch outlets. This is possible because of the steeper grade on the outlet tile.

Upcoming projects in erosion control include a large concrete dam and waterway at the Elmer Evans farm west of Early, and a smaller concrete block structure on the John Jacobsen farm south of Sac City.

Water control will be stressed as a diversion dam is built on the

Stuart Currie farm northwest of Odebolt. At present the soil conditions are ideal for earthmoving projects to be done this fall.

FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Don Fischer

The 1800 Farm Bureau families in Plymouth County are completely aware from whence their living is derived. They realize that if we are to gain a livelihood by tilling the soil then we must protect and conserve our resources both for ourselves and for future generations. Because Farm Bureau members believe that there is still a future in agriculture they have endeavored to do everything in their power to prove this. They have not just talked it but have gone ahead and carried out conservation practices on their own farms knowing full well that if there is a diminution of our natural resources there will not be a future at all.

I know that most of us don't feature ourselves as literary wizards. But proof that plain talk is often most effective comes from New Mexico, where a young Indian lad won a soil conservation essay contest with this entry. "White Man Crazy, cut down trees. Make big teepee. Plow hill. Water wash. Wind blow soil. Grass gone. Door gone. Windows gone. Whole place gone. Buck gone. Papoose gone. Squaw too. No pigs. No corn. No plow. No hay. No pony.

Indian no plow corn. Keep grass. Buffalo eat grass. Indian eat buffalo. Hide make teepee. Make moccasin. Indian no make terraces. No build dam. All time eat. No hunt job. No hitch hike. No ask relief. No shoot pig. Great Spirit make grass. Indian no waste anything. Indian no work. White man loco."

There is more logic to this little essay than one might think. Farmers over the years have plowed up the grass that held the soil. Of course they plowed straight up and down the hills. This not only happened in Plymouth County but over the entire midwest. When the rains

came the water rushed from the land taking with it tons of fertile top soil. Rivers overflowed their banks as they roared down the valley. Gone forever were two of the midwest's most needed resources—its water and its soil; both gone into the Gulf of Mexico.

It took a long time for the Iowa farmer to realize that something had to be done about their disappearing natural resources. Maybe I should correct myself and say that the farmer recognized his plight long ago but because of the way he farmed it wasn't easy for him to change his farming technique. After World War II, with tractor power coming into the foreground a radical change took place. New farm implements, more information on experiments carried on at the State Colleges, and many other reasons tended to bring forth a realization that conservation of our land and water was becoming very vital.

Plymouth County has a varied geography. It ranges from flat river bottoms to rolling hills to very rough hilly ground that is too steep to farm and still lays in virgin grass. The 542,000 acres of farm land are also drained by a number of rivers and streams. The production capacity of our soil varies in the eastern part of the county; the soil is Galva - Primghar - Sac, and in the western part, Ida - Monona - Hamburg. Also we are located in a part of the state where rainfall is often not sufficient for the best production of crops. Because of these reasons Plymouth County farmers have especially felt the need to practice conservation of soil, water and fertility. They have begun to develop a sound conservation program for this area with a feeling that they would rather hold water behind terraces right on their own land, than snake across the hillsides. Fields after sloping fields are laid out with the contour of the land. Ribbons of contrasting colors accentuate the countryside where farmers have laid out their land in alternating strips of crops.

The farmers of Plymouth County are proud of their accomplishments but they realize there is still much work to be done. They would like to prove to everyone that a conservation program for our land will protect our soil from erosion, will help hold the fertility of the soil, will allow the rainfall to soak where it is needed—on the fields, and will contribute greatly to flood control in our river valleys.

