

HISTORY
of
THE LEE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1945. The Lee County Soil Conservation District was organized January 12, 1945. The first commissioners were: Ben Foecke, Chairman, L. D. Boyd, and O. C. Krebill. Delbert Foster, Extension Director, was appointed secretary.

Those assisting the District were: Parks Forster, District Soil Conservationist, Henry F. A. North, Farm Planner, and Richard Hall, Conservation Aid.

The first groups to receive assistance were in Cedar and Marion townships; and there were individuals from several parts of the county.

1946. The commissioners remained the same as the preceding year, and Delbert Foster was appointed secretary-treasurer.

Franklin H. Mullen began work as Farm Planner in September. Richard Hall remained as Conservation Aid.

The first annual meeting was held in the evening on December 3 at the Mennonite Church in Donnellson. Coffee and doughnuts were served. Maurice Heath, Soil Conservation Service forage expert, was the speaker. Over 75 farmers attended.

Harvey Hasenclever was elected Soil Commissioner for a six year term, replacing Ben Foecke.

1947. The commissioners were O. C. Krebill, Chairman, L. D. Boyd, and Harvey Hasenclever. Other personnel remained the same as the previous year.

The first contour plowing match was held on the farm of Albert Holtkamp. Melvin Krebill won first place.

1948. The commissioners and personnel remained the same as previous year.

A contour plowing match was held in August.

The annual meeting was held on December 15. George Browning, Iowa State College, was the speaker. Coffee and doughnuts were served.

O. C. Krebill was re-elected for a six year term.

1949. L. D. Boyd was elected chairman of commissioners with Harvey Hasenclever and O. C. Krebill, members.

1950. The commissioners and personnel continued as previously, with the addition of Virgil Parker as State Aid, until March. At that time, Richard Simmons replaced Richard Hall as Conservation Aid. Mr. Parker became State Aid in January.

A whirlwind terracer was purchased by the District/ ^{with State approval and funds,} and Andrew Heiser was hired to furnish the tractor.

The annual meeting was held on March 23 in the Farm Bureau basement. Approximately 75 people were in attendance. Homer Vincent, Wellman farmer and Soil District commissioner, delivered the main talk. James Foster, State Soil Conservation Committee member from Albia, was present. A film on soil erosion was shown.

The annual contour plowing contest was held on the Ben Panther farm in August. Robert Krebill was winner. A terrace building demonstration was made with the State owned whirlwind terracer.

The annual meeting and election was held on December 12 in the Farm Bureau basement. Coffee and doughnuts were served. H. F. Dossey, Biggsville, Illinois, was the speaker of the evening.

Harry Dresser, Jr. was elected for a six year term, replacing L. D. Boyd.

By the end of 1950, 22 neighborhood groups had been organized, and 233 farm plans had been prepared. However, 7 of these were cancelled, leaving 226 active farm plans. 147 new applications were on file.

1951. The commissioners were Harvey Hasenclever, chairman, O. C. Krebill, and Harry Dresser, Jr. Delbert Foster was secretary, and Virgil Parker, treasurer.

The District began renting the terracer to farmers at one cent per foot, the farmer to supply the power, as Andy Heiser had resigned.

The plowing contest was held on August 1 at the Willard Schau farm. Robert Krebill was again the winner. An erosion dam and structure were installed at this time by Mr. Schau.

Virgil Parker resigned as State Aid and treasurer in August. O. C. Krebill became treasurer. In November, E. F. Jones replaced Richard Simmons as Conservation Aid, and Mrs. Nadine Tomfeld became part time State clerk.

139 applications were on file for farm planning.

1952. The commissioners and Soil Conservation Service personnel remained the same. Mrs. Tomfeld resigned ^{in February} as part time State clerk, and Mrs. Ruth Jones replaced her. In September, Mrs. Jones resigned and Mrs. Virginia Nelson accepted the position. In October, Mrs. Bettye Wirsig replaced Mrs. Nelson.

Harry Strayer was employed as part time State Aid for the spring months.

A contour plowing match was held in September on the Ben Panther farm. Lester Schau won first place; Robert Krebill, second; and Clifford Bogert, third.

A grass sod cutter was built for the District by the Donnellson F. F. A. Chapter, materials being furnished by the District.

The annual meeting and election was held on December 4. George Schneider, Jr. was elected to replace Harvey Hasenclever as commissioner. A film was shown by Ellis Krebill.

1953. O. C. Krebill was elected chairman of the commissioners, with Harry Dresser, Jr. and George Schneider, Jr., members. Delbert Foster was secretary, and O. C. Krebill, treasurer.

Dallas E. Kerr was employed as State Aid in March. On April 1, Bettye Wirsig resigned, and Ruth Jones again became State clerk.

The seventh annual contour plowing match was held on the Clifford Bogert farm on August 13. Vernon Krebill, Donnellson, was the winner.

1954. The commissioners and Work Unit Conservationist remained the same as the previous year, and Dallas Kerr remained as State and WAE Aid. Changes occurred in other personnel.

Lyall Mitchell became Area conservationist.

In November, Burdette Stamps replaced Erwin Jones as Conservation Aid, and the District hired Marjorie Stamps to replace Ruth Jones as State clerk.

Also in November, Delbert Foster resigned as Extension Director and secretary of the District, and Robert N. Dowling replaced him in both positions.

Val Fuger worked during the summer as State Aid.

