

SCRAP BOOK

June 22, 1967

LET'S KEEP IOWA in IOWA!



• Soil Erosion
Isn't Any
MYSTERY...

**LET'S STOP
IT NOW!**

Saving our soil is just like putting money in the bank.

Soil conservatin is saving for a rainy day--and it only takes one rainy day to indicate to the entire communi-ty that soil conservation pays off in dollars and cents.

We as businessmen around the Albia square are proud of the way the businessman on the farm cares for his soil.

We are proud of the way in which he has conserved soil and water over the years, of the pasture improve-ment, of the many farm ponds, the terraces, diversion ditches--the many other practices which are indicative of the fine program being carried on locally.

We salute the farmers of Monroe County during Soil Conservation Week, June 18-25 and wish them well.

They are doing a good job of conserving our natural resources.

They are building for future generations of our com-munity!

Denzil F. Patton

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Heavy Rains Point Up Value Of Judge's Reclamation Job

William P. Judge, six miles east of Albia, has embarked on a project that almost smacks of moving mountains.

He is attempting to eliminate or at least minimize the unsightly and unproductive spoil banks of a former strip coal mine on his property, now known as Smoky Hollow Angus Farm.

The farm gets its name from the Smoky Hollow mine that once was on both sides of old Highway 34. It went out of production some eight years ago.

Judge is trying to reclaim

about 14 acres of spoil bank land left by the mining operation.

Early this spring bulldozers of Mervin Ellison of Moravia started leveling off the banks.

The shale, rock, clay and assorted soils and debris from the spoil banks were used as fill to form an embankment for a 1½-acre pond.

The pond now drains about 40 acres of pasture land and provides control for flow of water downstream.

Key to the water control is 160 feet of six-inch pipe through

the dam and a spillway to the north side.

The water flow is now confined to an existing waterway, explains Dale Barker, work unit conservationist for the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

A big surge of water from a heavy rain could have flooded pasture and cropland below as the area was formerly situated.

There had been a pond before but it was getting shallower because of siltation and washing of the natural spillway.

There was little water control until the spoil bank material was moved in forming a permanent pond.

The success of the project in controlling run-off and protecting land below was put to the test by the heavy rain Friday night, June 9, and other rains this month.

"The heavy rain didn't phase it in the least," declared Judge adding, "It's quite a recommendation for Johnny Botts and Elison."

Botts is the conservation technician who designed the project. Judge noted that the heavy rains have sent water running through the six-inch inlet pipe the past several days.

Although he wasn't there to see it, he noted that water did get high enough to go over the spillway.

Judge hopes to have about 14 more acres of pasture land from the reclaimed spoil banks but he's not counting on it for awhile.

"I didn't get it fertilized and there's a little problem in getting it to grow," he said in reference to getting a vegetative cover on the leveled areas.

High acidity and infertility of these areas is a problem, observes Barker.

Judge, at his own expense, has seeded the leveled area to alfalfa, red clover, bromegrass and some prostrate lespedeza.

This is the second attempt in Monroe County to level off a spoil bank. The other is in Cedar township on property owned by an Oskaloosa resident.

The Judges decided to level the spoil banks for several reasons. One was because they were "tired of looking at them."

The bonuses came in having a supply of water and some additional pasture.

But the big reason, as the June 9 rain proved, was protecting the lowlands from flooding and siltation.

PLANS—

Sixteen year old Robert Wendel of Manchester recently displayed his collection of model planes he has built with help from his father. Of those displayed he had a new radio-controlled model airplane with a 4½ foot wingspan, a gas engine, plane, control line planes and gliders. Two of the models are stunt planes capable of traveling 60 miles an hour.

VALUABLE—

The value of jade found in the U.S. is about 15 times that of diamonds found here.

Iowa Farmers Using More Erosion Control Practices

More Iowa farmers are installing erosion control projects on their farms, according to Frank H. Mendell, State Conservationist of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Iowa.

During the fiscal year, more terraces, diversion terraces, grassed waterways, farm ponds, erosion control structures, drainage tile, and farmstead windbreaks were put to use in Iowa than in 1965, Mendell reports.

Over 10 million feet of regular terraces were installed in 1966, over one million feet of diversion terraces were constructed, Mendell says. This is a 23 per cent increase in regular terraces over the previous fiscal year. Diversion terraces showed a 10 per cent increase.

Iowa farmers are showing a preference for the new parallel and seeded backslope terraces over the former type of terrace systems, Mendell says. Over 3½ million feet of parallel terraces were constructed last year — up 32 per cent over 1965.

Iowa farm pond construction increased 5 per cent in 1966. A total of 1,140 ponds were built during this time.

Erosion control structure showed an increase of 21 per cent and a total of 954 structures.

Tile drainage installations increased 29 per cent with a total of over 26 million feet.

Eight per cent more grassed waterways were installed in 1966, totaling 3,153 acres.

More windbreaks on farmsteads were planted during 1966, too. The number of installations increased 73 per cent. The new windbreaks cover 451 acres.

Other important conservation practices applied in 1966 included over 172,000 acres of contour farming, over 17,000 acres of strip cropping and over 21,000 acres of pasture planting. During the past year, almost 21,000 acres of crop land was converted to grassland, woodland, wildlife and recreation use.

Mendell credits the cost-sharing Agricultural Conservation

Program as an effective incentive for farmers to apply needed conservation practices to their farms. In fiscal 1966, Soil Conservation Service technicians provided 43 per cent more assistance to Iowa farmers than in 1965. Over 25,000 referrals for ACP cost-sharing were assisted.

During the past year, Iowa's Soil Conservation Districts accepted applications from 4,326 new district cooperators. Of these, more than 3,100 were assisted by Iowa farmers than in 1965. Over 25,000 referrals for ACP cost-sharing were assisted.

Currently about 61,000 Iowa farmers have complete conservation farm plans on over 11 million acres.

Urge 2 Kinds Of Terraces

Bigger machinery and new cropping methods on Iowa farms are making some traditional conservation practices unacceptable today, reports Iowa State University extension soil conservationist Charles Ballantyne.

Contour farming and conventional terracing methods no longer fit into many farm operations because larger machinery can't function well on the sloping curves of conventional terraces and with troublesome point rows, he reports.

In many cases, farmers are eliminating the out-gate portion of their crop rotation system, Ballantyne says. They have found it is cheaper to purchase nitrogen fertilizer than to raise it through the legume portion of a crop rotation. It is this more intensive row cropping in the absence of supporting conservation practices that is aggravating erosion, he reports.

However, two types of terracing are compatible with both larger machinery and continuous row cropping, according to Ballantyne. These are the broad-based parallel terraces for slopes up to six per cent and the parallel, seeded backslope terraces for steeper terrain. The width between these parallel terraces is constant so there are no point rows.

NORTHERN—
Tom Hansen of Iowa Falls recently caught a 9½ pound Northern below the dam in Iowa Falls. He was using chubs for bait and required 10 minutes to pull in the big fish.

FUNNY RUNNER—
The roadrunner is a member of the cuckoo family.

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Albia, Iowa (Monroe County)
Thursday, June 22, 1967

CHANGES—
A diamond will turn to graphite if heated to 1,000 degrees C.

PHILODENDRON—
Mrs. Olive Kendall, Maquoketa, has a split-leaf philodendron in her office there which has now grown to a height of 20 feet. The jungle like plant has been hers for the past five years.

Consider Our Land . . .

Spreading acre by acre and mile by mile across the heart of our continent is the largest single expanse of productive land on earth.

It is an awesome land, magnificent in the variety and richness with which God endowed it.

It is the Lord's land, entrusted to our care during our lifetime to help us serve Him and His purposes for our being.

As stewards, we have divided that one-fourth of it should be managed for all uses by our government. The much larger part—three-fourths—we have divided into millions of units in private ownership.

Three-fourths of our land is an empire of the noblest proportions—nearly 3 billion acres, which fortify our present strength and stand surely as a testing ground of our future.

It is the land on which we must depend to produce more and still more food—for our growing needs and to help those abroad who hunger.

It is the land where we can add to the supplies and quality of our water; and where most of our outdoor recreation needs can be met; and where most of our wildlife will be produced.

Three-fourths of our land is where the owners are—the legions of men and women on whom we depend to accept the obligations of stewardship and work together as neighbors for the common good.

It is the land of a democracy where we rely on the voluntary exercise of individual responsibility rather than regulatory action by government as the surest avenue to accomplishment.

It is the land of owners who have the reason, more than any others, to focus on each acre the skills and devotion that progress requires.

It is the land of still unmeasured values deserving new and higher regard as a vital and irreplaceable treasure.

Consider our land. Consider it well.

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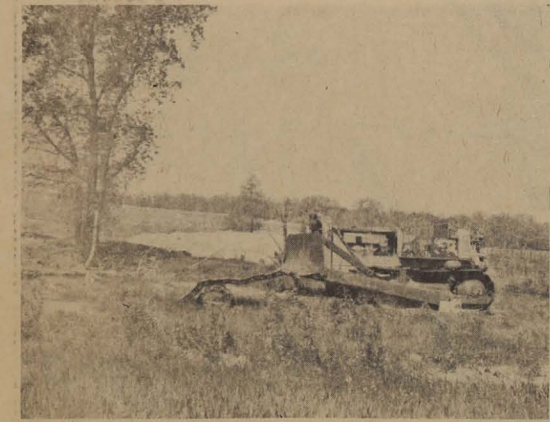
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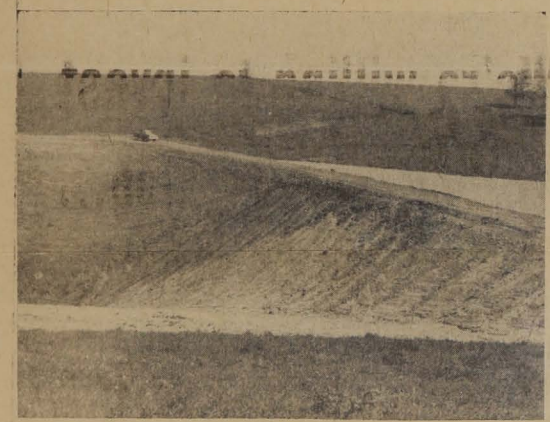
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Protected Area

This bulldozer is a remnant of the days when the William Judge property six miles east of Albia along old Highway 34 was part of the Smokey Hollow strip mine. This scene here is at the low-

er end of the water course where water from above drains into the South Avery Creek. This is the area protected from silt by the pond and water control structures.



Embankment

This view of the spoil bank leveling project on the William P. Judge place is to the north showing the 1½-acre pond at the right. The area in the foreground and background shows the cut areas that provided the fill for the embankment.

The spillway is in the background by the pickup truck. When water rises three to four feet above the outlet pipe, water runs out the spillway. This happened during the heavy rain of June 9.



As Work Was Starting

This picture of the dam on the Judge property is similar to the one above but was taken early last spring as work was

getting started. Note the rough condition of the land in the area to the left in the foreground.

Leveled Spoil Banks

This view is to the west showing the pond and embankment. Traces of the spoil banks can be seen in the background to both sides. The spoil banks were bulldozed down which resulted in

William Judge reclaiming about 14 acres of land for pasture. The pond and embankment provides a controlled flow of water to an existing waterway below the dam.

ALBIA RESERVOIR PARK

Notice is hereby given that the Albia Municipal Waterworks Park grounds will be closed to the public after 9:00 o'clock p.m., each night, from and after June 15, 1967. All those contemplating using the recreational area please make your arrangements accordingly. The gates will positively be closed to all after the above hour. Your cooperation is urgently requested.

By Order of Board of Trustees
ALBIA MUNICIPAL WATERWORKS

Soil, Water Conservation Week Set Here June 18-26

Soil and Water Conservation Week will be observed in Iowa June 18 through June 26, 1967, according to Bob McGinnis, chairman of the Monroe Soil Conservation District. This annual week has been observed in Iowa for more than 20 years.

The development of Iowa land and water resources through soil and water conservation is essential to maintain and improve agricultural and farm income.

More Iowa farmers are installing erosion control practices on their farms. Conservation is not just a farmer's problem, but is everybody's problem, McGinnis reports. Farmers, of course,

the ones who can do most about it.

McGinnis says that each year more terraces, diversion terraces, grassed waterways, farm ponds, erosion control structures and surface field ditches are constructed than the year before.

Conservation practices in the Monroe County District last year included:

Contouring—218 acres.
Diversion terraces—12,630 feet.
Farm ponds—45.
Fish pond stockings—58.
Erosion control structures—6.
Grassed waterways—25 acres.
Terraces—19,450 feet.
Tile drainage—53,748 ft.

Spring rains are now showing the need of more terraces. The trend toward larger machinery has made it possible to update the terracing program. Iowa farmers are showing a preference for the new parallel and seeded backslope terraces over the conventional type terrace system. Parallel terraces give better moisture distribution and fits modern cropping systems. This type of terrace eliminates point rows and permits better terrace alignment. The seeded backslope terrace is also laid out in parallel lines with space adjusted to fit size of machinery the farmer uses. The backslope is permanently seeded and not farmed.

Grassed waterways is another practice of great importance. Waterways shaped and established in suitable vegetation can pro-

vide safe disposal of excess runoff, thus preventing eroded areas.

Ponds and structures constructed in large gulches provide water storage, recreational areas and beauty.

Much progress has been made over the 25 years that the Monroe County District has been organized. There is still a tremendous amount of conservation work to be done, said McGinnis. It is hoped farmers will continue the splendid progress in soil and water conservation, he concluded.

Fertility Aids Soil Conservation

High fertility that boosts crop yields and cuts production costs per acre for Iowa farmers also helps promote soil conservation.

Regis Voss, Iowa State University extension agronomist, says one of the key tools for building and maintaining soil fertility is the regular application of necessary plant foods based on soil tests.

High fertility is a soil-saver, Voss says. It builds cover crops into leafier, denser blankets reducing runoff during heavy rains. Pasture sods grow thicker with abundant top growth and healthy roots to protect and hold the soil. And all crops grown on a fertile soil will produce bigger stalks and stubble to add to the raw materials for soil-improving organic matter.

But that isn't the entire story. Voss points out that higher crop yields through good management and the use of needed fertilizer cut the cost of production. They give farmers a bigger return for every acre, dollar and hour they devote to growing crops.

CUT UPS—
Eskimos carve figures from the ivory of walrus tusks.

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Rains Flood Farm Land

Demonstrating the need for good conservation practices, this picture taken near Albia after one of the recent heavy rains shows flooded land and ruined crops.

Test Farm Water Now

Spring is the best time to test farm water supplies because contamination is most likely to occur during heavy rain runoff, says Dr. Robert L. Morris of the State Hygienic Laboratory at The University of Iowa.

Dr. Morris, assistant director and chief chemist of the Laboratory, directs the water division, which makes more than 35,000 water tests each year.

Water from private wells should be analyzed for purity, nitrate, and mineral content, Dr. Morris said. As high as 70 per cent of samples tested after a

rainy period may be found to be unsatisfactory, especially samples from wells less than 100 feet deep.

"Laboratory analysis is the only way to be certain well water is free of unsafe organisms, minerals and chemicals," Dr. Morris said.

Most common tests done by the Laboratory at Iowa City are for bacteria, nitrate, iron, and hardness. Tests for iron bacteria, lead, and pesticide residues can also be done. Each test costs \$2.

Bacteria tests are normally performed on all samples, but the other tests may be specifically requested. Fees for testing go toward operation of the water laboratory.

Persons wishing to have well

water tested should write to the Laboratory for a sterile water sample bottle and instructions for taking the sample.

The initial request should indicate whether the water supply is continuously chlorinated. If it is, a black-capped bottle is sent. If the water contains no chlorine or if a nitrate test is desired, a white-capped bottle is sent.

Nitrate content of the water is particularly important if the water is drunk by infants. Infant nitrate cyanosis (blue babies) can result when nitrate reaches more than 45 parts per million of water.

Danger for infants comes primarily from formulas prepared with the water and less caution is needed with older children, Dr. Morris said.

Set Livestock Judging Workouts in Ottumwa

Two Livestock Selection and Judging workouts are planned for 4-H members in the TENCO Extension Area according to Clifford Iverson, extension leader in livestock production. They will have both swine and beef classes.

These will both be held in cooperation with John Morrell & Co. of Ottumwa and will be held in the livestock yards.

The first workout will be held on Tuesday, June 27 and will start at 8:30 promptly. This will be a basic workout designed for newer 4-H members and as a refresher for older 4-H members. It will include a tour of Morrell & Co.

The second workout will be de-

signed for older members on Thursday, July 6.