Brown's Garage

FORD and OLIVER

Dealer

Hinton

Iowa

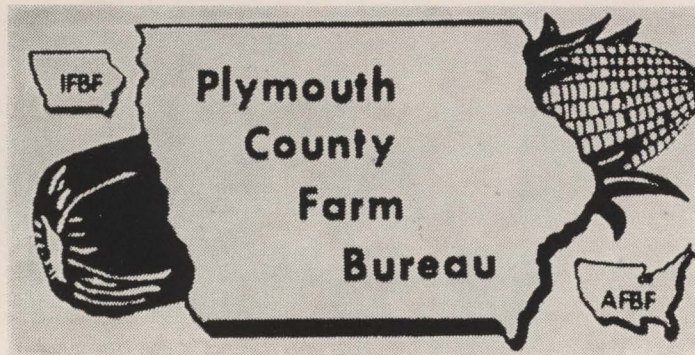
Iowa Soil and Water

Services 1800 Members In Plymouth County

President
DONALD FISCHER
Le Mars

Vice-President
ROGER EASTON
Westfield

Secretary
ELDON BRYANT
Akron



Voting Delegate
FRANZ SCHNEIDER
Le Mars

Treasurer
JORVILLE STINTON
Akron

Fieldman: **PETE SPANJERS**
Le Mars
Phone 433

Women's Chairman
MRS. M. E. ATKINSON
Merrill



Petroleum Salesmen



FRANCIS MURPHY
Le Mars 416



JOHN HARVEY
Akron 4341



AARON DENNISTON
Le Mars 416

— Farm Service Quality —

FEEDS — SEEDS — FERTILIZERS
PETROLEUM FUELS — OILS
GREASE — CHEMICALS — PAINTS
SERUMS — POLE BUILDINGS

Your Own Farm Bureau Company

EVERY PRODUCT AS GOOD AS THE BEST AND
BETTER THAN THE REST

P & W Farm Service Co.

Box 808

Le Mars, Iowa

Farm Bureau Insurance Services

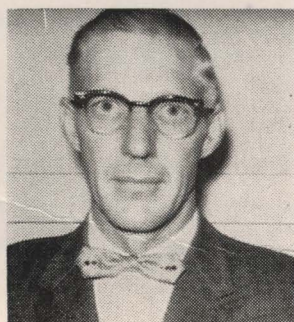
LIFE INSURANCE FOR EVERYONE

Auto, Farm Protector, Fire, Wind, Hail, for Farm Bureau Members

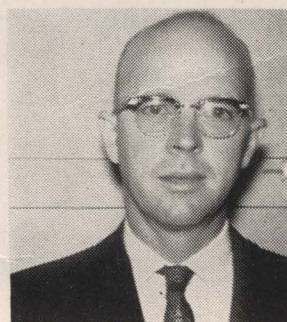
Get Acquainted with our Qualified and Courteous Agents



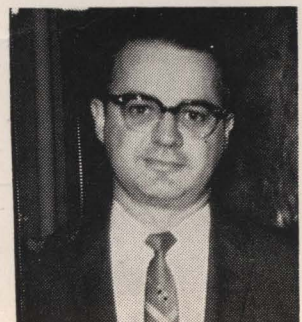
E. O. PAULIN
Agency Manager
Le Mars, Iowa



CLARENCE KASCH
Special Agent
Merrill, Iowa



ROLAN BLAKE
Special Agent
Akron, Iowa



RONALD V. KELLY
Special Agent
Le Mars, Iowa

Oltmann and Phelps Bank

(THE KINGSLEY BANK)



Kingsley

CONSERVATION PAYS DIVIDENDS

Iowa



FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE ASS'N

W. W. LUSE, Secretary, Merville, Iowa

SERVING WOODBURY AND PLYMOUTH COUNTIES

Coverages Under Farm Fire and Windstorm Policies.

Fire
Lightning
Explosion
Riot
Aircraft
Vehicles

Vandalism & Malicious Mischief
Theft of Personal Property
Overturn of Farm Machinery
Collision of Farm Machinery
Death or injury of Livestock by: Electrocution,
Attack by Dogs or Wild Animals, Drowning,
Accidental Subject to Policy Terms.

Shooting, Loading or Unloading from
Conveyances, Collapse of Buildings,
Bridges, or Culverts, Collision or
Overturn of Conveyances While
Being Transported.
Windstorm and Hail.

NEW

Broad Form Coverage For Dwelling

Includes all coverages above Plus:

Broad Form Explosion
Broad Form Smoke Damage
Damage by Burglars
Weight of Ice or Snow
Damage from Short Circuits

Collapse of Dwelling
Landslide
Freezing of Plumbing or Heating Systems
Accidental Discharge of Water
Breakage of Glass