The first annual dinner meeting was held on January 13, served by the Methodist ladies. Approximately 95 attended. A film, "Soil Conservation Districts and Iowa People," was shown.

The terracer was purchased by the District for \$112 from the State Soil Committee.

The District paid the tuition and part of the expenses of Anna Weber at Springbrook Conservation Camp.

On August 25, an Area contour plowing contest was held on the Don Woline farm. Vernon Krebill defeated Robert Barrow of Keosauqua.

In 1954, 38 new cooperators signed with the District, making a total of 430 active cooperators covering 78,000 acres.

1955. The annual dinner and election was held on January 12 in the American Legion Hall. About 160 attended. Two conservation films, "Farmer Of The Year" and "Keep Your Eye On The Soil," were shown.

Darrell Seyb was elected commissioner, replacing O. C. Krebill.

Harry Dresser, Jr. became chairman of the commissioners, Robert Dowling was re-appointed secretary, and O. C. Krebill continued as treasurer.

The District received the 10 year Certificate of Award at the Regional meeting in Mt. Pleasant in March.

The District paid the tuition and part of the expenses for Mrs. Edith Pence and Anna Weber to attend Springbrook Conservation Camp.

Ed Anton was hired for the summer months as State Aid, and Charles Overton assisted for two weeks in December as State Aid.

1956. The commissioners and Work Unit personnel remained the same as in 1955. Ed Anton again assisted during the summer months as State Aid.

The annual dinner and meeting was held January 11 in the American Legion Hall in Donnellson. 155 people attended. George Worley, State Conservation Commission, was speaker and showed colored slides of Springbrook Conservation Camp.

In April, the District sponsored its first essay contest for the 7th & 8th Grade and the High School students in the county. First, Second, and Third prizes in each division were \$15, \$10, and \$5, respectively.

Three teachers attended Springbrook Conservation Camp sponsored by the District. They were: Mrs. Enid Bennett, Mrs. Cecelia Johnson, and Ronald Moats. The District furnished a scholarship for Gerald Biby, whose application was received last.

The first "Queen of the Furrow" contest was held in August. Diana Johnson and Rebecca Specht were the winners, and competed in the Regional contest at West Liberty.

A total of 37 new cooperators signed in 1956, making a grand total of 507 active cooperators in the District.

1957. The annual dinner and election was held on January 16 in the Legion Hall in Donnellson. F. A. Weidhunner, farmer and chairman of the Menard county, Illinois, Soil Conservation District, showed slides and spoke on agriculture in Europe in 1955. 100 people attended the event.

The election of commissioner resulted in a tie vote between Anson Johnson and Jay Tweedy. Anson Johnson was then chosen by the drawing of lots by the State Soil Committee.

The commissioners for the year were George Schneider, Jr., chairman, and Darrell Seyb and Anson Johnson, members. Robert Dowling was re-appointed

secretary, and O. C. Krebill, treasurer. Office personnel remained the same.

J. Robert Schroeder worked as rodman in May and June; Edward Anton returned for the summer months as Conservation Aid WAE and State Aid.

The essay contest was continued, and the District's second "Queen of the Furrow" contest was held. Dorris Ann Herrick and Elizabeth Sheppard were the winners.

Weekly news broadcasts were given each Friday morning over Station KXGI by Mullen and Stamps, who alternated.

Total number of active cooperators at end of year was 542.

1958. The commissioners remained the same as the previous year. Marjorie Stamps was appointed treasurer, replacing O. C. Krebill.

No changes occurred in the regular personnel. William German worked as rodman during April and May, and Raymond Holtkamp replaced him for the summer months. Edward Anton assumed his duties again in June.

The annual dinner was held on January 15 in the Legion Hall in Donnellson. Carl Langenbach, Woodlands manager, Crandon Paper Mill, Ft. Madison, was the speaker. 128 people attended.

The District had toewall forms constructed by the Donnellson Lumber Company to be rented to farmers.

O. C. Krebill, past commissioner, died on March 5. He served as commissioner from the time of organization in 1945 to 1955, and as treasurer from 1955 to January, 1958.

The essay contest was held again; Ronald Moats attended Springbrook Camp with tuition and all expenses paid by the District; and the "Queen of the Furrow" contest was continued. Winners were Marlene Lutz and Janice Freesmeier. The weekly news broadcasts were also continued.

The total number of active cooperators was 567.

1959. The annual dinner and election were to have been held on January 21, but the dinner was postponed until January 24 because of a severe snowstorm. The election, however, was held as legally publicized. David Weisinger was elected new commissioner. At the dinner, Miss Lydia Argento, Argentina, South America, exchange student attending Ft. Madison High School, spoke on customs in her land; and Burdette Stamps showed colored slides taken on his trip to the Conservation Training Center at Cochocton, Ohio, and the late Louis Bromfield's "Malabar Farm." 130 people attended.

Darrell Seyb became chairman of the District, Robert Dowling, secretary, and Marjorie Stamps, treasurer.

The essay contest was held in March, and a fishing clinic was held in June on the Milton Sander farm. About 100-150 people attended. The "Queen of the Furrow" contest was discontinued.

In July, the District sponsored a booth at the county fair.

In November and December, meetings were held in the Denmark High School, and the first steps were begun toward formulating a watershed in the Lost Creek area.

The Friday morning weekly news broadcast from KXGI by Mullen and Stamps was continued.

32 new cooperators were signed in 1959. The total number of active cooperators at the end of the year was 591.