All 4-H members carrying livestock projects, 4-H project leaders and parents are invited to attend these workouts.

GRANDMA HAS TWINS—

Grandma, a Hereford cow owned by Jack Jones of Rte. 5, Albia has given birth to twin calves for three consecutive years.

BIG MARGINS—

PITTSBURGH (UPI)—The 1962 Pittsburgh Pirates won the National League pennant by 27½ games.

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Also Sorghum - Sudan - Forage Sorghum - Grain Sorghum for Late Planting.

FREE SEED for replanting furnished up to July 1st.

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Up to **8 Tons of Alfalfa Per Acre!**
THAT'S ONE WAY TO MAKE CONSERVATION PAY OFF FOR YOU



High Fertility And Good Stands Are The Keys To Top Alfalfa Yields

Three-ton hay yields are as outmoded as 75-bushel corn. You can increase your profits and yield from alfalfa with a full scale management program. Soil that can produce 150-bushel corn can yield up to 8 tons of hay.

Fertilizing Pays Off: You can boost your alfalfa yields with fertilizer. Iowa State University tests show that when adequate fertilizer is applied to thick stands you get higher yields. In these tests increases of 2 tons per acre were common place.

Here's how you can increase your alfalfa yields. First take a soil test. Then apply phosphorus and potassium as needed. You won't need nitrogen because alfalfa makes its own. Plow down the nutrients at seeding time. The deep fertilizer placement will pay off if the surface soil dries out. **TOP DRINK—AFTER THE FIRST CUTTING TO KEEP YIELDS HIGH.**

Thick uniform Stands Are a Must! The first step to getting a good stand is to prepare a good seedbed. Plow for out-legume-grass seedlings. Never discard the legume and grass seeds. Then harrow or roll with a corrugated roller before and after seeding. Never plant alfalfa seeds deeper than one inch and use a grain drill instead of broadcast seeding when possible.

Alfalfa production is an integrated program of carefully planned steps. Call us to help you plan for high alfalfa yields.

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Why? Because soil conservation never quits paying dividends. Soil conservation improvements are permanent additions to your crop land. Soil conservation helps you keep valuable topsoil on your land so you can get higher yields and bigger profits. Through soil conservation the amount of quality farmland in our area is actually increased. You can farm more intensively. This means a higher standard of living for the entire community.

Proper protection of our precious soil with accepted soil conservation practices insures a healthy way of life for many generations to come.

If you need financial help to make necessary improvements on your land, don't hesitate to call on us. We want to help you and your community continue to prosper together. Call us today for further information.



First Iowa State Bank

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Both Serving South Central Iowa Farmers



County Crop Situation Is Now Much Improved

Two local men who work closely with Monroe County farmers believe the crop situation to have improved considerably within the past few days.

Dale Barker, soil conservationist, believes the corn has made considerable recovery and that most of the corn has by now been cultivated at least once and some of it twice.

Most of the corn is of such size that it cannot be cultivated any more, he said.

Soybeans are being replanted in the flooded bottom fields. Barker indicated that some of the upland farmers did not get their beans in before the wet season, but due to the higher soil temperature and soil moisture the recently planted beans have germinated quickly.

Jim Johnson, county extension director, said that some beans had incurred spray damage from aerial spraying. He said that Atrazine and oil intended for corn had drifted, causing the damage to the beans.

Johnson said that some beans are still being replanted but the only safe bean for this area now is the Chippewa 64.

Barker said that he anticipated the crop yield for Monroe County to be about 65 per cent of that of last year which was one of the highest yields in the state. However, he did state that it was quite early to make such an estimate.

Johnson placed his estimate at 60 to 80 per cent of normal on the average with variances depending upon the individual conditions.

Johnson said perhaps 50 to 60 per cent of the first cutting of alfalfa has been harvested now and somewhat less than this amount on the first cutting of clover. The first cuttings are about 30 days later than normal.

Both men indicated that the oats are now ready to put in silos and that the oat crop looked good. Johnson said the wheat grown in Monroe County was in good condition.

Because of the heavy rains the pastures are in top yield condition. Johnson indicated that the weeds will continue to demand attention.

He also advised that farmers should start checking for rootworm damage to corn, especially where corn has followed corn. He cautioned farmers to be especially watchful for the root worms which are resistant to certain kinds of insecticides.

Johnson advised that a farmer should pull corn plants at various locations in each field to check for the rootworms. Feeding on the roots and brown discolorations on the roots will indicate damage. If 10 or more root worms are found per plant, the farmer needs to control them but this decision must be made by lay-by cultivation time.

As the rootworm is quite small, a good way to determine its presence is to put the corn root into a pail of highly salted water. The worms will come to the top, Johnson advised.

A second method of determining the presence of root worms is to lay roots and dirt on a black canvas or piece of black plastic.

At lay-by cultivation time, the farmer can drop some of the various chemicals on the whorls of the plants and the rest will fall to the ground which will help to control corn borers as well as root worms.

Conservation Plans OK'd

Basic plans for five Monroe County farms have been approved by commissioners of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

Approved at the meeting last week were plans for Carl F. Spaur, 80 acres, Mantua Township; and Albert Sterk, 128 acres, Guilford Township.

Basic plans approved at a previous meeting included Bernard Scieszinski, 220 acres, Jackson Township; David Gordon, 33 acres, Union Township; and Donald Teno, 155 acres, Pleasant Township.

Initial agreements approved by the commissioners include Michael R. Conway, 472 acres, Wayne Township; Thomas L. Koffman, 123 acres, Troy Township; Jack B. Jones, 210 acres, Bluff Creek Township; P. M. Bain, 404 acres, Bluff Creek Township; Carl F. Spaur, 80 acres, Mantua Township; Jack Hindman, 100 acres, Mantua Township; Riley Hime-lick, 80 acres, Pleasant Township; Arthur F. Townsend, 112 acres, Urbana Township; Darl Beal, 365 acres, Union Township and Cecil B. Middleton, 540 acres, Guilford Township.

The plan of A. R. Townsend, 112 acres, Urbana Township, was cancelled.

Conservation practices approved by the commissioners include one critical area planting, 10 farm ponds, stocking of an additional 11 ponds, construction of eight grassed waterways and other practices.

A critical area planting of 14 acres was approved for William P. Judge, Mantua Township.

Farm ponds were approved for Clark Ryan and Junior Showers, Cedar Township; John Cowles, Guilford Township; Leo Mitchell, Monroe Township; Gary Steel, Pleasant Township; Ben Maddy and Joe Nucko (two ponds) Troy Township and Robert Bastron and

Orville Goodwin, Wayne Township.

Stocking of fish ponds was approved for Sam Dicks, Franklin Township; James A. Lahart, Guilford Township; Dave McGrath (two ponds) and Bernard Scieszinski, Jackson Township; Floyd Bettis, John Schelmer and Mrs. Nina Timm, Troy Township; and Charles T. Maddy (three ponds) Union Township.

Grade stabilization structures were approved for Delbert Love, Bluff Creek Township; Lyle Haselhuhn, Pleasant Township; and John Goode, Troy Township.

Construction of a total of 9.8 acres of grassed waterways was approved. These include J. V. Nash .9 acres, Cedar Township; Paul and Emmett Grimes .8 acres, Guilford Township; Pat Riordan, 1.2 acres, Jackson Township; Lyle Haselhuhn 2.0 acres and Mrs. Nella Schippers 2.0 acres, both in Pleasant Township; John Goode .5 acres, Troy Township; John Blomgren 1.5 acres, Union Township; and Robert Bastron .9 acres, Wayne Township.

The commissioners approved

the construction of a 1,225 foot pipeline on the Robert Dykstra farm in Pleasant Township and the laying of 12,842 linear feet of tile in the Patrick Riordan farm in Jackson Township.

Also approved was the planting of 5 acres in trees on the Dale Maddison farm in Bluff Creek Township.

Nine farms were approved for the development of wildlife habitats. Three were for two acre developments and the balance for one acre sites.

Farms approved for this development were Clark Ryan and Junior Showers, Cedar Township; John Cowles, Guilford Township; Leo Mitchell, Monroe Township; Gary Steel, Pleasant Township; Ben Maddy and Joe Nucko; both of Troy Township; and Robert Bastron and Orville Goodwin, both of Wayne Township.

'Eroded Countryside Sign Of Thumbing Nose at God'

Editor's note: Soil Stewardship Week is being observed April 30 to May 7. As is customary, a local minister prepares an article for The Albia Newspapers pointing up the significance of soil stewardship. This year's article is by Rev. Lorents J. Flak, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the Munterville Lutheran Church.

Erosion of our soil is counterpart of the erosion of our society.

The eroded gullies of our countryside are simply signs of man thumbing his nose at God and his fellow man. Man is saying: "I don't care about God's good gifts"—"I don't care about my neighbor"—"I don't care about future generations." And while man is saying this—his own life blood is washing down that gully to be drowned in the sea.

Lack of soil conservation practices produces substandard farmland and substandard communities. Subsistence farming has little to offer to the farm family, the community, the schools or the Church. Lack of soil and water conservation kills, destroys, humiliates, degrades and erodes not only the land but also the people and their society.

Soil stewardship is man's awareness that he is but a tenant on God's good earth for a brief span of time. Along with this awareness comes the understanding that he is a manager of God's natural resources. As a manager,

man has the privilege to use the land and the responsibility to leave the land in a better condition than when he assumed managerial control over that portion of land.

Soil stewardship is important to every person, farm and city dweller alike. The American farmer produces enough food and fiber for himself and 30 other Americans, plus 10 of his neighbors across the seas. Soil stewardship is the responsibility of



every person. This is why state and federal funds are made available to the American farmer to assist him in planning and constructing soil conservation systems and structures.

The justice of God punishes the society which permits improper use of soil and water. On the other hand, the rewards for proper use of soil and water are stable families, stable and prosperous communities, good schools, strong churches, and a beautiful countryside. Consider the land. Consider it well. It is God's good gift to all mankind.

Report Soil Conservation Practices for 6 Months

Conservation practices in the Monroe County Soil Conservation District from Jan. 1, 1967 to June 2, 1967 are as follows:

Contouring—Merwyn Gray, 15 acres, Bluff Creek Township; Dale Maddison, 20 acres, Bluff Creek; K. C. Potts, 20 acres, Franklin; Joe Hoover, 18 acres, Troy; Eldred Estlack, 12 acres, Urbana and Raymond Vance, 35 acres, Urbana.

Contour stripcropping — Nina Timm, 30 acres, Troy.

Diversions — Albert Slofkosky, 700 feet, Cedar; Melvine Clark, 350 feet, Troy and Donald Peterson, 750 feet, Guilford.

Farm ponds—Harold Gardner, Dale Maddison, Ronnie Reed, Dean Stocker, all of Bluff Creek Township; James Mahoney and Mike Mahoney of Guilford; Mrs. Frances Shehan, Jackson; Harvey Newman, Monroe; Lyle Haselhuhn, Pleasant; John Schleier, Troy; H. M. Pickerell and A. F. Townsend, Urbana and Robert Crall.

Grassed waterways — Reuben

Gaines, 1.2 acres, Bluff Creek; Joe Nucko, .7 acre, Troy; Nina Timm, .5 acre, Union and Robert Crall, 1 acre, Wayne.

Terraces — George McCombs, 1,500 feet, Bluff Creek and Walter Templer, 2,950 feet, Mantua.

Tile—Nina Timm, 930 feet, Troy.

Wildlife habitat development—Harold Gardner, 2 acres, Bluff Creek; Dale Maddison, 1 acre, Bluff Creek; Ronnie Reed, 1 acre, Bluff Creek; Dean Stocker, .5 acre, Bluff Creek; James Mahoney, 1 acre, Guilford; Mike Mahoney, 1 acre, Guilford; Mrs. Frances Shehan, 1 acre, Jackson; Harvey Newman, 1 acre, Monroe; Lyle Haselhuhn, 1 acre, Pleasant; John Schleier, .5 acre, Troy; H. M. Pickerell, .5 acre, Urbana; A. F. Townsend, 1 acre, Urbana and Robert Crass, 1 acre, Wayne.

Set SCD Agreements

Commissioners of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District have approved the following initial agreements:

Steve Slofkosky, 221 acres, Bluff Creek Township; Floyd D. Crabtree, 260 acres; Urbana Township; Karl Albert Borgeson, 240 acres; Cedar, A. E. Bastron, 500 acres, Wayne and William R. Judge, 160 acres, Wayne.

Basic plans were approved for Loran Lamb, 520 acres, Guilford Township and Lawrence Bernard, 37 acres, Monroe. There was one cancellation, Kenneth Trotter, 260 acres, Urbana.

Ammons Wins Contest

Paul Ammons, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Ammons, Rte. 2, Albia, was the winner in the annual Monroe County Soil Conservation District's speech contest held Friday afternoon.

The runner-up was Carol Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Clark, Rte. 1, Lovilia.

"Water Conservation—Vital to All" was the subject for this year's contest.

Paul will go to the 13-county regional contest in July.

SCD District Is Second in Contest

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District was named second place winner for the 13-county area in a conservation contest sponsored by the Good-year Tire and Rubber Co.

Lloyd Clark, Rte. 1, Lovilia, was named the outstanding cooperator in the district in connection with the award.

Set SCD Agreements

Initial agreements approved by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District commissioner's meeting May 23 were with Thomas W. Ryan, 169 acres, Union Township and Archie R. Nelson, 120 acres, Troy.

Basic plans were approved for Floyd D. Crabtree, 260 acres, Urbana, and Iowa Agricultural Development Corporation, 289 acres, Pleasant.

A cancellation was made for Mrs. Selma Judge, 160 acres, Wayne.

2 NYC Workers At SCD Office

Two Neighborhood Youth Corps workers started Monday at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District office in the Albia Post Office.

They are Nellie Sharp, 17, who will be a senior at Albia Community High School this fall, and Alvin Sterk, 16, who will be a junior there this fall.

Miss Sharp is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Sharp of Albia and Alvin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sterk of Albia.

Miss Sharp will be learning office procedures and assist with the typing. Alvin will be helping with layout of conservation practices under the supervision of John Botts, conservation technician.

Heavy Rains Have Damaged Area Crop Prospects

Crop prospects in Monroe County have been hurt considerably by the recent heavy rains, particularly the heavy rain throughout the county Tuesday night.

This rain came just as farmers were becoming a bit optimistic about getting back into the fields. With the sunshine which blanketed the area Tuesday, some farmers were in the fields cultivating their corn and beans.

Several of the farmers also succeeded in putting up hay which had been cut a week to two weeks before and which was dry enough to bale.

But the heavy rain Tuesday night dampened both literally and figuratively—the crop prospects for Monroe County this year.

Dale C. Barker, soil conservationist, reported that the field work "is piling up on the farmers. They're fretting. They're anxious to get into the fields. And when they do get in they'll have to be cutting their first hay, weeding their corn and weeding their soybeans—all at the same time."

Barker pointed out that corn and beans will require herbicides to get a 100 per cent kill and that without herbicides it will be almost impossible to get row crop fields free of weeds. He said that if the farmers are unable to get

into the fields the only way to spray will be by air.

Barker estimated that the cost of spraying by air might be \$9 per acre.

The crop picture is not entirely pessimistic, Barker said, since most of the corn and beans have a good stand except on the bottom lands. In much of the bottom lands along the creeks in Monroe County the overflow stood in the fields for a number of days and completely inundated the cropland. These crops have little prospects for responding this year, Barker said.

But in most parts of the county the stand on corn and soybeans is good enough to leave and

the crop will be fair if warm, dry weather allows the farmers to get into the fields in the next 10 days.

Because of the extremely wet weather many acres of soybeans have never been planted this spring, according to Barker.

There hasn't been much replanting of corn to date, he said. Most of the stands are good enough to leave. Farmers having a stand of 10,000 or more plants per acre will do well to leave this stand and harvest perhaps 60 to 70 bushels per acre, according to the crop experts.

Most of the corn planted now is corn which matures in 115 to 120 days and is "made" by the

middle of October on the average.

But corn which must be replanted—and much of it can be up to July 1—will be replanted with varieties maturing in approximately 100 days. But again the replanting will affect the total production in the county since the early maturing corn usually has a lesser yield than the corn which matures in 115 to 120 days.

Barker pointed out that the crop conditions in Monroe County are comparable to conditions throughout much of the Midwest corn belt and the prospects are the poorest they have been in several years. However, he added

that these prospects could change very fast with a lot of sunshine and good drying weather which could permit field work.

Despite intermittent rains the fields were becoming drier and were almost at the point where farmers could think about field work. But the picture changed overnight Tuesday.