SAME

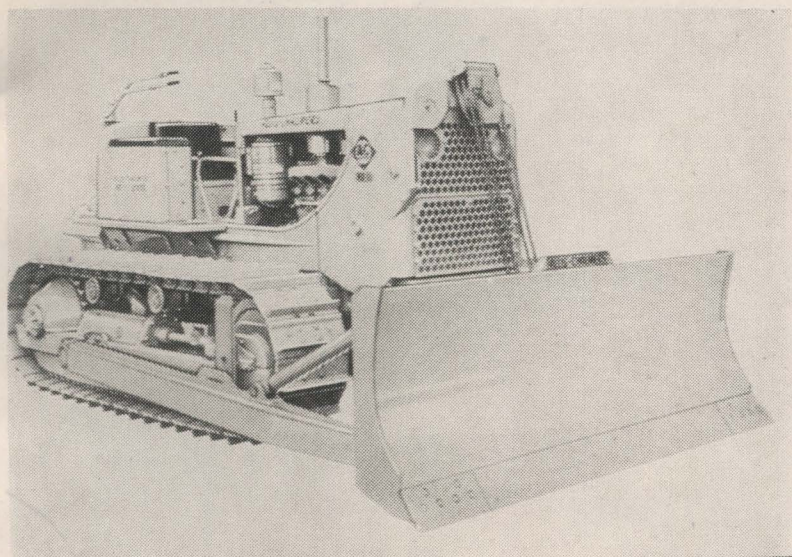
LOW RATES — PROMPT SERVICE — FAIR SETTLEMENTS

SEE YOUR LOCAL AGENT

Phone MERVILLE 3-4945

L. Christensen

Phone 363LR
LE MARS, IOWA



U. Tangeman

Phone 219
HAWARDEN, IOWA



Terrace Building — Waterways — Ponds — Farm Lanes
Earthmoving Work of All Kinds.

Farm Credit Cooperative

Federal Land Bank Association

Sioux City Production Credit Ass'n

Friendly local people staff these offices.

You don't deal with someone at a distant desk.

You may pay your loan in full anytime, without penalty.

You are assured the lowest possible interest rate.

Loans are made on land for any agricultural purpose.

Virgil Mosier, Mgr.

707 Pierce Street

Sioux City, Iowa

Phone 5-8183

Ruth Rogers, Ass't Mgr.

20 Central Avenue

Le Mars, Iowa

Phone 488

YOUR judgment says borrow this way. AND your judgment is right. You know how to tell the difference between good and poor credit service.

As you know, the right way to borrow is to—

Get a loan at cost and pay interest only for the time you use the money.

Have the loan fall due when you have the money from the crops or livestock financed.

Select a lender who has money to loan in bad times as well as in good times.

Select a lender not only interested in making sound loans, but also in serving each farmer's best interests.

For further information call on or write

SIoux CITY PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATION

100 4th Street

Sioux City, Iowa

James W. Besore

Sec.-Treas.

FARMERS COOPERATIVE CO.