Another prospect which discourages the replacement of poor corn stands with soybeans or legumes is the fact that many of the farmers in the area used Atrazine on their corn land last year as a weed killer. Atrazine, however, affects soybeans and legume crops in the same manner as it affects weeds. And because

of its extreme carryover for at least one year, farmers in the county have been cautioned about seeding beans or legumes on land which had 2½ pounds of Atrazine on last year.

Barker pointed out the farmers "can take a chance" on planting soybeans or legumes on land which had 2 pounds of Atrazine on last year, particularly if the Atrazine was mixed with another herbicide.

Varieties of soybeans which can be planted between now and June 30 are Landarin, A-110's and Amsoy beans. These are early maturing soybeans.

After July 1 Iowa State Uni-

versity personnel say that Chippewa 64's should be planted. This soybean is one which is planted extensively in southern Minnesota where farmers first harvest a pea crop and then replant the same land to soybeans.

A third crop affected by the heavier than average rainfall in Monroe County has been the hay crop. The first cutting of hay, ordinarily the best in quality, has been ready for at least three weeks. But little of it has been cut or baled because of the heavy rain.

So farmers in the next several weeks — assuming enough sunshine to dry things for field work — will be trying to rid their corn and soybeans of weeds and to get their first cutting of hay baled.

At stake in the battle with the weather are crops which in an average year would have a value of \$4,575,000 in Monroe County.

Normal corn acreage in the county totals 30,500 with an average crop value in excess of \$2,100,000. Total soybean acreage will normally be approximately 19,000 acres and with a crop value of \$1,075,000. In a normal year approximately 29,000 acres of land will be in hay with an average cash value of \$1,400,000 for this crop, according to Barker.

EDITORIALS

former years were nothing but mud flats after torrential rains. But this year some of those fields have been protected by waterways, by terraces and diversion ditches and the crops in those fields this year have a chance, despite the rainfall.

We have seen weed infested pastures which in years gone by have thrived on heavy rainfalls as the weeds grew to new heights. But the pasture improvement programs, the new seedlings, the proper grazing methods have made these same fields lush and verdant pastures.

All of us, too, have known years when water brought by the torrential rains simply disappeared down the creeks and into the rivers and there was none caught and stored on the land. But the proper protective cover and the good planning of farm ponds have this year captured much of this water and impounded it for use throughout the summer and fall.

Through the years as we have watched farmers in this section of Iowa improve their land, improve their conservation practices, we and they have thought about the cost. Conservation is a costly affair. It takes machinery and heavy equipment. It takes good seed. It takes good planning. It costs money to clear brush. It costs money to cut dead trees.

But those farmers who have practiced good soil and water conservation over a period of years know that money expended on these sound practices is returned to them many times over.

Look at the average value of farm land in this area and you get some idea of the pay-off.

Look at the increase in the farm income and the worth of farm products and you get another indication.

Compare the number of acres it takes for a cow and a calf today with that required even five years ago and you know what soil and water conservation and good pasture practices can mean.

We're sold on conservation, on building for the future.

We're happy for the enthusiastic support of conservation in this county.

We're proud of the co-operators, those farm owners and those farm operators for whom conservation is a way of life.

We salute those who each year make this annual soil and water conservation week observance more meaningful than ever.

Soil, Water Conservation Pays Off in This County

This is Soil and Water Conservation Week.

And perhaps it's a bit incongruous that we set aside a week in the midst of ton after ton of rainfall and in the midst of gully after gully in our fields to observe a week dedicated to the conservation of soil and water.

Yet, perhaps as no other single thing could have done, the rains of this month have demonstrated the real work of a good program of soil and water conservation.

For we have seen fields where gulleys had developed, gulleys big enough to hide a discarded car, carefully bled over and seeded down and carrying the torrential rains down the grassed waterways.

We have seen, too, fields which in

Report Cites Conservation Work in Local District

The annual report of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners released Friday cites the following activities during 1966:

—11 regular and one special commissioner's meeting.

—33 people were appointed in January to serve on committees or the oncoming district activities.

—200 at the banquet and election held April 11, Albert Etcher was elected commissioner and special awards went to Mrs. J. Logan Cain, Mike Koffman and Earl Kietzman, Jr.

—during "Soil Stewardship Week" material was sent to the ministers of the county and a tour was held.

—the past summer the district had Dale Fry and Pam DeMoss working in the office under the Neighborhood Youth Corps program.

—Ollie Kaldenberg and Bob

McGinnis attend a regional commissioners meeting in July.

—Billie Christine Findley who was the county conservation speech winner was named as the Region 9 winner and competed in the state contest.

—in August the "Queen of Conservation" contest was held with Sheryl Brown and Linda Ammons named winners.

—in October the pasture tour was held with awards going to Lennart Larson, rotation pasture; Jerold Luse, new birdsfoot trefoil and K. C. Potts and son, old birdsfoot trefoil.

The report cited the following accomplishments during the fiscal year from July 1, 1965 to June 30, 1966:

New cooperators—30.

Total cooperators—623.

New basic farm plans—28.

Total basic farm plans—540.

Revision of farm plans—2.

—Soil conservation survey — 3,500 acres.

Total soil conservation survey — 1, 92,040 acres.

Brush control—154 acres.

Contour farming—216 acres.

Critical area planting — 248 acres.

Diversion terraces—12,630 lineal feet.

Farm ponds—45.

Fish pond stocking—58.

Grade stabilization structures — 6.

Grassed waterways—24.7 acres.

Pasture and hayland renovation—159 acres.

Pasture and hayland planting—44 acres.

Spring development—1.

Drainage field ditch — 3,000 lineal feet.

Terraces (gradient) — 12,950 lineal feet.

Terrace (parallel)—6,500 lineal feet.

Tile drainage — 83,748 lineal feet.

Wildlife habitat development—54 acres.

The report listed the district's governing body as McGinnis, chairman; Kaldenberg, treasurer; Etcher, member; James D. Johnson, extension director and secretary; Henry Fynaardt, assistant commissioner and Ed J. Ryan, assistant commissioner.

Soil Conservation Service work unit personnel and state personnel are Dale C. Barker, work unit conservationist; John A. Botts, conservation technician; Dale Fry, part-time conservation aid and Mrs. Janet Maddison, district clerk.

SCS area personnel assisting the district are Lyall Mitchell, area conservationist; Margaret L. Dickey, area clerk; Marion Clark, area engineer; Dale Lockridge, soil scientist and Roy Smith, soil scientist.

Water Conservation Topic Of SCD Speech Contest

"Water Conservation — Vital to ALL" is the topic for the 1967 Soil Conservation Speech Contest to be co-sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company of Grinnell.

Entry in the contest is open to all junior and senior high school students living in Iowa. Contest information is available at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District office in Albia.

Billie Christine Findley of Lovilia was the local winner of the 1966 district contest and represented the Monroe County Soil Conservation District in the regional contest.

A \$250 scholarship to any accredited university, college, or junior college, plus \$100 in cash will be won by the winner of the state contest. Second prize

in the state contest is \$75 in cash and third prize is \$50 in cash.

Over 280 contestants participated in the 1966 contest. State contest winner was Douglas Buol of LaPorte City.

SCD Commissioners Name 1967 Committee Chairmen

Committee chairmen for 1967 have been announced by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

They are as follows:

Mrs. J. Logan Cain — annual conservation speech contest.

Bob McGinnis—"Queen of Conservation" contest held in August.

Henry Kolling, Mrs. Cain and Mrs. Frank Marler are members of the sub-committee.

James Johnson—education. Jessie Howells, Howard Willson and W. R. Dabb are committee members.

Publicity — Mrs. Janet Maddison.

McGinnis—exhibits.

John Botts—recreation.

J. E. King—legislative. Frank Bell and Robert Kaldenberg are committee members.

McGinnis—rural-urban affairs.

Rev. Frank Marler—soil stewardship.

McGinnis — water resource.

John Cowles, John Heffron and Walter Judge are committee members.

Ollie Kaldenberg—finance.

Commissioners Approve Projects

At the February meeting the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners approved the following:

Initial agreement—Jacob Bohrmann, Mantua Township, 290 acres.

Basic plans—William Welsh, Cedar, 270 acres; Nina J. Timm, Troy, 79 acres and Harry Wray, Jackson, 236 acres.

Replan—Lloyd Ammons, Franklin, 603 acres.

Cancellation—Clark Bingamon, Cedar, 110 acres.

544 Monroe County Farms Have Conservation Plans

Monroe County as of Dec. 31, 1966 had 544 farms with conservation plans.

This announcement from Dale Barker, work unit conservationist with the local Soil Conservation District, comes with one from Frank H. Mendell, state conservationist with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service that 61,000 Iowa farmers now have complete soil and water conservation plans on their farms.

The figure for Monroe County indicates over half the farms in the county have a conservation plan.

The number of acres in the county under farm plans comes to 124,638. The county has 252,

673 acres not including incorporated cities and towns.

The average size of farms with conservation plans comes to 230 acres.

A conservation plan means the farm has been laid out for proper land use and practices and the plan is in some stage of being carried out, explained Barker.

The plans are aimed at production efficiency as well as conservation.

Practically all conservation practices through the years have benefitted the land and given it protection, says Kenneth Cornforth, State Conservation engineer.

Progress, he said, has been in the nature of making the best better. For example, the old, more crooked terraces may slow water down as well as new modern ones. Modern terraces, however, more nearly parallel, straighter, and with broader base, are much easier to farm.

In urging farmers to develop conservation plans for their farms, Mendell said, "The conservation plan should be based upon the capability of land as determined by a soil survey. It should combine the vegetative and structural practices which work together to get the best control of erosion at the lowest cost."

The Soil Conservation Service, he said, has worked with Soil Conservation Districts since 1940 to protect Iowa farm land from erosion and at the same time keeping it productive through good management of soil and water resources.

Mendell, in commenting on the progress of Iowa farmers during the past 27 years said, "The science of soil and water conservation has come a long way since the old Civilian Conservation Corps put in hundreds of brush and wire dams back in the late '30's and early '40's." He recommended that farmers with older conservation plans consult their Soil Conservation Districts for the purpose of revising their plans in keeping with the tech-

nology of today. Mendell said, "Soil and water conservation along with farming has undergone a revolution in the past 30 years. Conservation methods have been continuously up-dated to fit changing farming methods and equipment. More intensive cropping through use of fertilizer and the trend to big equipment has complicated the situation."

SCD ACTIVITIES—

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners have announced initial agreements for James J. Crall, Troy Township, 57 acres, and basic plans for Gary L. Steele, Pleasant Township, 51 acres and Pat Riordan, Jackson Township, 849 acres.

Spaur Is New SCD Technician

Howard Spaur, 22, of Albia started last Monday as a conservation technician with the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

Spaur farmed near Melrose and was recently discharged from the U. S. Air Force.

He will assist with the layout of conservation practices, said Dale Barker, work unit conservationist.

Spaur is not married.

Again Heads SCD Commissioners

Bob McGinnis was re-elected chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners at a reorganization meeting Tuesday. Ollie Kaldenberg was re-elected treasurer. Albert Etcher remains as member.

The commissioners also approved initial agreements for the following:

Initial agreements — Steve Strasko, 40 acres, Bluff Creek Township; Russell F. Brown, 270 acres, Franklin.

Basic plans—Lake Miami area, 74 acres, Bluff Creek; Paul Hollinrake, 1,016 acres, Cedar.

NEW CLINIC—

Mrs. Dale Maddison, secretary of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, attended a news-writing clinic Thursday in Ottumwa at the Ottumwa Industrial Airport.

Botts at SCS Committee Meet

John Botts, conservation technician for the Monroe County Soil Conservation District office, was in Des Moines Wednesday attending an Incentive Awards Committee meeting.

Botts is a member of this committee whose job is to evaluate work improvement suggestions by SCS workers in the state of Iowa.

Observe Soil Stewardship Week April 30 to May 7

"Private citizens own three-quarters of the Nation's land and must assume major responsibility for its sound management," said Bob McGinnis, chairman of the Monroe Soil Conservation District in announcing the 1967 Soil Stewardship Week observance. This year's theme is "Three-Fourths of Our Land." The week of April 30-May 7 has been set aside for the annual program.

"As the pressures of higher living standards, increased population, and world influence mount, the landowning citizen must be more careful of his stewardship of God's possessions," McGinnis added. Soil Stewardship Week is a time for us to re-evaluate our responsibility and purpose, and to re-declare our allegiance.

Soil Stewardship Week is an outgrowth of Rogation Sunday and Rural Life Week. This is the 13th consecutive year that the observance has been held under the sponsorship of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

The abundance of good food

and clean water we enjoy cannot be taken for granted. The wise use of land and water to meet increasing human demands is becoming more urgent each year.

"We urge all citizens to pause for an examination of their stewardship during this special season," Chairman McGinnis said.

3 Farmers Get Awards

Three Monroe County farmers received Awards of Achievement at the dinner of the Monroe County Soil District Monday evening at the First Christian Service Center.

The awards were presented by Dr. Dean Stocker, president of the Albia Rotary Club, which has been making the awards since 1947.

Lee Kline, farm news editor of WHO in Des Moines, was the speaker at the dinner, attended by 185 persons.

Receiving the soils awards were:

Frank Bell, Bluff Creek Township farmer who operates a 147-acre farm. Bell was an original organizer of the district in 1944, served six years as district commissioner. On his farm he has contouring, wild life habitat, terracing, diversion terraces, and waterways.

Robert Dykstra, Pleasant Township farmer, operates 393 acres. On his farm soils conservation practices in effect include contouring, brush control, pasture planning, wild life habitat, fish pond stocking, terracing, waterways, farm ponds, and a drop-inlet structure.

Lyle Haselhuber, Pleasant Township farmer, who has 335 acres plus rented land. Haselhuber has on his farm contouring, brush control, farm ponds, fish pond stocking, drop inlet, pasture improvement, terracing, tree planting, grassed waterways, and a farmstead wind break.



Kline

Kline Speaks Here Monday

Lee Kline, farm markets editor for WHO radio in Des Moines, will be the speaker at the annual dinner of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Monday at the First Christian Church Service Center.

Kline holds a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural journalism from Iowa State University and served in the public relations department of the Union Stock Yards in Chicago and manager of the International Livestock Exposition press office. He joined the WHO farm service department in 1953.

Voting on the new district commissioner will take place from 4 to 8 at the Service Center. Candidates are Lloyd Clark, Rte. 1, Lovilia, and Robert Dykstra, Rte. 3, Albia. The winning candidate will replace Bob McGinnis who is not seeking re-election.

John Botts will be the master of ceremonies at the dinner.

Dr. Dean Stocker, president of the Albia Rotary Club, will present three commissioners awards. The plaques are given by the local club.

Commissioners Banquet April 15th

The biennial Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners' banquet and election will be held Monday evening, April 15, at the Christian Church Service Center in Albia. Dinner will be at 7 o'clock.

A commissioner will be elected for a 3 year term to replace Bob McGinnis, who is not a candidate for re-election. Lloyd Clark, Lovilia, and Robert Dykstra, Albia, are candidates. Polls will be open from 4 to 8 p.m.

The featured speaker will be Lee Kline of Radio Station WHO in Des Moines.

Three District Commissioner awards will be given to farmers for outstanding accomplishments in conservation.

Tickets may be purchased from Bob McGinnis, Ollie Kaldenberg, Albert Eteher, Lloyd Clark, Robert Dykstra, Pat Garbin or the district office in the Albia Post Office building.

Lee Kline Soils Banquet Speaker

Lee Kline of the WHO Broadcasting Co. will be the speaker at the annual dinner of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District scheduled for Monday, April 15 at the First Christian Church.

Balloting for district commissioner will take place prior to the meeting.

Plans for the affair were approved at a meeting of the district commissioners Tuesday night.

Also approved was the basic plan on the Ollie Kaldenberg farm, of 95 acres in Bluff Creek Township.

Soil Conservation Week, June 16-22



Conservation Is a Joint Effort

One of the first joint conservation projects between two neighbors was this drop outlet structure on the Sam Shepard and Alva Stewart farms about three miles north of Albia on Highway 137. The cost of the construction was shared by the

two farmers and the Agriculture Conservation Program under the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. The drop outlet structure built last year stops the erosion of two gullies on the Shepard farm.



Another Monroe County Pond Built

Bob Hiatt of Moravia dozed deeply into Monroe County soil last week to build a pond on the Louis Kristof farm about seven miles north of Albia on Highway

137. This adds yet another pond to the already pond-dotted Monroe County. The pond was finished Wednesday. (More pictures, see page six.)

Wind Causes Soil Erosion

"Wind erosion removed an average one-half to three-fourths inch of soil from fall-plowed soybean fields this past March," reports Sy Angstrom, superintendent of the Northern Iowa Experimental Farm near Kanawha.

C. R. Ballantyne, extension soil conservationist at Iowa State University, estimates this amount of soil at 75 to more than 100 tons per acre! Contrast this loss with the accented permissible annual loss of 5 tons!

Fall-plowed soybean ground is particularly vulnerable to blowing, he explains, because the shallow-rooted soybean plants appear to leave the top three to four inches of soil in a loose, pulverized condition. Without cover or a wind barrier, such soil has little resistance to blowing.

According to Ballantyne, frequent winds of high velocity are the most direct cause of wind erosion. But there are other indirect causes; intensive row-crop farming, lack of moisture, reduced acreage of small grains and grasses, removal of natural windbreaks such as woods and fence rows, larger fields under cultivation, more efficient weed control, and fall plowing which leaves the soil unprotected over winter.

Other contributors of erosion are loosening and breaking down of soil particles from freezing and thawing, wetting and drying, the pounding action of raindrops, and cultivation.

Over 20,000 Farmers Practice Conservation

Protecting Iowa's 26 million cropland acres from wind and water erosion is becoming increasingly complex, states Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

Wind erosion this spring and water erosion last spring and summer demonstrate that landowners and operators still have a job of permanently tying down the topsoil.

Both farm and city people are becoming increasingly aware of their stake in soil and water conservation, according to Moon. Blowing dust pollutes the air and fills road ditches that must be cleaned at public expense. Soil erosion not only cuts farm production; it also chokes the streams and fills lakes.

Despite the many problems, Moon says that farmers are mak-

ing great strides in applying erosion control practices. Last year nearly 40,000 farmers requested technical assistance through Iowa's 100 soil conservation districts. Over 20,000 farmers applied some type of permanent conservation practice.

If all the terraces constructed in Iowa in 1967 were placed end to end, they would stretch from Des Moines to Seattle, Wash. The majority of these terraces, said Moon, were the parallel type designed for modern farm machinery.

More than 1,400 farmers had ponds constructed in 1967. If all these ponds were in one lake, the body of water would cover 2 square miles or 30 city blocks, Moon said. These ponds not only furnish water for livestock; many serve as recreation areas.

County Conservation Programs Are Decreased

Monroe County has had little conservation activity this year because of the large feed grain sign-up. Because farmers chose to use funds through a large feed-grain sign-up, money is not available for conservation practices.

Under the feed grain program farmers can retire as much as 50 per cent of their grain acreages.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Commission hands feed-grain, grain storage and agricultural conservation practices from a common fund.

Through its cost-share program the ASCS provides financial assistance to farmers who are building ponds, levies, terraces or who are tiling, seeding or planting woodlands.

Last year over 640 Monroe County farmers cooperated with

the Soil Conservation Commission to conserve the county's soil. Of this group over 29 were new cooperators.

Over 40 ponds were built during 1967 while 22 ponds were stocked with fish.

The soil conservation commission has surveyed over 2,400 acres of Monroe County during 1967 and has a total conservation survey to date of 196,305.

Over 150 acres were contoured during 1967, and 30 acres were contour, strip-cropped.

The Soil Conservation Service works with the ASCS by acting as advisor for all earth moving coming under the cost-share programs as well as offering assistance to farmers asking for help.

TWO-THIRDS OF WEIGHT—

Oxygen makes up about two-thirds of the weight of the human body.

Up to **8** Tons of Alfalfa Per Acre!

THAT'S ONE WAY TO MAKE CONSERVATION
PAY OFF FOR YOU



High Fertility and Good Stands Are the Keys To Top Alfalfa Yields

Three-ton hay yields are as outmoded as 75-bushel corn. You can increase your profits and yields from alfalfa with a full scale management program. Soil that can produce 150-bushel corn can yield up to 8 tons of hay.

FERTILIZING PAYS OFF: You can boost your alfalfa yields with fertilizer. Iowa State University tests show that when adequate fertilizer is applied to thick stands you get higher yields. In these tests increases of 2 tons per acre were commonplace.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN INCREASE YOUR ALFALFA YIELDS. First take a soil test. Then apply phosphorus and potassium as needed. You won't need nitrogen because alfalfa makes its own. Plow down the nutrients at seeding time. The deep fertilizer placement will pay off if the surface soil dries out. Top dress every September after the first cutting to keep yields high.

THICK UNIFORM STANDS ARE A MUST! The first step to getting a good stand is to prepare a good seedbed. Plow for oat-legume-grass seedlings. Never disc-in the legume and grass seeds. Then harrow or roll with a corrugated roller before and after seeding. Never plant alfalfa seeds deeper than one inch. And use a grain drill instead of broadcast seeding when possible.

Alfalfa production is an integrated program of carefully planned steps. Call on us to help you plan for high alfalfa yields.

KAISER
AGRICULTURAL
CHEMICALS
man in...

Lovilia	Phone 946-2981
Melrose	Phone 726-3210

Speech Contest On Conservation

"Soil, Our Important Legacy" will be the topic for the 1968 Soil Conservation Speech Contest to be sponsored locally by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District. The contest is open to all junior and senior high school students in the county.

The regional and state levels of the contest are co-sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Grinnell, Iowa.

The winner of the local contest will advance to the regional competition which will be held in July. The local contest will probably be held in April.

The state contest will be held in September, 1968, at the Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Mason City, Iowa. The first place winner in the state contest will receive a \$250 college scholarship and \$100 in cash. The second and third place awards in the state contest will consist of \$75 and \$50 in cash respectively.

Anyone interested in entering the 1968 Soil Conservation Speech Contest may obtain contest information from the Monroe County Soil Conservation District office.

Monday - Albia Community High School

Ninth Iowa Safety Speech Contest

Students in grades seven through twelve are eligible to enter the Ninth Iowa Safety Speech Contest. Entrants must be residents of the state of Iowa. Previous regional winners are ineligible to compete.

The speech topic is "How Safe Living Affects My Future." The speeches given by contestants must be at least five minutes long, and no longer than ten minutes. The students are not to use notes of any kind while de-

livering their speeches. Speeches will be judged on originality, aptness of thought, accuracy of information, and the manner in which they are delivered. Contestants will be required to have a short interview with the judges.

To be eligible for regional competition the student must first compete with county competition. County try-outs will be October 31. The winner of the county will then advance to regional competition and the winner of regional to state. A total of \$925 is available in cash prizes.

Anyone interested in this contest should contact Steve Davis, speech instructor.

July 4, 1968

Conservation Books For Albia Schools

Purchase of conservation workbooks for the sixth grades in the Albia Community School District was approved by the district commissioners of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District at their meeting last week.

Also approved were two basic plans:

Appanoose - Monroe Corporation, 1014 acres, Mantua Township.

Arthur F. Townsend, 112 acres, Urbana Township.

July 29, 1968

Rhonda Pickerell Is Soil Conservation Talk Winner

Rhonda Pickerell, 14, of Albia was named winner of the Region 9 Soil Conservation Speech Contest held last week in Ottumwa.

Rhonda represented the Monroe County Soil Conservation District in the regional competition and received a certificate and a check for \$25 as first place award. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pickerell, Rte. 1, Albia.

Second place honors in the contest went to Steve Nichols, the Henry County Soil Conservation District representative. Steve received a certificate and a check for \$15. He is the 14-year-old son of the Gilbert Nichols' who live in Mt. Pleasant.

Sheila Hatcher, 17, of Delta, Iowa, received third place contest honors including a \$10 check

and a certificate. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luverne Hatcher, Sheila represented the Keokuk Soil Conservation District in the contest.

As winner of the Region 9 contest, Miss Pickerell will represent the region in the state contest at Mason City, Iowa, on Sept. 15. The state contest will be held in conjunction with the 1968 Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners. Top prize in this contest is a \$250 college scholarship and \$100 in cash.

Co-sponsors of the Soil Conservation Speech Contest are the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company of Grinnell, and the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil District Commissioners.

John J. Eckes Gets Conservation Post

The appointment of John J. Eckes as area conservationist at Fairfield was announced today by Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist, U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

Eckes will head the work of the Soil Conservation Service in southeastern Iowa. The area includes Mahaska, Keokuk, Lucas, Wapello, Monroe, Jefferson, Henry, Des Moines, Lee, Van Buren, Davis, Appanoose, and Wayne County Soil Conservation Districts.

He comes to Iowa from Stroudsburg, Pa., where he was work unit conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service.

He joined the Soil Conservation Service in Wisconsin in 1956 and served in soil conservationist positions in that state until his transfer to Pennsylvania in 1964. He is a graduate of Wisconsin State University at Platteville with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture. Eckes succeeds to the Area Conservationist position following the retirement of Lyall Mitchell.

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PARK IS CLOSED

The Albia City Park was officially closed for the season on Monday, Mayor H. Eugene Burnside said today.

Corn, Soybeans Condition Good

Monroe County farmers will have a bumper crop this fall and both quantity and quality are excellent according to agricultural sources.

James D. Johnson, Monroe County extension director, reported today that some of the beans entered in the bean yield contest have been averaging upwards of 45 bushels to the acre with about 11 per cent moisture. Johnson said the Wayne soybeans were doing particularly well.

Most of the combine operators are doing a good job this fall, Johnson said, in combining the beans. He said there has been some shattering in the field and he cautioned combine operators on setting their cutters too high. He pointed out that for each inch of stubble up to four inches the loss can be a bushel or more per acre.

Ralph Goode of the Goode Seed and Feed Co. reported that the soybeans were coming into the local elevator in record quantities. He said that the county-wide average on soybeans could be 30 or more bushels per acre. Goode pointed out that the soybeans coming into the elevator this year are unusually clean and the moisture content has been 11 to 12 per cent. He regards 13

per cent as suitable for storage.

Goode added that the rains last week slowed the field work but some farmers were able to get back into their fields by Saturday and most were able to start into their fields today to resume their soybean harvest.

Goode said that most of the soybeans brought into the elevator before last week's rains were being graded No. 1 and that there has been little down grading either because of moisture or because of dirty beans.

Though Goode said that soybeans were being brought into the elevator in greater quantities than ever, Dale Barker, work unit conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, said that more are also being stored on the home farms, a greater amount than usual in his opinion.

Barker said that corn moisture is at present 20 per cent and that most farmers will be better off leaving their corn in the fields rather than attempting to pick it within the upper limits of the moisture content.

He pointed out that there is

more shelling in the field as the custom machinery is becoming available and that some of this shelling and drying is being done before the moisture content of the corn drops.

Barker said there's little grain sorghum still to be cut. He commented that the rains of last week provided good moisture for the sub-soil and gave it the thorough soaking it needed to carry over through the winter months. Little of the moisture has run off into the farm ponds, a situation which has prevailed for the past several years.

He commented on the scarcity of custom operators now, pointing out that most of the operators are now booked through the season.

Johnson said that farmers he has visited have had a high production in corn which they have cut for silage. Some of the corn has averaged 140 bushels to the acre, Johnson said.

He pointed out that some county farmers have had trouble with sorghum-sudan crosses in pastures where they have been fall grazing. "The danger of prussic acid poison occurs after a freeze," Johnson pointed out. He pointed out that the small green shoots, which are the re-growth which appears after a freeze, are particularly high in prussic acid.

The only solution is to take the cattle off this pasture until a real hard freeze does a good kill job.

Johnson pointed out, too, that farmers who have young calves in pasture have been reporting some acorn poisoning. He added that the acorns will not poison the cattle but that the calves should be taken out of pastures where there are acorns.

The soybean harvest, which has been under way for a time before the rains of last week, is estimated at about 40 per cent completed in the county. Most of the corn for silage has been cut and corn picking is expected to start in earnest as soon as the bean harvest is finished and as soon as the moisture content drops enough.

FEB 27 1969

Basic Soils Plans on 570 Farms in Monroe County

Basic plans for soil and water use and conservation are in effect for 570 of the 1,157 farms in Monroe County, the annual report of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Shows.

The number of district co-operators for the 1968 fiscal year totaled 647—55 per cent of the farms in Monroe County. During the year the number of new basic farm plans totaled 24 with one farm plan being revised.

Soil conservation work in the county is carried on under the direction of a six-man board of commissioners with Ollie Kaldenberg serving as chairman. Other members include Albert Etcher, Lloyd Clark, James D. Johnson, Robert McGinnis, and Lloyd Ammons.

The staff include Dale E. Barker, work unit conservationist, John A. Botts, soil conservation technician, and Clarence Edward Thomas, planner's aid.

Wildlife and recreation receiv-

ed its emphasis during the year as 51 new farm ponds were constructed, 20 ponds were stocked with fish, and 60 acres of wildlife habitat were developed.

An increased emphasis on pastureland was evidenced in the 270 acres of pasture and hayland which were renovated and the 130 acres which were planted.

Terracing in 1968 received its emphasis as a means of soil conservation and control of the water where it fell. A total of 1,300 linear feet of terraces was graded, and 4,400 linear feet of parallel terraces constructed. Tile outlet terrace construction totaled 14,627 feet. Diversion terraces totaled 13,900 linear feet during the year.

In addition brush control was effected on 292 acres, contouring on 151 acres and 25 acres was put into grassed waterways. Strip-cropping on the contour covered 28 acres. Six grade stabilization

structures were also built during the year.

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District will be completing 25 years of service on May 25 of this year.

WITH SOILS BOARD—

John Eckes of Fairfield, now area conservationist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, attended the monthly meeting of the local board of district commissioners. Eckes spoke on area planning. Ollie Kaldenberg, president of the county soils board, attended a regional meeting in Ottumwa Wednesday.

FEB 27 1969



... N
specialists give the cornfield little chance for recovery after damage inflicted by a hail storm which struck the county June 15. The plants were taller than shown in the picture at the left.

APR 3 1969

3 New Farm Soil Plans Approved

Three new initial agreements for farms in Monroe County have been approved by the commissioners of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

Approved are initial agreements for George Bunch, Union Township, 138 acres; J. W. Simmons, Troy Township, 67 acres; and Troy Lockman, Urbana Township, 340 acres.

Basic plans were approved for the following: James Lancey,

PAGE TWO
The Albia Union-Republican
Albia, Iowa (Monroe County)
Thursday, April 3, 1969

Mantua Township, 40 acres; Carl Sulentic, Monroe Township, 445 acres; and Merle Prater, Franklin Township, 360 acres.

A revision was approved for Ronald Goode, Urbana Township, 440 acres.

Commissioners at their last meeting also approved the purchase of materials for Soil Steward Week in May.

MAY 27 1969

Farm Soil Plans Given Approval

Basic soil plans for Monroe County farms were approved at the regular meeting of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners Thursday night at the Post Office.

An initial agreement of Rona J. Reed, Bluff Creek Township on 153 acres approved as were the basic plans for Thomas Kaldenberg, Bluff Creek Township, 206 acres, and Steven Slokoski, Bluff Creek Township, 221 acres.

A revision for Francis Turner, Monroe County, 32 acres was approved. Plans cancelled included those of Paul DeVos in Bluff Creek, Mrs. Wayne Thompson in Franklin, R. A. Faber in Urbana, Cecil B. Middleton in Guilford and Dean James in Troy Township.

The Soil Stewardship Week was discussed as were plans for Soil and Water Conservation Week.

JUN 16 1969

Aimed at Preservation . . .

Note Conservation

. . . Of Soil and Water

The week of June 15-22 marks Iowa's 32nd observance of Soil and Water Conservation Week.

More than one million acres of Iowa farmland were improved with soil and water conservation practices during 1968, Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service said.

In proclaiming the week Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa, Gov. Robert D. Ray said, "The orderly development and improvement of Iowa land and water resources through soil and water conservation programs . . . are essential to maintain and increase agricultural and urban income."

"The magnitude of the conservation job is difficult to visualize, Moon said, "but if all the terraces constructed in Iowa last year were placed end-to-end they would stretch from Des Moines to Boston, Mass." In addition to the terraces, over 1,300 farm ponds were constructed on Iowa farms during 1968, Moon said.

To illustrate the effectiveness of the soil conservation practices in the state Moon noted that the

absence of blowing dust in northern Iowa this spring was in sharp contrast to 1968 when the wind blew away nearly a half million cubic feet of the best topsoil in one county.

The abundance of moisture in the topsoil this spring and the decrease in fall plowing, especially of soybean fields, had much to do with the prevention of wind erosion this spring. But Moon pointed out, many farmers took steps to prevent wind erosion in the event this spring had been dry.