Hinton, Iowa

Lumber --- Seed --- Fencing Material

Co-op Feeds

Grain

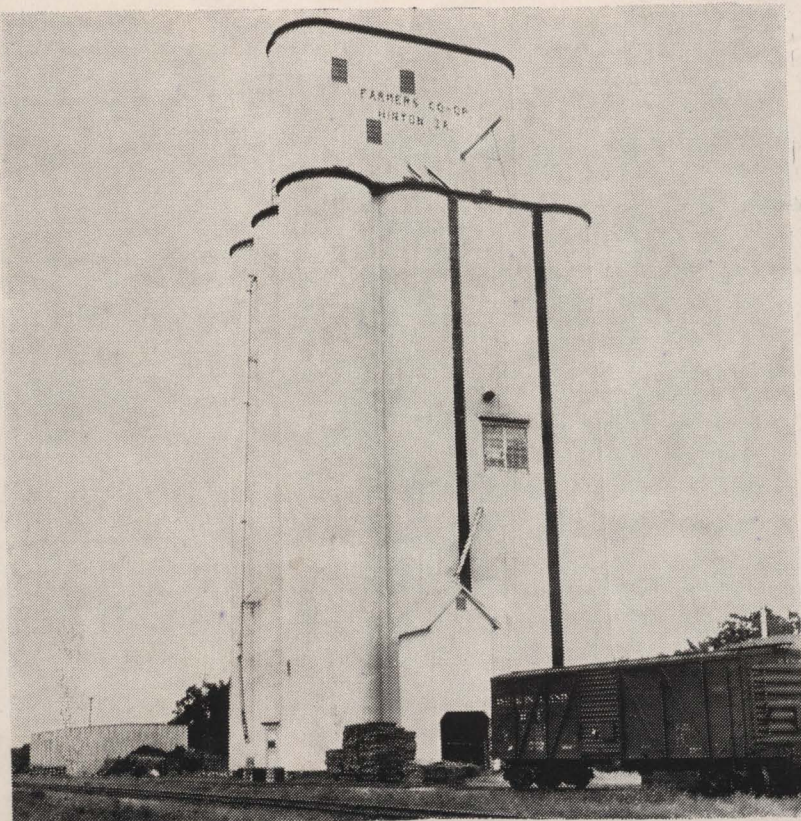
Bulk & Bag Fertilizer

Bulk Feed Delivery

Grinding & Mixing

Phone 38

Hinton, Iowa



MIDWEST METAL CULVERT

This is a typical DROP IN-LET STRUCTURE made in plants by trained welders and experienced machine operators. Always made to U. S. Government and SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE specifications. Either asphalt coated or uncoated of any size from six inches to 96 inches in diameter.

MIDWEST furnishes anti-seep diaphragms anti-swirl walls, trash racks, and plain and perforated toe drainage pipe for your complete dam structure.



Write Us For Free Literature



We Manufacture—
Everything in Corrugated
Pipe:

PURE IRON
COPPER STEEL
GALVANIZED and
ASPHALT COATED
CATTLE PASSES
PIPE ARCH
STRUCTURAL PLATE
PIPE
HOODED INLETS
FLOOD GATES

Midwest Metal Culvert
Des Moines
816 S. W. Ninth St.
Phone CHerry 3-0547

Midwest Metal Culvert
Sioux City
420 Chamber St.
Phone 5-3503

Muscatine Metal Culvert
Muscatine
Sampson Street
Phone AM 3-8474

PLYMOUTH SOIL DISTRICT'S PAST AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Past Commissioners



GEORGE EASON
Past Commissioner
Le Mars, Iowa

George served as Commissioner from 1948 to 1954.

George owns and operates 160 acres in Fredonia Township.

George served as President of the Floyd Valley Watershed Association for several years. He has been a members of the State Soil Conservation Committee since 1956.

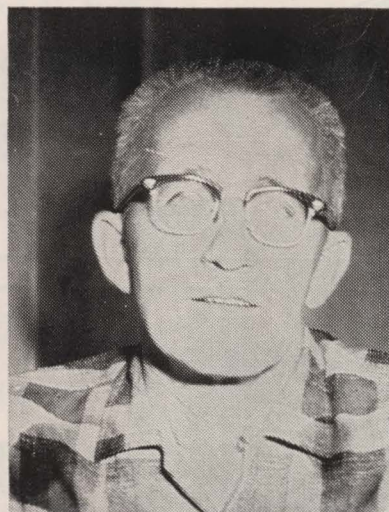


R. L. WEIDAUER
Past Commissioner
Le Mars, Iowa

Mr. Weidauer served as Commissioner from 1946 to 1950.

Reinie, as his friends call him, owns 280 acres in Washington and Plymouth Townships which his son Lloyd farms.

Reinie served many years on the County Committees on the AAA, PMA and ASC. Later he served as Office Manager for the ASC until he retired in 1957. He has always had lots of interest in Soil Conservation work in Plymouth County.



F. A. LAUTERS
Past Commissioner
Le Mars, Iowa

Frank served as Commissioner from 1946 to 1948 and from 1950 to 1956.

Frank owns 480 acres in America and Marion Townships which are farmed by his son Gene.

Frank has always followed a good conservation program on his farms and has several miles of terraces built. Frank is one of the leaders in the Upper Plymouth Pilot Watershed Project. Frank has the #1 farm plan in the Plymouth Soil Conservation District.

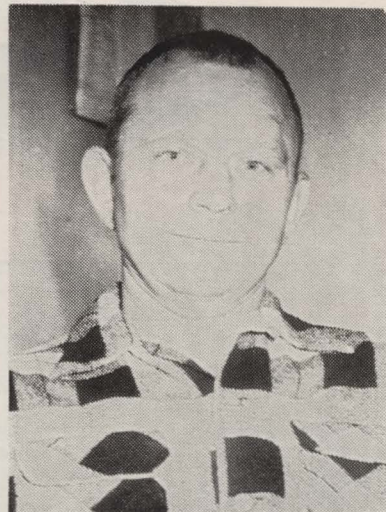


MARTIN MUECKE
Past Commissioner
Hinton, Iowa

Martin served as Commissioner from 1946 to 1949.