A 1968 survey showed an estimated 1,400 Iowa farmers were using some type of mulch tillage machine that would leave crop residue on the surface. And another 3,000 farmers were not plowing corn seedbeds.

"Continuous cropping with corn and soybeans is presenting new challenges in conservation farming," Moon said. Iowa farmers are using larger equipment that adapts more readily to larger fields, longer rows, and terraces which are parallel. Farming equipment that permits minimum tillage in connection with other conservation practices and reduces erosion from wind must be used, Moon declared, to offset the decreasing use of beneficial legumes formerly used extensively as a conservation practice on Iowa farms.

Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District said that the local district has placed emphasis on pasture improvement and during the past year the District's work has focused on tile outlets and cropland terraces.

Soil Commissioner Election April 15

Lloyd Clark and Robert Dykstra are the two candidates for election to the Monroe County soil conservation district commissioners at the annual district banquet and election April 15.

Clark and Dykstra were named by the district commissioners at their meeting Tuesday. The successful nominee will be named for a six-year term to replace Bob McGinnis.

At the meeting Tuesday the board also approved basic plans for H. W. Henderson, 217 acres, Mantua township, and Price Bain, 404 Acres, Bluff Creek Township.

Initial agreements were approved for Thomas L. Kaldenberg, 206 acres, Bluff Creek Township; Ollie Kaldenberg, 95 acres, Bluff Creek Township; and Thomas M. Partridge, 157 acres, Wayne Township.

Unseas

ther Has Hurt

Crop Progress

Unseasonably cool weather has hurt the progress of many of the crops in Monroe County. Excess moisture delayed plowing and planting during the early portion of May, but fieldwork has progressed rapidly during the last two weeks.

Virtually all of the corn planting has been completed by Monroe County farmers, and for those who have not completed planting, it is too late. Ralph L. Goode, operator of Goode's Seed and Feed Co. in Albia, indicated that some farmers are thinking

of finishing with soybeans or a forage crop.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture reports that in Monroe County and the rest of the state, corn stands are generally good, and where cultivation has been possible, good progress is being noted.

Side dressing of corn is underway at the present time, and it is expected to continue for two weeks or more. Corn has been doing exceptionally well where side dressing or pre-plant applications of nitrogen have been possible.

The cool weather has retarded corn growth, with the tallest corn in the county generally being approximately 10 inches high. A poor color has been noted in many corn fields in the county. The corn should be dark green in color at this point in the growing season.

Dale Barker of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service said this week that soybeans in the county are nearly all up, but cultivation has been limited. Farmers have experienced some problems

because crusting of the topsoil has delayed the beans in breaking through to the surface.

Planting of beans has all but been completed by Monroe County farmers.

Heavy tonnages have been reported from hay cuttings in the county. Haying operations are well under way, but the harvest has been late both in calendar days and in maturity.

The unusually cool weather has hurt most crops in the county, but the one crop which has benefited from the weather has

been oats. The crop gives all indications of being good, and the latest seedings of oats should be as good.

Spring precipitation has been large, but present moisture levels in the topsoil are good, and subsoil moisture should be adequate. For farmers interested in grass and legume seedings, the weatherman has cooperated with almost ideal weather.

As Goode summed up, "The weather has been nice to work in, but it isn't conducive to growing!"

JUN 23 1969



Pasture field day

Dr. Walter Wedin (in cap) is shown above as he spoke to approximately 60 farm leaders who attended a Pasture Improvement Field Day held recently at the Albia Experimental Farm. Dr. Wedin, professor of agronomy at Iowa State University, disclosed the results of experi-

ments conducted at the farm during which time over 600 pounds of beef were raised per pasture acre. Dale Uehling (back to camera), Wapello County extension director, aided in the field day activities. See related story, page 1.

JUL 3 1969

Announce plans for master corn, soybean contest

The Monroe County Extension Council this week announced plans for the annual Master Corn and Soybean Growers contest. The annual contest is conducted to promote the use of good seed, development of new techniques, and the uses of good overall management practices.

Several agriculture-related businesses in the county will co-sponsor the contests this year. Cash awards will be presented to the first, second, and third place winners in both the corn and soybean contests. The top growers in the corn and soybean divisions will also be presented trophies.

Entries for the contest are due before July 21, and a \$4 entry fee must accompany the entry. Only one corn and soybean entry will be accepted per unit.

To be eligible to enter the contest, the entrants fields must be

located within Monroe County. Corn fields must be at least 10 acres in size and a minimum total of 1.25 acres must be harvested according to contest specifications. Two acres must be harvested to specifications out of the required 10 acres in the soybean contest.

A representative of the sponsoring group must be present and supervise the measuring, harvesting, weighing, sampling, moisture testing and calculation of the yield during the contest.

Conventional equipment must do all of the harvesting.

Entries are to be made at the Monroe County Extension Office, located in the basement of the Albia Post Office building. The checks for the \$4 entry fee should be made payable to the Monroe County Extension Service.

JUL 3 1969

Renewal project unique

A program in pasture renewal which is unique to the state of Iowa is currently being carried out on a farm located southeast of Albia.

The 1,100 acres which are involved in the project are being renovated in order to show that it is possible for farmers to renovate land for pasture use. Plans also call for the construction of homes on the 750 acres owned by the corporation in Appanoose County.

The project originated in the

spring of 1968 when the land was purchased by a non-profit corporation, the Appanoose-Monroe Rural Renewal Corp. Approximately 30 interested persons are involved in the organization.

Cost of land was between \$85 and \$100 an acre. The total cost was \$106,000, and was entirely financed by the Farmers Home Administration (FHA). Cost for development of the land has been estimated at \$71,000. Of this, \$12,000 has been for conservation work.

During the development and renovation of the land, thus far between 550 and 600 acres of brush have been cleared. Soil tests were taken, and 450 acres were seeded this spring in orchard grass and birdsfoot trefoil. Reed canary grass was also seeded on the waterways.

The group has built seven new ponds on the land which already had five. Two more ponds are currently being planned. In addition, an estimated four miles of new fences was installed. Wildlife areas are being included in the organization's plans.

Total development is hoped to be completed by the fall of 1970. Once completed, the land will be resold at cost. When sold, the sale agreement will include a clause making continuation of the management practices which were started under the renovation program mandatory.

John Humphreys, FHA supervisor for Appanoose County and manager of the project, said last week at the Pasture Field Day held at the Albia Experimental Farm, "We are doing this to show what can be done with land which previously had a very limited use."

The chairman of the renewal corporation, Bob Kaldenberg, also declared, "We think that the real potential for southern Iowa is out in the pastures."

JUL 10 1969

Continuing rain hampers farmers

Monroe county farmers are not looking forward to a bumper crop this year and some of those who did not have their crops damaged by recent hail and wind storms are facing the problem of greatly reduced yields or complete loss due to the continuing heavy rains.

The possibility of a crop failure looms greatest over the fields of soybeans which were planted late this year and which are now becoming choked with weeds.

Farmers who experienced extensive hail damage to crops during recent storms and who will have to replant with quick-maturing varieties, are getting an even later start due to soggy fields.

Rains for the past three weeks have kept farmers out of the fields at a time when they need to be there the most . . . to cultivate and control weeds.

During that three week period corn crops have grown rapidly and are out of danger except for

the possibility of minor yield losses. By the time farmers get back to the corn fields these plants will be too tall to cultivate. This will not be a great problem, unless fields become crusted, since weeds in corn can be sprayed by airplane.

Bean fields cannot be sprayed with herbicides to control weeds and estimates are that farmers will need to cultivate these crops within at least the next seven to 10 days or face cuts in yields.

Some farmers doubt that their saturated fields would dry out enough for cultivation within that time period if it stopped raining today.

In some cases, where the beans were planted late due to rains during the planting season, weeds in the bean fields are as large or larger than the beans and will present a major problem in control.

The problem of excessive moisture at the wrong time has plagued the farm industry most of this season. Heavy rains and cool weather delayed planting of some crops early in the season and as a result some fields have never been cultivated at all.

Then storms and wind-driven hail destroyed crops in some sections of the county forcing farmers to replant these crops when they can.

Rains at the wrong time also cost some farmers portions or all of their hay crops. Some hay

that was mowed two weeks ago is still on the ground. Most of this is ruined, and farmers who rushed during days of clear weather to put up hay did so at the expense of other crops.

On the bright side . . . there is an abundance of grass for cattle grazing and the second hay cutting is expected to be very good.

JUL 7 1969

JUL 7 1969



Some chance . . .

Hail damage to the above cornfield is not as extensive as appearances may indicate. While hail broke the corn plants, which had previously been between eight and 10 inches tall, off near the ground, officials give the field a good chance for recovery. The primary reason for the field's chances is that the growing point of the plants was below ground level. The relative height of the corn is indicated by the pocket knife stuck in the ground beside the plant.

JUL 7 1969

Should keep storm record

Iowans who have suffered property losses through recent storm damage should keep complete records on casualty losses for federal income tax purposes.

Taxpayers have been urged by the Internal Revenue Service to document their casualty losses as soon as possible after the damage has been incurred.

Non-business casualty loss deductions are limited to the amount over \$100 for each casualty.

Detailed instructions and information on casualty losses are available in the Internal Revenue Document No. 547, "Tax Information on Disasters, Casualty Losses and Thefts," and may be obtained free of charge by writing to the District Director, Internal Revenue Service, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, or from any Internal Revenue office.

Iowa nursery has trees available

Trees for the improvement of existing forests for erosion control, or for land and water conservation are available from the Iowa State Forest Nursery, Richard Cordes, acting conservationist in Monroe County pointed out this week.

Cordes said that persons wishing either evergreen or broad-leaf varieties for any of the above purposes can make application now and no later than March 31. Supplies of nursery stock are limited, he pointed out.

The cost of the trees is reasonable he stated and they can be acquired on a cost-sharing basis under an ASCS program.

Applications for the trees can be obtained from the Monroe County extension office, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office, or the Soil Conservation Service.

Wildlife packets, containing a variety of plants, are also available.

Wildlife Habitats, 26 Ponds Completed

Monroe County farmers in the past two months took big strides forward in setting up areas which can be used for recreational purposes.

A report from the Monroe County Soil Conservation District shows that in the period from July 22 to Sept. 28 local farmers completed 26 farm ponds, stocked eight ponds with

fish, and established 27 wildlife habitat developments. All but one of the latter are one acre in size.

Farm ponds completed in the past two months include Wm. K. Post, Jack Jones, John Mellick, Duane Wilson, and Edgar Weldon in Bluff Creek Township; Paul Hollinrake, M. Leo Beary, Jack Pope, John Barlow

and J. V. Nash in Cedar Township; Harold Towne and Lloyd Ammons in Franklin Township; Carl Martin, Catherine McEniry, William Tierney and Vincent Tierney in Jackson Township; Howard Robinson in Mantua Township; Carl Sulentic in Monroe Township; Stanley Bay in Pleasant Township; Ellsworth

Kline Sr. in Troy Township; Marion Keeton, R. L. Robinson and James Bunch in Union Township and C. R. Peterson and Bob Lewis in Wayne Township.

The eight farm ponds stocked with fish were Delbert Calhoun, Russell Brown and D. E. Cooper in Franklin Township; Louis McCoy in Mantua Township; LeRoy Wilson and John Peterson in Monroe Township; and Robert Bastron, two ponds, in Wayne Township.

Edgar Weldon established a three-acre wildlife habitat development in Bluff Creek Township. Others established, all of one acre, included Howard Robinson in Mantua Township; John Mellick, Duane Wilson, Jack Jones and William K. Post in Bluff Creek Township; J. C. Nash, Paul Hollinrake, M. Leo Beary, Jack Pope, and John Barlow in Cedar Township; Carl Sulentic in Monroe Township; Carl Martin, Catherine McEniry, William Tierney and Vincent Tierney in Jackson Township.

Also R. L. Robinson, James Bunch, Richard Sager and Marion Keeton in Union Township; Harold Towne and Lloyd Ammons in Franklin Township; Tom Koffman and Ellsworth Kline Sr. in Troy Township; Stanley Bay in Pleasant Township; C. R. Peterson and Bob Lewis in Wayne Township.

Other conservation practices completed during the past two months include:

Contouring — William Moyle, 17 acres, Bluff Creek Township.

Diversion Terraces—John Mellick, 300 feet, Bluff Creek Township; Bernard Scieszinski, 550 feet, Jackson Township; Lloyd Morgan, 1550 feet, Monroe Township; William Hughes, 400 feet, Pleasant Township and Dean James, 400 feet, Troy Township.

Grade Stabilization Structures — Lennart Larson, Sam Shepard and Alva Stewart in Bluff Creek Township and Tom Koffman in Troy Township.

Pipeline — Walter Gardner, Bluff Creek Township; David Flattery, Guilford Township; Max Lewis, Mantua Township.

Tile—Russell Maddy and Pat O'Brien, both in Cedar Township.

Open Drainage Ditch — Lloyd Morgan in Monroe Township.

Grassed Waterways — Keith Hoyt, Lennart Larson, Charles Scott, Clifford Davis, Dale Madison and Bob Castings, all in Bluff Creek Township; Harry Wray and Carl Martin in Jackson Township; Gary Steele, Pleasant Township; Carl Sulentic, Monroe Township; and Clayton Sheldon, Franklin Township.

Dykstra, Carbin, Clark Appointed

Lloyd Clark, Pat Carbin and Robert Dykstra have been appointed assistant commissioners for the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

Their appointments, made by the district commissioners at their last meeting of 1967, were effective Jan. 1.

Also approved by the commissioners were initial agreements for the following farms: Kenneth Martin, 200 acres, Jackson Township; George E. McCoy, 180 acres, Cedar Township; Earl Griffin, 128 acres, Troy Township; John Nedderman, 80 acres, Union Township.

A re-plan for Louie M. McCoy, Mantua Township, 239 acres, was also approved as was a basic plan for Edward P. Scieszinski, 263 acres, Jackson Township.

Cancelled were two plans for E. J. Erickson in Jackson Township, one covering 536 acres and another 360 acres.

Approve Two New Basic Soil Plans

Two new basic soil plans were approved by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District commissioners at their regular monthly meeting Tuesday evening.

The plan of James J. Crall for 61 acres in Troy Township and the plan of John Almond for 89 acres in Mantua Township were approved.

The basic plan on the 121 acres in Troy Township on the Clint Swartz farm was canceled.



Conservation Awards

Dennis Boes of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. last week presented conservation awards to the three commissioners of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District. Seated at the table are Albert Etcher, Rte. 1, Lovilia; Ollie Kaldenberg, Rte. 5, and Bob McGinnis, Rte. 5. The

three commissioners received individual awards and Boes is shown presenting the county award to Dale Barker, farm planner. Lloyd Clark, Rte. 1, Lovilia, received an individual award, also, as the outstanding conservation farmer for 1967.

Board of Supervisors Ponder Food Stamps

The Monroe County Board of Supervisors is pondering whether the county should apply to participate in the Food Stamp Program.

Lawrence R. Labertew, officer in charge of Consumer Food Programs, Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Everett Daggett, regional representative of the Department of Social Welfare, met with the Board of Supervisors and the Technical Action Panel, a panel of U.S.D.A. employees established by a directive of the Secretary of Agriculture to coordinate local U.S.D.A. offices, to discuss changing from the commodity program to a Food Stamp Program.

In May 1961, an executive order signed by President Kennedy directed the Consumer and Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to establish an experimental Food Stamp Program," said Labertew.

He said the Food Stamp Act of 1964 allows for gradual expansion of the plan into all areas which need and request it. Participation by states, localities, retailers and individuals is voluntary, said Labertew.

Fifty-four of the ninety-nine counties in Iowa participate in the food stamp program. A family certified by the welfare agency pays what it would normally spend on food and purchases food stamps.

The whole idea is to get more food to low-income families by increasing their food purchasing power, Labertew said.

The program requires that the families participating in the program prepare the meal themselves in their home.

Households that receive federal aid can take part in the Food Stamp Program while receiving such assistance.

In addition households not receiving Public Assistance can be eligible to take part in the Food Stamp Program if their monthly income falls below an established income.

The Food Stamp coupons are for food only. They cannot be used to purchase alcoholic beverages, tobacco, imported meat products, pet foods, or any non-food items. Also bottle deposits cannot be paid with the stamp and neither can prepared "lunch counter" foods be purchased.

For grocery stores to be approved for the Food Stamp Program, they must sell food only for the stamps; not accept \$2 coupons detached from the stamp book. The stamps come only in two denominations, \$50 and \$2. Also the grocer cannot give change back from a stamp; he can only give a credit slip. Also

the coupon cannot be used for back bills.

According to Labertew, if Monroe County applied for the Federal Food Stamp Program now, it could be as late as December 1968 before the county gets into the program.

Daggett said the participation will naturally fall if the county started the program because of the lag in getting the coupons back and also because families would have to be informed of the program.

Daggett recommended that the county not hire any addition staff to handle the program. He indicated that a member of the present welfare agency could handle the program.

Before making a decision about the Food Stamp Program from Monroe County, the Board will visit surrounding counties that already have the program in operation, said Walter Judge, a member of the Monroe County Board of Supervisors.

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December
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2, 1968

AT SHORT COURSE—

Albert Etcher, Lloyd Clark, Olle Kaldenberg, and Bob McGinnis, Monroe County soil district commissioners, attended the annual short course at Iowa State University in Ames Tuesday. Congressman Neal Smith of the Fifth District was the speaker at the banquet Tuesday evening.

Jan
18, 1968

2 Farm Plans Get Commissioners OK

Basic farm plans for the Jacob Bohrmann farm of 286 acres in Mantua Township and of 160 acres for the William R. Judge farm in Wayne Township were approved by the Monroe County Soil District Commissioners at their monthly meeting here Monday.

Also approved was a "group enterprise," the third such in Monroe County. The joint project is on the adjoining farms of Mrs. Frank L. Bay and Jacob Bohrmann.

In other action by the commissioners entry in the Goodyear Soil Conservation Contest was approved as was the 1967 annual report.

January
25, 1968

February
29, 1968

Some lose 100 per cent of crops--

Survey farm damages

Area farmers are currently nursing the wounds received June 28 when high winds and hail struck Monroe County. Damage to corn, soybean and oat crops has run into the thousands of dollars as a result of the hail damage.

Losses of up to 100 per cent have been reported by county farmers. Other farms in the county have lost between 60 and 80 per cent of the potential they had earlier.

Local agricultural specialists estimated Wednesday "that about 20,000 acres of crops have been damaged in the county as a result of the storm. Of this, as much as half is estimated to be totally destroyed.

The main portion of the hail storm entered the county west of Lovilia and south, leaving near Blakesburg. Four townships were hardest hit by the marble-sized hail. They include Cedar, Bluff Creek, Union and Pleasant. The hail was in a band between four and five miles wide.

Damage to corn and bean crops in the county varied from a few leaves split or broken to plants which were completely broken off by the hail.

County farmers gathered Wednesday at Kendall Place in Albion for a meeting to discuss the alternatives remaining following Saturday's destruction. Allan L. Seim, area crop specialist from Ottumwa, told the gathered farmers about the points on which they should base their decision for future action.

He said that if between three and four soybean plants are alive

per row foot, the yields would be as good or better than the yields which would be obtained by replanting the entire field. Seim recommended that in cornfields where 8,000 or more plants are living, it would be better to refrain from replanting. He also warned that when replanting a field which had prior applications of certain herbicides, certain crops would not grow.

Seim said that it is difficult to get corn to mature in less than 80 days, and when combined with several other considerations

farmers should carefully think about their course of action. He explained that insects such as cornborers and root worm beetles, could be greater problems. Dry weather and herbicides could also create problems for the farmers.

Seim listed several alternatives for those farmers who had crops destroyed or nearly destroyed by the hail. Corn could be replanted, Seim said, although unless there was a late frost, it would probably have to be used for silage. He also noted that it was possible to switch to soybeans in fields where certain herbicides haven't been applied.

Other possibilities Seim listed were forage or grain sorghum.

He also warned farmers to consider insurance coverage and the amount of settlement. The possibility of switching diverted acres by placing the fields which were damaged under the diverted acres plan.

Seim also explained to farmers how to tell if plants have a chance of surviving. For soybeans, he said to look for the cotyledons or the first two leaves to appear. If the leaves are still attached to the plant, there is a good chance, Seim said, that the plant will live. If the plant is bruised or broken below the cotyledons, there is almost no chance for survival.

If the growing point on a corn plant isn't damaged, the plant may be able to come back and make 85 to 90 per cent of its original potential. However, if the growing point is bruised or dam-

—Continued on Page 6.

Commissioners OK soil farm plans

Members of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District board, at their regular monthly meeting, approved agreements on five Monroe County farms.

Initial agreements were approved for Charles O. Rhodes, 165 acres, Guilford Township; and Ernest E. Smith, 48 acres, Franklin Township. The basic plan for Troy Lockman, 340 acres, Urbana Township, was approved as was a revision for Harold Parker, 409 acres, Union Township. The group application of Pat Riordan and L. E. Main, 84 acres, Franklin Township, was also approved.

SEP 4 1969

SEP 22 1969

AUG 4 1969

Damages--

—Continued from Page 1.

aged, little chance is given for recovery. In both cases with soybeans and corn, farmers were warned to watch against the onset of rot caused by the excessive amount of moisture and the damaged plants.

Crop specialists extended the opinion that the bean fields in the country were harder hit than the corn fields. They explained that the smaller corn plants and larger bean plants had the best chances for pulling through.

In several instances where corn plants were broken off at the surface of the ground, recovery was better because the growing point was still in the ground and was undamaged. The smaller bean plants were more susceptible to destruction because there was less protection for the cotyledons.

John B. O'Connor, Federal Crop Insurance official from Knoxville, warned farmers not to do anything to insured fields until adjusters had the opportunity to look the fields over.

An estimated 100 area farmers attended Wednesday morning's meeting.

JUL 7 1969

NOV 13 1969

Assign SCS men to new area office

Two new personnel have been assigned to a project office established under a recently transfer of Resources Conservation and Development program activities to the Soil Conservation Service.

Charles McCarty, who has been district conservationist at Eldora, has been appointed project coordinator for the two-county area of Appanoose and Monroe Counties.

Leo Durce of Chariton has been named the engineering technician for the two-county office.

The office will be established and will be separate from the regular Soil Conservation Service Office here. SCS officials said it is possible that an agronomist or an individual with comparable responsibilities, and a secretary, will be added at a later date.

John Eckes of Fairfield, area conservationist, said that no project have been developed for the Resource Conservation and Development Program as yet but "we have looked at the water plan developed by the Rathbun Regional Planning Commission for the four-county area and the rural water supply program is certainly something we will be looking into."

The project office is sponsored by the Monroe and Appanoose County Soil Conservation District Commissioners and is one of five such projects in the United States. All were transferred earlier this month from the Farmers Home Administration to the Soil Conservation District.

Announcement of the transfer was made in Washington by Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin. Leadership in the project will be in the Soil Conservation Service of the USDA but the Farmers Home Administration will continue to have responsibility for servicing and making loans.

One of the groups with whom the work will be done is the County Board of Development.

Nominate 6 men as commissioners

Six men have been nominated as members of the board of the Monroe County Soil District for the next year.

Named by the board were Ollie Kaldenberg, Vaughn B. Faber, Robert McGinnis, Dewayne Johnson, Sam Kool and John Knowles. Election will be at the annual meeting of the district.

Commissioners at their last meeting also approved a watershed study to be made in Monroe County.

Initial agreements on two farms were approved: James P. Coady, Jackson Township, 167 acres; J. Vincent O'Brien, Wayne Township, 260 acres. A basic plan for Ernest Smith, Franklin Township, 40 acres, was also approved.



Crop shown from the wind storm of 28. Before the storm.

No chance

they were more susceptible to the brunt of the hail's damaging potential. The field has been estimated to be damaged between 50 and 60 per cent or more of its producing ability.

NOV 10 1969 Monroe Rural to SCS

conservation Service.

Appanoose-Monroe Rural Development Corporation will be included as an important part of the Resource many project measures in the two-county area include the pasture development project southwest of Albia. John Humphrey of the Farmers Home Administration was also instrumental in this pasture development project.

Although leadership in the USDA for the project will be in the Soil Conservation Service, the Farmers Home Administration will continue to have responsibility for servicing and making loans.

COMMITTEE MEETS—

Richard Cordes, Richard Johnson, and E. H. Scales, representing the U. S. Department of Agriculture Agencies, and members of the Civic Bureau of the Albia Chamber of Commerce will meet Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Peoples National Bank to outline a tree planting program for the community this spring.

Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin, in a memorandum, announced the transfer of five such projects in the United States, including the Appanoose-Monroe Area.

Ollie Kaldenberg chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners one of the sponsors of the project, mentioned that a coordinator and staff would be assigned by the

8-county area 'loses' 552 farms in 2 years

An eight-county area in Central and Southeast Iowa 'lost' 552 farms in the two years, a preliminary report of the 1968 Iowa Annual Farm Census shows.

In the eight-county area around Monroe — the counties of Appanoose, Cass, Marion, Mahaska, Wapello and Wayne Counties — these 552 farms have been lost in a two year period of them into the new farm as the consolidation continued.

But in seven of the eight counties farm land was lost and only Davis County had more acres in 1968 than it had in 1966. Through the eight-county area a total of 560 acres which had been in two years previous being used for other purposes.

Monroe County lost the number of farms in the period — a total of 22 compared to the 22 to it has been losing in years. Mahaska County had a decrease of 129 farms in the two year period with County losing 82 farms, County 81 farms, and County 76 farms.

The biggest jump in the age acres per farm was in

a smaller town or leaving the community altogether.

In the eight-county area the number of persons living on farms dropped from 35,066 in 1966 to 32,816 in 1968 — a decrease of 2,250 persons. Figuring four persons per family on the average this tallies almost exactly with the 552 farms which have been 'lost' in the two year period.

Lucas had the smallest loss in the number of farm persons in the period with a decrease of 144 and Monroe was next with a decrease of 182. All of the other counties in the area lost 200 or more persons from the farms in two years with Mahaska County topping the list with a 463 person loss and Marion following closely losing 449 persons.

(Farm machinery, crops, and livestock will be reported in the second and third articles in this series.)

Changes in farming

1968	1966
Acres	No. of Farms
Avg.	Avg.
259	1,220
257	1,220
259	1,056
223	1,528
212	1,786
252	1,021
193	1,184
292	1,164

In county

Structure

AUG 28, 1969

Characterized by machinery

A fast-changing picture of Monroe County agriculture is seen in the comparison of 1968 and the 1966 Agricultural Census returns, the preliminary figures of which have been released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The changes are somewhat in the number of kinds of farm machinery. County farmers are using it's seen even more in livestock production in Monroe County.

Monroe County farm cutting back on their production if the census figures indicate. In 1966 there were 4,414 fall sows on farms in the county and in 1968 the number had dropped to 3,516. The number of spring sows reported in the 1967 and 4,911 reported in the spring of 1969. There were 15,000 hogs marketed in 1968, a comparable figure is

in the two years. These figures are reflected in the land use in the county, in the increase in the number of acres in pasture.

The changing farming picture too is seen in the equipment used on the farms in the county. The number of tractors decreased slightly more than did the

number of farms. Grain combines and corn pickers took a drop as did field forage harvesters.

But the number of pickup balers took a slight raise and the number of motor trucks jumped, despite the fewer farms.

The census on farm equipment in the county:

	1968	1966
Tractors	1407	1430
Grain combines	222	268
Corn pickers	299	345
Pickup balers	386	377
Field forage harvesters	58	81
Motor trucks, including pickups	492	460

(The third and final article based on the 1968 Iowa Annual Farm Census will tell of the changes in land use and crop production.)

NOV 3 1969

Conservation board approves agreements

Two initial agreements were approved by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District commissioners at their regular monthly meeting last week.

Initial agreements approved included Malvin L. Bain, Bluff Creek Township, 160 acres; and John F. Bain, Bluff Creek Township, 120 acres.

An agreement on 193 acres of Raymond Meyers in Urbana Township was canceled.

Richard Cordes of Ottumwa has been assigned to the district as an acting district conservationist for four months. He will substitute for Dale Barker who has been hospitalized with a heart attack. Cordes began his duties here last Friday.

NOV 13 1969

G 251

County bean harvest is nearly completed

Harvesting of the soybean crop in Monroe County is nearly completed, with only about 10 per cent of the crop remaining to be picked the fore part of the week.

Indications are that with little or no rainfall in the area this week the soybean harvest will be done by Saturday.

Indications are that the yield has been good for the most part. The Iowa Master Soybean Grower's contest, announced last night at the alfalfa banquet resulted in a top yield of 54.089 bushels per acre by John Wilson of Lovilia. The runners up totaled 43.299 bushels and 41.671 bushels per acre.

Richard Johnson, Monroe County extension director, pointed out that exceptionally good weather last week allowed the bulk of the beans to be combined. He pointed out that the moisture content has been good, though as the beans have been drying there's been more shattering in the combining process. Most of the yields in the county will be 25 or more bushels to the acre he estimated.

Ralph Goode of Goode Seed and Feed Co. said that more soybeans have been sold this year than in normal years and fewer bushels have been stored. He pointed out that the price which hit \$2.24 per bushel two weeks ago and slipped to \$2.16 started edging up again and his firm

was paying \$2.22 per bushel late Wednesday.

Johnson had said that the quality of the soybeans was good and the beans were larger than usual.

Both Goode and Johnson pointed out the wide variance in the yields of corn this year with

Goode estimating yields at up to 150 bushels per acre. Goode pointed out that the corn harvesting should be completed by Thanksgiving time. There was some hail damage to the corn earlier this year and there seemingly is more stalk rot than usual, making the corn more susceptible to wind damage.

The moisture content of the corn is fairly good, according to reports. Shelled corn is averaging 17 to 25 per cent and this is being dried down to 14 per cent for storage purposes. A lot of the corn is going into storage at this time in anticipation of better prices later.

A lot of the corn is still being picked by ear and the moisture of this corn can average 12 to 22 per cent depending upon the width of the crib. Moisture content of the corn for long-term storage on the farm should be down to 13 per cent. Johnson pointed out, though 15.5 per cent for No. 2 corn for storage is acceptable.

An increasing number of dryers on the farms in Monroe County is being reported and many of the farmers are drying and storing on their own farms.

Soil moisture is excellent in the county, Johnson reported, and is allowing grazing on fall pastures much longer than usual, conserving on feed supplies.

Goode commented that with the crop harvesting proceeding as it is and with moisture conditions good a lot of fall plowing will still be done and farmers will be able to get a head start on their spring work, assuming favorable weather and field conditions at that time.

DEC 4 1969

Study committee for KC&D projects

A study committee to study proposed Resource Conservation and Development projects in Appanoose and Monroe Counties was named following a meeting Monday between sponsors and the Appanoose-Monroe Counties Rural Development Corp.

Charles McCarthy, who heads the Resource Conservation and Development project office of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Centerville, outlined the duties and told of recent changes.

Ollie Kaldenberg will represent the Monroe County Soil Conservation District and William Dillon of Centerville will represent the corporation on the committee. Still to be named from Monroe County is the representative of the Monroe County Board of Supervisors.

DEC 29 1969

JAN 26 1970

AND
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Southern Iowa Lakeland

Instant lakel. That's what was produced in the spring of 1959 on the Des Moines River when the dam at Red Rock Lake was closed. This view in this photograph by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is looking north to the dam and the Red Rock Lake. The bridge between Knoxville and Pella over the Des Moines River is in the

foreground. The big 9,000 acre lake is one of six within a 30-mile radius of Albia. The even larger 11,000 acre Rathbun Lake and the state owned lakes of Lake Keomah, Red Haw Lake, Lake Wapello and Miami Lake are the others.

County tree replacement program set

A coordinated program for the trimming and cutting of diseased trees, the clearing of stumps, and the replacement with new trees was approved by the Board of Trustees of the Albia Chamber of Commerce at its monthly meeting here Wednesday.

Representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are working with officers of the chamber in obtaining information and local civic groups governmental groups, as well as other communities in the county will be invited to participate in the program.

As tentatively outlined the group would like to...

Chamber members and others wishing to attend the annual meeting Thursday, Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church were reminded today that reservations must be made at the chamber office. Chad Wymer, director of the Iowa Development Commission will be the speaker.

the tree trimming, cutting, and stump removal during the latter part of March and in April and schedule the tree planting in May.

Planners of the project hope to be able to obtain a suitable variety of trees from nurseries and have the nurseries plant such trees properly. Cost of the planting would be assumed by individual property owners. Chamber officers point out a coordinated program and concentrated planning and doing can reduce costs to approximately half that which might be charged individual property owners.

The newly elected president of the chamber, to be chosen during the annual meeting Jan. 22, will name the local group to follow through on the project.

FEB 2 1970

District enters Goodyear Soil Conservation contest

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District is entered in the 23rd Annual Goodyear Competition to select the nation's top 53 conservation districts, according to Ollie Kaldenberg, district chairman.