He owns 500 acres in Lincoln Township which have soil conservation plans.

Assistant Commissioners



DON SITZMANN
Assistant Commissioner

Don Sitzmann has been serving as an Assistant Commissioner since 1956.

Don and his wife, Delores, have four sons and one daughter. They farm 160 acres in Elkhorn Township. Conservation practices include terracing, contouring, and grassed waterways.



DON BANKS
Assistant Commissioner

Don Banks has served as an Assistant Commissioner for the past two years.

Don and his wife, Shirley, have two daughters and one son. They farm 300 acres in Sioux Township.

Don is Chairman of the Gant Creek Watershed located in Sioux and Westfield Townships. He has been very instrumental in getting conservation practices started in the watershed.

Past Commissioners Not Present For Pictures Are:

RAYMOND ANDERSON
Past Commissioner
Merrill, Iowa

Ray served as Commissioner from 1949 to 1950.

Ray owns and operates 680 acres in Plymouth Township. Ray has most of his hill land terraced. He was elected president of the Floyd Valley Watershed Association in 1958.

OTTO KALAS
Past Commissioner
Merrill, Iowa

Otto served as Commissioner from 1950 to 1952.

Otto owns and operates 160 acres in Liberty Township. Otto has always carried on a good soil conservation program on his farm.

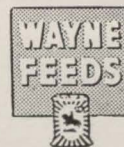
LESTER WILLIAMS
Past Commissioner
Boulevard Station, Sioux City, Ia.

Lester served as Commissioner from 1952 to 1958.

He owns 310 acres in Hancock Township. Lester has some of the first basin terraces built in the District.

Le Mars Hatchery

DE KALB &
CHALLENGER
CHICKS



Ph. 293

Le Mars, Ia.

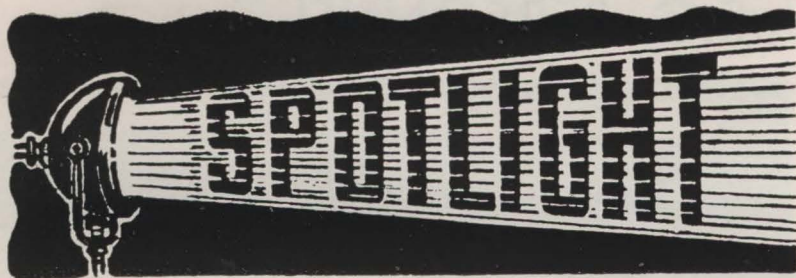
AKRON LUMBER CO.

Doors — Mouldings
Millwork — Paints
Building Hardware
Plan Service

Phone 2621

Akron, Ia.

Iowa Soil and Water



Editorial

SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRESS IN PLYMOUTH COUNTY

By La Vern M. Feusner
Work Unit Conservationist

Are we progressing fast enough in Soil Conservation in Plymouth County? That is a pretty good question which can be answered several ways depending on who you are talking to.

If you are talking to a person who doesn't think soil conserving practices are necessary he'll answer by saying all this terracing and contouring is silly. That there is plenty more soil under what we are farming now. He will also say that it won't be long until everyone will be going up and down the hill again. He doesn't worry about all the yellow soil showing up on the sides of the hills from up and down the hill farming, but does he ever worry when he sees a neighbor building terraces which when pushed up uncover yellow dirt in the terrace cut slope. Another answer you will probably get from this fellow is the weed problem that he says goes with contouring and terracing. To him the only crop rotation is corn and oats. We have another group who believe in soil conservation, but only on the other fellow's farm. Especially on the land in the hilly areas—that is where they need conservation they say. You ask them about their line fence that is about muddled under and they say that comes from the neighbors land. They just don't have any run off on their farm.

Then you ask this same question of whether Soil Conservation is progressing fast enough to the farmer who is carrying on a good soil conservation program on his farm and he will give you a definite "No" for an answer. He started his program by contouring only to discover that during hard rains his contour lines broke over in a few spots.

Then he started terracing and he didn't stop until he was convinced in his own mind that he had his soil erosion problem under control. He will tell you with confidence that his farm will be in as good or better condition when he turns it over to his son as when he took the farm over.

Iowa Soil and Water



HAROLD E. JOHNSON
Commissioner

Harold is the newest member of the Board of Commissioners. He was elected in June of 1958. He served as an assistant commissioner for two years prior to his election.