The activities of the district will be weighed against the performance of other districts in the state, in determining the outstanding district in the annual event sponsored by the tire and rubber company.

Key agricultural leaders will serve as judges and will select the state winner. Soil conservation efforts from Jan. 1, 1969, through Dec. 31, 1969, will be considered.

The grand award for the districts selected nationally, will be an expense-paid, work-study trip to Arizona in December 1970, for

one member of the district's governing body and one outstanding farmer-cooperator in each winning district. The 106 men selected will be guests at the Goodyear farm, a 14,000-acre general operation near Phoenix.

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District has taken part in the competition since 1960, and was named the state's second place winner in 1967. District Commissioners are Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman; Lloyd Clark, secretary; and Albert Etcher, treasurer.

Kaldenberg said the district's outstanding cooperator will be selected from the 600 farm operators enrolled in the district program. Nationally, over 2,000,000 farmers in 2,950 districts have signed cooperative agreements with local soil and water conservation districts.

FEB 5 1970

FEB 5 1970

Watershed study ok'd for county

A watershed feasibility study in Monroe County, requested by the Monroe County Soil District Commissioners at a recent meeting, has been approved as a Resource Conservation and Development project.

Les Duree, an engineer technician assigned to the Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development Project is working on the watershed study.

It will include the identification of watershed in the county, drainage areas, possible structure sites, and a comparison of the watersheds and their practicality.

Duree said the county watershed inventory will be available to local groups should they develop a watershed program in the future.

The project was approved by the steering committee of the Chariton Valley RCD at its last meeting.

JAN 15 1970

COMMITTEE MEETS—

Richard Gordes, Richard Johnson, and E. H. Seales, representing the U. S. Department of Agriculture Agencies, and members of the Civic Bureau of the Albia Chamber of Commerce will meet Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Peoples National Bank to outline a tree planting program for the community this spring.

JAN 29 1970

Join 4-county project area

Wayne and Lucas Counties will be joining in the Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development Project Area, originally a two-county area with Monroe and Appanoose.

The area is served by the U.S. Department of Agriculture with Charles McCarthy in charge of the office in Centerville. The acceptance of the two additional counties was at the regular meeting of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District commissioners last week.

The action will include the four counties in the Rathbun Region in the RC&D area and will provide a coordinated area development.

In other action at their meeting last week the commissioners:

- set the district banquet for March 30;

- set the district speech contest for the second week in April; and

- approved three initial agreements and two cancellations.

Approved were cancellations for John Fontinel, Mantua Township, 398 acres; and Dean Stocker, Bluff Creek Township, 100 acres.

Initial agreements approved include: Danny Curran, Jackson and Wayne Townships, 711 acres; Ellis F. Van Sickel, Franklin Township, 200 acres; and P. R. Van Gorp, Cedar Township, 546 acres.

FEB 26 1970

County vote on resource plan board

Voting has been set in the four-county Rathbun area for members of the steering committee for the Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development Project.

Voting will be March 16 in Appanoose County, March 17 in Monroe County, March 18 in Lucas County, and March 19 in Wayne County. All county residents of legal voting age are eligible to vote.

Residents will vote for three members to represent their county on the 12-man steering and executive committee.

Members of the nominating committees for the four counties are: Doyle Anderson, Leon Kauslarich and William Dillon, Appanoose County; John Scott and Ollie Kaldenberg, Monroe County; Raymond L. Johnson and Cleo Sellers, Lucas County; and T. J. Thompson and Gerald Sponsler, Wayne County.

The county steering committee will have a representative of the Board of Supervisors and of the Soil Conservation District and four elected members representing industry, business, civic groups and agriculture.

The Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development Project office in Centerville is operated under the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Projects approved, in addition to those previously announced for this area, are resource planning maps for Mystic, Centerville and Rathbun.

FEB 9 1970

FEB 12 1970

Tree, stump removal, tree replacement planned

A coordinated, city-wide program of tree and stump removal and a tree replacement plan was outlined at a meeting of the Civic Bureau of the Albia Chamber of Commerce and representatives of various civic groups Tuesday night.

The program is a special project of the civic bureau, headed by Andrew J. Westendorf and Bernard Theulen. Working with the co-chairmen are Richard Johnson, county extension director, Richard Cordes, of the Soil Conservation Service, and E. H. Scales of the Farmers Home Administration.

Westendorf said the group is

doing the planning and the coordination in order to accelerate the tree and stump removal progress and get a good tree planting program going "and in the process we want to be able to save the Albia homeowner some money so we can get more city-wide participation."

Working with the civic bureau on the project are the Albia Rotary Club, Albia Lions Club, Monroe County Jaycees, the Albia Woman's Club, and Beta Sigma Phi.

As the plans were outlined Tuesday night a contractor for the tree and stump removal is being contacted so that if possible

the work can be done during the month of March.

All of the residents of the city will be contacted by members of the various civic groups and the trees and stumps they wish removed will be marked. Prices will be quoted the individual homeowner and he'll make the final decision then.

In order to reduce costs to the contractor the civic groups will collect the money before the work is done. But the money will be held in escrow by the Albia Chamber of Commerce and the contractor will not be paid until the homeowner is contacted and the work is satisfactory. Chamber

officers said that in this way both the homeowner and the contractor would be protected.

Immediately following the tree and stump removal program homeowners throughout the city will be given materials on nine types of trees recommended for this area. The characteristics of each tree, the growth rate, and the mature size will be listed so that homeowners can make their decisions on the type of tree and the area in which it is to be planted.

Committee members said that homeowners are going to have to plan carefully so that fast growing trees are not placed un-

der utility wires or spreading trees are not placed too close to buildings.

Trees to be planted will be classified as five to six foot whips.

As members of the civic organizations contact each of the homeowners they'll stake the location and type of each tree desired. Then the nursery planting crews can go up one street and down another planting the specified trees.

Committee members pointed out that the homeowners will have a choice of trees and they'll be individually priced. All trees will be planted by the nurseryman and will be balled. A 100

per cent replacement is guaranteed if the tree does not live.

All planting will be done by the nurseryman under this guarantee and the top price per tree will be \$12.98, including sales tax. This price includes the digging, planting, and replacement guarantee.

Homeowners will also be given instructions on the care of the newly planted trees. Theulen and Westendorf pointed out.

Working with the co-chairmen of the civic bureau in the planning of the community canvass are Loren Hardinger, James E. King, and Fred McInnes.

Johnson, Cordes, and Scales are coordinating the contacts

with the tree crews and the nurserymen and working with them in providing information on the trees, in making recommendations on placement, in providing material for homeowners is the extension service and forestry representatives.

Westendorf said that he hoped that local governmental units, churches, and business places will also take advantage of the city-wide program and rid their premises of trees that are dead and of stumps and replant with a variety of trees so a disease "such as the Dutch Elm disease will never in the future de-nude our community."

FEB 23 1970

Tree, stump removal to be followed here by planting program

A city wide program to rid the community of the dead trees, victims of the Dutch Elm disease, to remove the stumps, and then to replant the community with a variety of trees will get under way here this week.

The two-phase program is being sponsored by the Civic Bureau of the Albia Chamber of Commerce but joining with the group are members of the Albia Rotary Club, the Albia Lions Club, the Monroe County Jaycees, the Albia Woman's Club, and members of Beta Sigma Phi.

The Norman Tree Service of Washington, Iowa has been contacted to provide the tree and stump removal for those homeowners wishing it. Pella Nursery, Inc., will provide and plant the trees for all of the homeowners.

Andrew J. Westendorf and

Bernard Theulen, co-chairmen of the Civic Bureau, pointed out that any homeowner is free to contract with other firms on tree or stump removal or to plant as he wishes. But they add that by contracting with these two firms and by making the solicitation and contact with the individual homeowners, the prices on both tree removal and the tree replacement will be at considerable savings if done during this campaign.

All of the costs will be paid by the individual homeowner.

The co-chairman outlined the scope of the program planned for the community over the next three months:

• A kick-off breakfast is planned for Saturday, Feb. 28 at 7 a.m. for the 120 persons who will be contacting each homeowner

within the city of Albia on an individual basis. This contact and solicitation will be done March 1-8.

• As part of this original contact the homeowner will determine the number of trees and the number of stumps which he would like to have removed and on which he would like price quotations. At the same time the

Andrew J. Westendorf, co-chairman of the Civic Bureau of the Albia Chamber of Commerce, said today that qualified borrowers can make arrangements at either of the Albia banks for Title I FHA loans on both tree removal and tree planting. He added that the removal is restricted to improved property where the dead trees constitute a hazard to the property. It would not apply to trees on unimproved property or for instance on pasture or farm land. The question on Title I loans for tree removal was referred to the FHA office in Washington, D. C.

home owner will talk with the solicitor on the number and types of trees he would like and will place his order at that time.

• Starting on Monday, March 9 the Norman Tree Service will start making contact with homeowners wishing trees cut or stumps removed. All trees cut will be hauled away and all stumps removed the debris cleaned up. The tree service will make a contract directly with the homeowner and will collect for the service from the homeowner. The local civic group will make only the original contact, saving time for the tree service firm.

• Following the completion of the community wide contact the week of March 1-8, the Chamber of Commerce will place a bulk order for all of the trees. These will be ordered with the understanding that they will be planted in April and May as soon as weather permits. The pin oaks will be potted but each of the other varieties will be balled and burlapped. All trees planted will be with a 100 per cent replacement guarantee.

• About the first week in April the members of the various civic groups will make a second canvass of their areas. At that time the solicitors will collect for the trees which were ordered and they will stake in each yard the location and the type of each tree ordered by the homeowner.

• The money collected by the Chamber of Commerce for these trees will be placed in escrow after the contractor will be paid after the trees have been planted and approved by the homeowners concerned.

Members of the general committee, assisting Westendorf and Theulen, are Fred McInnes, Loren Hardinger, and James E. King.

FEB 23 1970

Tree replacement program planned; offer 10 kinds

A massive community tree planting program will follow closely on the tree and stump removal program in Albia, according to plans outlined by the Civic Bureau of the Albia Chamber of Commerce.

The group, working with other civic groups, has made plans for a tree planting program this spring with group purchases and planting of the trees at considerable saving for Albia homeowners.

The state forester has recommended nine different types of trees as suitable for this area and because of its popularity the local group has added a sugar or hard maple.

Pella Nursery, Inc., has been contacted to provide all of the trees, which will be balled and burlapped, and to plant them in locations which will be staked by the local group after consulting with the home owner.

The profiles of all of the trees and their rate of growth in 10 years is given in the chart pictured above.

In the chart to the right the characteristics of each tree are given and the height and spread at maturity is given. For comparison with this chart the local committee points out that the American Elm trees had an 80 to 100 foot height at maturity and had a 50 to 80 foot spread and were considered to have a vase shape.

Homeowners will be able to order through this committee any number of trees desired on the list. All of the prices quoted include planting and only sales tax is added. The Pella Nursery, Inc. has also guaranteed all planting and if notified by early fall that any of these trees have died, will replant them without charge to the homeowner. Trees will be five to six foot whips.

The group price of the trees is:

American Linden	\$12.50
Pin Oak	11.20
Flowering Crab	9.80
Clump Birch	11.20
Sycamore	9.10
Hackberry	12.60
Green Ash	9.10
American Ash	9.10
Silver Maple	9.10
Sugar Maple	13.30

Home owners have been urged to study these tree types and decide which trees they'd like to have planted in their yards and then place the order when contacted starting next week.

Richard Cordes of the Soil Conservation Service, Richard Johnson, Monroe County extension director, and E. H. Scales director of the Farmers Home Administration office have been acting as a technical panel for the local committee.

This technical panel points out that trees should be carefully selected for the purpose they will serve. They point out that trees planted in the parking are primary for shade and form a canopy over the street and lawn. Small ornamental trees, such as a flowering crab, are not suitable for this purpose because of lack of height and their spread will interfere with traffic. Nor will tall columnar trees be suitable along the street, simply because they will not provide the shade.

Street trees should never be planted under utility and overhead wires. Trees on the street should be 50 to 100 feet apart.

On private and public property shade trees can fit into the total design of the grounds and can be the best of "air conditioners". Small ornamental trees can be planted as close as 4 feet to a building but a large growing shade tree should be at least one-third of its mature spread from a building.

The technical panel suggests that for homeowners wishing a number of trees, a variety should be planted to reduce the possibility of heavy loss because of disease. But plant varieties which look well together, they add.

A booklet "Shade Trees for Iowa" is available from the Monroe County extension office for local homeowners who would like to obtain further information on the trees available and their uses.

Homeowners can obtain the booklet by sending in the coupon below so they can make a study and their choices before the civic groups call on them:

FEB 23 1970

CLIP AND MAIL

Monroe County Extension Office
Post Office Building
Albia, Iowa

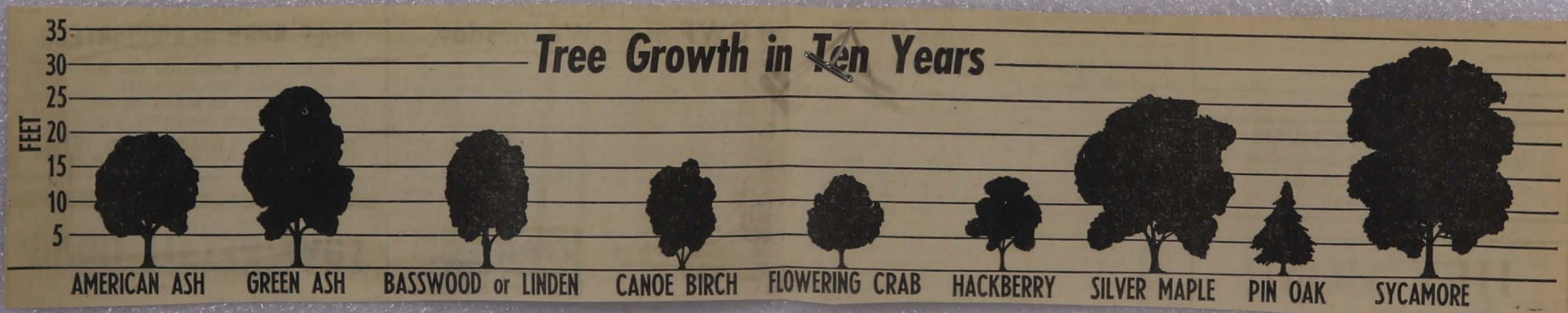
Gentlemen: Please send me a copy of "Shade Trees for Iowa."

Name _____

Street or Rte _____

City _____

Common Name	Maturity Height In Feet	Maturity Spread In Feet	Adaptation	Shape	Growth Rate	Texture	Foliage	Fruit	Bark and Twigs	Distinguishing Characteristics
Am. Linden	75	50-60	General	Oval	Medium	Coarse	Yellow	Nutlet	Rough, gray	Fragrant flowers
Pin Oak	70	40-50	Acid Soil	Conical	Medium	Medium	Scarlet	Acorn	Small, dark	Pyramidal shape
Flowering Crab	25-30	20-25	General	$\frac{1}{2}$ round	Medium	Medium	None	Orange, red	Apple bark	China rose flowers
Clump Birch	35	30	General	Spreading	Quick	Medium	Golden	Cone-like	Peeling	White bark
Sycamore	80-100	50	General	Open, round	Medium	Coarse	Dingy-yellow	Balls	Peeling	Light colored bark
Hackberry	60-70	50	General	Vase	Medium	Medium	Soft yellow	Berries	Rough, gray	Curly bark
Green Ash	60	40-50	Dry, moist	Oblong	Quick	Medium	Yellow	Clusters	Rough, dark	Shiny green leaves
Am. Ash	80	50-60	General	Oval	Medium	Medium	Purp or yel.	Clusters	Gray	Purple fall color
Silver (Soft) Maple	75-100	50-60	General	Round, sprdg.	Quick	Medium	Pale yellow	Wing-seed	Gray	Fast growth
Sugar Maple	80	40-50	General	Oval	Slow-Medium	Medium	Yel. & red	Wing-seed	Dark brown	Fall color



Kick-off breakfast here Saturday on tree, stump removal and planting

More than a hundred members of various civic organizations have been invited to a kick-off breakfast at 7 o'clock Saturday morning at Tower Cafe to set in motion a community-wide program which will include a tree and stump removal program and a tree replacement program.

The representatives of the Albia Chamber of Commerce, Albia Rotary Club, Albia Lions Club, Monroe County Jaycees, Albia Woman's Club, and Beta Sigma Phi will be making the contacts with the home owners March 1 to March 8.