He and his wife, Helen have three children, Karen, Kenneth and Paul. The Johnsons own and operate a 275 acre farm in Portland Township. It is a grain and livestock operation with hog and cattle feeding.

Harold has been a District Co-operator since 1951. Conservation practices include terraces, waterways and contouring.

Harold is presently chairman of the Plymouth County Board of Education. He is also a member of the Farmers Home Administration Committee in Plymouth County. He is a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Akron.

He is interested in conserving his land for future generations.

Another answer to the question may be derived from the Conservation Needs Summary which was developed for Plymouth Soil Conservation District during the past year. This summary was completed through the cooperation of the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District Commissioners, the Soil Conservation Service, the Extension Service, the County ASC Committee and office manager, the County Board of Supervisors, the Farmers Home Administration, Vocational Agriculture and Veterans Instructors, and others. This group took all the different classes of land into

Meet Iowa Commissioners --- 'Conservation Minded People' From Plymouth Soil District



WALTER MUECKE
Chairman

Walter Muecke, a life long resident of Plymouth County resides in Lincoln Township.

He owns 340 acres of land which he farms with his son, William. He became interested in conservation early in its development and was the seventh farmer in the district to ask for assistance.

In 1954 he was elected to a regular six year term and has served as chairman since 1958. The first conservation work was established on his farm in 1939 and since that time all sloping ground has been terraced and water ways established and a four year corn-corn-oats-meadow has been maintained. He feeds 200 steers and raises and feeds 700 head of hogs. He is vice-president of the Plymouth-Woodbury Federal Land Bank. The Mueckes belong to the Trinity Lutheran Church at Hinton, Iowa.

Walter and his wife have three children.

consideration and this was what they found. Contouring needs show 410,000 acres, we have 128,000 acres applied. Terracing needs show 17,700 miles, we have 900 miles applied. Waterway needs show 5,500 acres, and we have 745 acres applied.

Of the three major practices, contour progress is by far the best. Excellent progress has been made the past two years in terracing with 400 of the 900 miles built during that period. However, with a need of 17,000 miles in the county we should raise that 200 mile a year production



DONALD W. LUCKEN
Commissioner

Don has been a Commissioner since July, 1956. He is treasurer for the District.

He and his wife, Darlene, have three children: Mark, 14; Wendy, 9, and Fayann, 7.

The Luckens operate a 240 acre farm in Johnson Township owned by his father. He became a co-operator in 1948 with a five-year rotation. His farm has two miles of terraces and all the crops are farmed on the contour. The long slopes are also strip cropped to prevent soil and water losses. All grain and roughage is fed on the farm. One hundred to one hundred twenty-five head of beef cattle and one hundred twenty to one hundred forty head of hogs are fed out each year.

The Luckens attend the Plymouth Presbyterian Church in Johnson Township where Mrs. Lucken serves as Sunday School Superintendent.

Don is a member of the Masonic Lodge in Akron, the American Legion Post, and is now serving as Director of the Board of Education for the newly reorganized Akron Community School District.

During World War II Don served in the U. S. Navy for three years. One-half of that time was aboard ship in the South Pacific.

to at least 500 miles a year. With 2700 farm operating units in the county that goal shouldn't be too hard to reach.

The answer to the question, "Are we progressing fast enough in soil conservation in Plymouth County?", is certainly, "No." However, with everyone cooperating together we can reach the progress rate necessary to conserve our soil for future generation. District.

PLYMOUTH COUNTY A.S.C. PERSONNEL



Plymouth County ASC Committee left to right: Henry Baldes, Member; William Schnepf, Chairman, and Raymond Becker, Vice Chairman.

ACP IN PLYMOUTH COUNTY

By Wm. J. Ahlers,
Office Manager

Plymouth County ASC Office

To "give back the land" to posterity in as good or better a condition as when they were first fortunate enough to acquire it, should be the sole aim and purpose of those who derive a livelihood from the soil.



CURTIS P. HAAHR

Farmer-Fieldman

THE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

By Curtis P. Haahr

The United States Department of Agriculture provides several aids to help and encourage the farmers of our land to do and understand the job of soil conservation.

There are five of these services: The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee

The conservation of our soil and water resources is a vital issue in Plymouth County. It should be to the interest of every Plymouth County farmer, whether he be an owner or an operator, to see that the conservation practice needed and applicable to the type land comprising his farm, is installed on it.

The Agricultural Conservation Program, more commonly known as ACP, has been set up by the Federal Government to assist the farmer in sharing the cost of placing the needed conservation practice in effect on his farm.

He also has at his disposal the services of the Soil Conservation Service who have skilled technicians, trained to ascertain the conservation needs for the individual farms.

This agency works very closely with the ASC county office which administers the funds for conservation cost-sharing.

While requests for **ALL** practices approved for Plymouth County are given careful and prompt consideration by the county committee, emphasis on the more permanent conservation

of the United States Department of Agriculture of Iowa and Plymouth County which administers, primarily, the service of cost-sharing established for the farmer for prescribed practices performed by him on the land he owns or operates; the service of the department in establishing conservation is the technical assistance which is under the Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service. Their county representatives are responsible for technical assistance in various ways, to the farm cooperators and also the AC



The Plymouth County ASC Office Personnel, seated, left to right: Mrs. Lela Wilhemi, Head Price Support Clerk; William J. Ahlers, Manager, and Mrs. Ruth Hemphill, Chief Clerk. Standing, left to right: Mrs. Darlene Wentz, Administrative Clerk; Ed Buss, Grain Grader; Mrs. Sharon Albert, Part time Support Clerk; James Bogenrief, Part time CR & PS Clerk; Mrs. Mae Belle Weinheimer, Price Support Clerk; Mrs. Pauline Gardner, Head ACP Clerk, and Mrs. Betty Halweg, Head AA&MO & CR Clerk.

practices in the interest of good farming is being made through various educational channels.

Being so strategically located as we are in the midst of the Big Sioux, Little Sioux, Floyd and Perry Creek watershed areas, there is no question but what the establishment of contouring, the construction of waterways and terraces and the installation of erosion control dams are still most urgently needed if the rich soils so prevalent in Plymouth County are to be salvaged.

Cost-sharing on all the aforementioned approved practices can be obtained through the ACP funds if the request is filed in the county office before any of the work is begun; thus enabling Plymouth County farmers to save their soil and conserve water resources by the installation of these practices, at a reduced expense to them.

In addition, cost-sharing is also available for the spreading of limestone, seeding and fertilization of permanent pastures and

Program's permanent type practices.

The services of research and education are carried by the Agricultural Research Service and the State Agricultural Experiment Station through our county agents and home economists.

Still another service of the department is the extension of credit to farmers by the Farm Credit Administration and Farmers Home Administration.

Plymouth County's organization of the related agencies in

the digging of wells for the grazing of livestock.

During the past five years, much has been accomplished by Plymouth County farmers in the installation and maintenance of conservation practices on which the Federal Government has shared the expense through the funds allotted to the county through ACP. Much still needs to be done! Considerable 1959 funds still remain and are at the disposal of all interested farmers who wish to do work yet this year.

agriculture have done an outstanding service to the farmers as they have benefited greatly from these services directly and indirectly. It is preserving and increasing the productivity potential of this county for its future generations.

The farmers and other citizens who take part in the ACP cost-sharing program in this county want to achieve the most soil and water conservation for the good of the county and the country. It is a program that gets the most conservation of soil and water resources for each dollar expended.

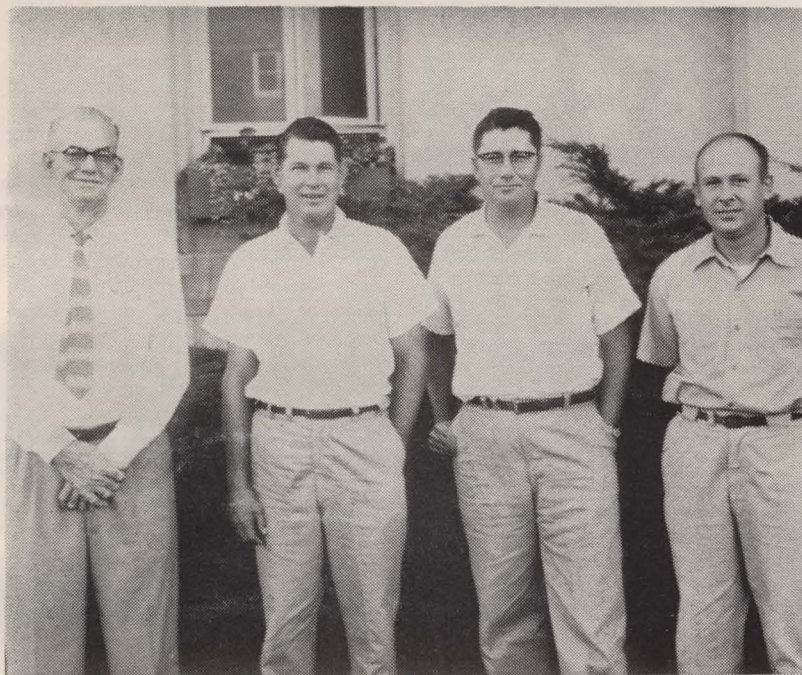
The ACP as governed by the ASC committee is a means of aiding the farmer in establishing conservation practices on his farm, on a cost-share basis, which the farmer as a participant pays the substantial cost of the practice in money, labor, or use of his equipment and materials. It is an incentive program, with ample

—Continued on Page 25

Iowa Soil and Water

Soil Conservation Service and State Personnel

AREA PERSONNEL



Area I Personnel: left to right: George E. Lamp, Area Conservationist; John Worster, Area Soil Scientist; George V. Holmberg, Management Agronomist, and Wayne Ducommun, Area Engineer.



Area Personnel located in Sioux City Office, left to right: Edward L. Bruns, Soil Scientist; George V. Holmberg, Management Agronomist; Elmer Harvey, Soil Scientist, and John Worster, Area Soil Scientist.

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT PERSONNEL



Plymouth Soil Conservation District personnel, seated, left to right: La Vern M. Feusner, Work Unit Conservationist; Mrs. Dorothy Urban, State Clerk. Standing, left to right: Merle Lawyer, Soil Conservationist; James L. Warrender, Conservation Aid, and Robert E. Abels, Conservation Aid.

fall; moisture is often a limiting factor in crop yields. Annual soil losses run as high as 40 tons per acre or more in the more rolling areas. Gully development has taken its toll by destroying hundreds of acres of highly productive land, particularly in the southwest portion of the county.

After row crop production was increased greatly during the First World War and the succeeding few years, annual soil losses increased and gullies advanced more rapidly. A number of land owners became concerned about the erosion problems and a few soil and water conservation demonstrations were established on individual farms in Plymouth County during the 1920's and 1930's. In 1946 the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District was organized under the Iowa Soil Conservation Districts' law. With the help of local, State and Federal agencies, the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District moved forward with an education and action program which has made remarkable progress over the past 13 years.

Interest in soil and water conservation has improved from year to year in this Plymouth County Soil Conservation District. For instance, in the 10-year period ending June 30, 1956, 426 land owners became district cooperators; 271 of them have been assisted with basic

farm conservation plans. In the next three-year period ending June 30, 1959, an additional 150 land owners became district cooperators; 125 were assisted with basic farm plans. In the first 10-year period, district cooperators constructed 383 miles of terraces. In the last three-year period, district cooperators have constructed 516 miles of terraces. To date, the District has assisted land owners with installation of over 3,000,000 feet of tile drains, and approximately 750 acres of grassed waterways.

About the time the District was organized (in 1946), the Soil Conservation Service was authorized to carry out the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Program. Some 20% of the Plymouth County land owners whose farms are located in the West Fork tributary of the Little Sioux River are eligible for aid under the Little Sioux program. This is a Federal program designed to reduce erosion and runoff at the source, and to otherwise reduce flood damages resulting from flood-produced storms occurring in the uplands of the Little Sioux watershed. This program is closely guided by 12 Soil Conservation Districts, including Plymouth. Each of these Soil Conservation Districts is represented on the Little Sioux Works Committee which establishes over-all policy.

—Continued on Page 29

CONSERVATION IN AREA ONE

By George Lamp
Area Conservationist

The Plymouth County Soil Conservation District has the largest area of agricultural land in Area IA-1 of the United States Soil Conservation Service. This 435,000-acre area is primarily made up of soils of loessal origin. Windblown materials cover most of this area in depths of a few feet to over 30 feet. Topography ranges from very

gently rolling to very steep, the steeper areas being the west and southwest portion of the county. Drainage is through four tributaries of the Missouri River, including the Little Sioux River, Floyd River, Perry Creek and the Big Sioux River. The county is highly developed agriculturally; livestock and grains are the principal source of agricultural income. With approximately 26 inches of annual rain-