At the breakfast meeting Saturday representatives of the Norman Tree Service of Washington and Pella Nursery, Inc., of Pella will be on hand to answer questions on their phases of the program.

Norman Tree Service has the contract for the removal of trees and stumps under the program and Pella Nursery, Inc., will furnish and plant the trees under the replacement program.

The county-wide program as

planned includes the following:

- The kick-off breakfast will be held Saturday morning and those participating in the contacts with the homeowners will receive their

Homeowners who want a comparison on growth and other qualities of the 10 types of trees available under the local tree planting program can get this information by checking the chart and the story on Page 1 of Section II of today's Union-Republican. Homeowners may also obtain a copy of a booklet, "Shade Trees for Iowa" by asking at the local extension office.

materials including area maps, information sheets, order cards, and receipts. Solicitors will also have an opportunity to have questions answered by representatives of the Norman Tree Service, Pella Nursery, Inc., and members of the technical panel and the committee.

- Home owners throughout the

community will be contacted by this group starting Sunday, March 1. Contacts will be completed by March 8. At this time the community organization representatives will (1) get a listing of trees and stumps on which the homeowner would like removal prices (2) discuss with the homeowner the tree planting program and take the order for the trees wanted and (3) accept payment for the trees ordered if the homeowner desires.

- Starting Monday, March 9, George Norman of the Norman Tree Service will contact each individual home owner, giving him the estimate on the cutting and removal of each tree and stump. The homeowner will make his agreement directly with the Norman Tree Service which will furnish the men and crews to cut trees, remove stumps, clean up the debris, and haul all cut trees away. Crews from the Norman Tree Service will be in the community starting the early part of March and will remain in the

—Continued on Page 2.

Trees--

—Continued from Page 1.

community until the entire project is completed.

- Following the completion of the community-wide contacts Pella Nursery Co. will place a bulk order for all of the trees. These trees will be provided from nursery stock and from wholesalers with a 100 per cent replacement guarantee. Under the contract with the Pella firm the pin oaks will be potted and each of the other varieties will be balled and burlapped. All trees will be planted by the Pella firm.

- About the first week in April members of the various civic groups will make a second contact with those individuals who have ordered trees. Final payment for the trees will be collected at that time. Also the solicitors will place a stake in the yard for each tree ordered, marking the place to be planted and the type of tree in each location.

- As soon as the weather is suitable for the planting Pella Nursery, Inc., will have its crews in the community, digging the holes and planting and caring for the trees.

- Money collected for the trees is being placed in an escrow account by the Albia Chamber of Commerce and will be paid to the nursery firm following the completion of the job.

- All payments for the tree and stump removal and for the planting will be at the expense of the local homeowner. Qualified borrowers can make arrangements at either the First Iowa State Bank or the Peoples National Bank for Title I FHA loans for property improvement.

Andrew J. Westendorf and Bernard Theluen, co-chairmen of the Civic Bureau of the Albia Chamber of Commerce point out that by coordinating the program, making the solicitation and collections for the trees themselves, the local civic organizations are able to provide homeowners with these services at prices they would otherwise be unable to obtain. "In each instance these firms have been investigated and been found to be conscientious and reliable and we can get a needed job done in a short time with the cooperation of these solicitors and the homeowners," the co-chairmen stated.

Solicitors invited to the Saturday meeting — representing a number of the local civic organizations—include:

Richard Coltrain, Phillip Morgan, Russell Ford, Cecil Dicks, Fred DeMoss, Ronald Hohnke, Dale Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Overturf, LeRoy Ostermeyer, Ben Grayson, Howard Willson, Jan McLeland, Kenneth Brewer, Clair Caudill, Rolla Foster, Warren Jones, David Johnson, Bernard Theulen, Jack Scieszinski, Robert D. Reed, Richard Jurgenson, Kenneth Geyer, Dr. Dean Stocker, Robert Stevenson, Dr. G. A. Hannum, Dr. Don N. Orelup, Robert C. Woodcock, Louis Rosenthal, Robert W. Smith, Fred McInnes;

Charles J. Coon, Marvin Kness, Gary Belzer, Denzil Patton, Mrs. I. J. Dutemple, Mrs. John Wales, C. J. Stocker, Richard Gile, John Spencer, John Marlin, Rev. Jerry Brown, Richard Spencer, David Roberts, Denis Dela Vedova, Morris Fitzsimmons, John Botts, Eldie Kint, William Henley, Ed Steinback, Dale Derby, John Griffin, J. Logan Cain, Mr. and Mrs. John Grimes, Mr. and Mrs. Har-

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The Albia Union-Republican
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Pat Fahey, Raymond Davis, William Derby, Mrs. Bertha Bolland, Richard Maddison, Robert E. Larson, Ben Maddy, Eugene Hart, Marvin Van Ginkel, Charles Henry, W. W. Hartzell, Ronald Clesler, Raymond Golden, Elmer Davis, Francis Cole, John Palmer, Michael Lawrence, Kenneth Benson, Richard Foster, E. H. Scales, Richard Johnson, Loyal Miller, Lester Larson, Lester Poole, Charles Foutes, Raymond Scott, Charles Mordan, Ora Klingensmith, Wilmer Blomgren Jr., Wayne Lindley, Henry Kolling, Tom Christian, Loren Buol, Keith Kimmel, Mrs. Alfred Pabst, Richard Peterson, Carroll Rhine.

Serving on the technical panel for the local committee are Richard Cordes of the Soil Conservation Service, Richard Johnson of the Extension Service, and E. H. Scales of the Farmers Home Administration.

Assisting Westendorf and Theluen on the general committee are Loren Hardinger, Fred McInnes, and James E. King.

PAGE TWO
The Monroe County News
Albia, Iowa (Monroe County)
Monday, January 26, 1970

3 commissioners at Ames meeting

Lloyd Clark, Ollie Kaldenberg, and Bob McGinnis, Monroe County Soils District Commissioners, attended the 25th Annual Commissioners Short Course in Ames last Tuesday.

The two day short course is conducted by Iowa State University extension specialists, professors, and other experts in various fields of agriculture.

One of the subjects discussed, was the "Potential for Beef Cow Herds in Iowa." The speaker said that millions of dollars are spent each year out of Iowa for feeder cattle to be brought into the state. He pointed out that with improved pastures there is no reason why southern Iowa doesn't have some of the greatest potential in the state for providing these feeder cattle through beef cow herds. He asked why we should be spending this money out of state when we can use it for our own development.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR—

Farm and city interdependent

Recently, President Nixon proclaimed Nov. 21-27 1969, as National Farm-City Week.

This is an opportunity for each of us to think about our interdependency between the farm and city. Albia, being a rural community realizes the importance of rural and urban cooperation from the standpoint of economics and what each can provide the other in their specialized services.

These obvious needs are not enough. There are many possible projects to be carried out within Monroe County, not only for the economic, but aesthetic benefit of both the rural and urban people.

Some of these projects could include a Watershed program. This would not only protect our agricultural crops from possible flooding in some areas, but it could provide additional recreation. A complete soils survey of Monroe County is badly needed. This could be very beneficial not only for agriculture, but from the standpoint of building and road construction, sewage layout systems, sanitary land fill sites, and many others. With a soils survey, we could be using our soils for the purpose for which they are best suited.

These people in Monroe County are doing a fine job in cooperating in their efforts to improve their environment. However, it requires continued effort from everyone.

Recently Appanoose and Monroe Counties were approved as an area for a Resource Conservation and Development Project. This is an excellent tool for accomplishing many of these farm-city projects.

All of us have many ideas for the development of our community. With cooperation and determination, these ideas can become realities.

Richard J. Cordes
Acting District
Conservationist.

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1970

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Planning tree, stump removal

Mr. and Mrs. George Norman of the Norman Tree Service of Washington here talk over the tree and stump removal program being planned in Albia this month. Discussing the details of the plan with them are Richard Cordes of the Soil Conservation Service and E. H. Scales of the Farmers Home Administration who are

on the technical panel advising the Chamber of Commerce on the project. The Norman Tree Service will be in Albia a week from today to start the pricing of the removal for homeowners and to start removing trees and stumps under the local project.

MAR 2 1970

Homeowners order tree replacements

Homeowners in Albia are being contacted this week by more than 100 representatives of local civic groups who are covering the community in the tree and stump removal program and ordering trees for replacements.

The solicitors attended a kick-off breakfast Saturday morning at 7 a.m. at the Tower Lanes and heard the co-chairmen Andrew J. Westendorf and Bernard Theulen explain the program. Other committee members include Loren Harding, James E. King and Fred McInnes.

Solicitors were given areas of the community in which they will make their contacts this week. All contacts will be completed by next Monday. On this original contact the solicitor will:

- (1) List the number of trees and stumps on which the homeowner would like removal prices;
- (2) Take a tentative order for the trees which will be planted under the replacement program; and
- (3) Accept payment if the homeowner wishes to make payment now on the trees.

Starting Monday, March 9, representatives of the Norman Tree Service will contact all homeowners having trees to be cut and stumps to be removed. Prices on the work will be quoted and the homeowner will make payments to the Norman Tree Service. Norman told the group Saturday morning that he will move tree crews into the community and "will stay here until the job is finished." He commented that he will not remove the easy trees and leave the hard ones for others.

In speaking on tree removal

Norman said that the size of the tree is not always the determining factor as to cost, but the location may render one tree more expensive to remove than another because of wires, adjacent buildings, and other factors.

Following the solicitation this week the Albia Chamber of Commerce will place a bulk order for all of the trees ordered under the replanting program. Trees should be ordered this week in order that a supply of the trees wanted can be assured.

Westendorf said that as soon as possible the solicitors will make another call on the homeowner and will stake the position for each tree and indicate the kind to be planted. Then the Pella Nursery, Inc. can move its crews into the community as soon as the weather is right for planting.

John Vermeer, owner of the nursery told the civic representatives Saturday that all trees will be balled and burlapped in order to save the hair roots on the trees and assure their growth. All of the trees will be watered when planted and the earth will be tamped to remove the air pockets which might cause a tree to die. Vermeer said that the holes for planting would be dug by power augers.

He outlined for the representatives the characteristics of the various trees.

MAR 2 1970



They're set on tree planting

Ready to explain the local tree removal and replacement program at a breakfast for solicitors Saturday morning are, left to right, E. H. Scales of the Farmers Home Administration; Andrew J. Westendorf, co-chairman of the project; John Vermeer of Pella Nursery, Inc.; and Rich-

ard Johnson, county extension director. Orders for the trees for replanting will be taken as the solicitors cover the community this week. Planting will be done following the completion of the tree and stump removal program.

Catfish raising is good business

Raising catfish commercially has boomed into a substantial business. The Soil Conservation Service, USDA, estimates that 15 million pounds of catfish are now on feed, according to Richard Cordes, acting district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service located at the Post Office building in Albia.

A new publication just issued by SCS tells about catfish farming and describes a number of conditions a farmer needs if he plans on producing catfish for the consumer market. Obviously a good supply of the right kind of water is most important. The best source is a well that will yield at least a thousand gallons of water per minute if 40 acres of pond surface is needed. Forty acres, divided into small ponds, seems to be enough to provide an economic unit but smaller areas can be handled.

Channel cat is the most popular variety but blues and whites are also produced.

Many catfish farmers harvest their fish by letting the public fish for a fee. Others do their own harvesting with nets. From 1500 to 2000 pounds of fish per acre of water can be produced in a season.

Farmers may obtain a copy of the catfish bulletin at the Local SCS office.

March 1970



Hansen

Hansen to Monroe soils post

Roger Hansen, a native of Dewitt, has been named district conservationist for the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

Hansen will replace Dale Barker, who has retired.

Richard Cordes, who has been acting conservationist here since Barker became ill has been named district conservationist at Williamsburg in Iowa County. Cordes previously served as a soil conservationist in Davis County.

Hansen is a graduate of Dewitt High School and attended Wisconsin State University in Stevens Point, Wis. where he received his B.S. degree in 1969 with a major in resource management and a minor in soil science.

Hansen has worked with the Soil Conservation Service as a student trainee and since last June has worked full time as a soil conservationist in Waukon.

Hansen is married. He and his wife, Connie have two children, a son 4, and a daughter, 5 months. They are members of the Lutheran Church.

Hansen will take up his duties here March 23.

March 1970



Broberg

Speaker

Donald Broberg, a regional resource development specialist with the Soil Conservation Service, will be the speaker at the annual Soil Conservation Banquet Monday, March 30 at the First Christian Church. Broberg serves an 11-state area. He's worked with the SCS in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Nebraska. He's a native of Minnesota.

APRIL 1970

8-14

APRIL 1970

County Soil posts for 3

Three Monroe County farmers were elected Monday night to the board of district commissioners of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

Balloting was prior to and during the annual conservation banquet at First Christian Church.

Ollie Kaldenberg was named to a three-year term, Dewayne Johnson to a four-year term, and William McGrath to a two-year term.

The board of commissioners was enlarged to a five-man board with two holdovers retaining office.

Donald Broberg, resource development specialist with the SCS, was the speaker. Broberg pointed out that "a resource is that only when you use it and only when it helps people . . . though we must remember that a resource also has the potential for harm."

He reminded his audience that "knowledge is our premier resource . . . our ability to make things become useful for people."

Commenting on the formation of the Resource Conservation and Development Project in Monroe County, Broberg pointed out that "it will take action of governmental units to provide the help and to make things happen and it will take money, and it will take people working together to make our resources count."

Dale Barker, retiring district conservationist, was presented a gift by the group. Barker has been in that capacity here since 1953 and retired this spring.

Soil conservation personnel from Fairfield, Des Moines, and Washington, D. C. were among the guests at the meeting.

Kaldenberg heads soils group here

Ollie Kaldenberg was named chairman, Albert Etcher was designated treasurer, and Lloyd Clark secretary of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners at their organization meeting here last week.

The officers were named for two years.

At the meeting commissioners approved basic conservation plans for farms of J. Vincent O'Brien, Wayne Township; Paul C. Morehead, Bluff Creek Township; and Larry J. Scieszinski, Wayne Township.

New cooperative agreements were approved with Robert J. Teno, Jackson Township; Ralph G. Eakins, Mantua Township; and with the State Conservation Commission for the Miami Lake area in Bluff Creek Township.

Charles McCarthy, project coordinator for the Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development Project, led a discussion of rural water problems in Monroe, Appanoose, Lucas and Wayne Counties.

Commissioners also accepted the resignation of Mrs. Diana Bonebright effective April 30 and named Mrs. Carol Presley district clerk effective May 1.

Commissioners also voted to enter both the farmer and teacher division of the 1970 Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Contest.

MAY 4, 1970

Soil Stewardship Week is being observed in county

Soil Stewardship Week, a nationwide observance which places emphasis on man's obligation to God as stewards of the soil, water, and other related resources, will be celebrated locally May 3-10, according to Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

"Resources and Renewal," the theme of this year's observance, underscores the responsibility which each citizen has in dealing forthrightly with current issues involving stewardship of renewable natural resources. The Monroe County Soil Conservation District and some 3,000 companion districts throughout the nation along with their state and national associations are sponsoring the event for the 16th consecutive year.

Among the local events designed to encourage widespread recognition of Soil Stewardship Week are 1,000 church inserts delivered to many churches in the county. A booklet entitled "Resources and Renewal" deliv-

ered to pastors of the county.

The materials were prepared by the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in consultation with a Soil Stewardship Advisory Committee composed of leading church men in the nation.

Members of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District are Ollie Kaldenberg, Albia; William F. McGrath, Melrose; Albert Etcher, Lovilia; DeWayne Johnson, Albia; and Lloyd Clark, Lovilia.



Conservation award winners

Herbert Bettis, right, vice president of the Albia Rotary Club has some advice for the three recipients of the club awards for soil conservation efforts. Recipients of the awards were, left to right,

Russell Maddy, William Hughes, and Kenneth Post. The awards were made at the annual soil conservation banquet held Monday night.

Conservation awards to 4

Conservation awards were presented to four Monroe County farmers at the annual Soil Conservation banquet held here Monday night at the First Christian Church.

Herbert Bettis, vice president of the Albia Rotary Club, presented that organization's awards to William Kenneth Post, William Hughes, and Russell Maddy.

A Goodyear Award from the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company was presented to Don John.

William Kenneth Post has a 220 acre farm in Bluff Creek Township with 106 acres in cropland and 109 acres in pasture with five acres used for ponds and wildlife areas. The cropland on sloping ground is farmed on the contour and has terraces. Bottomland fields are protected from hill water run-off by diversion terraces. The fields are also tiled.

Post has improved the seeding on 97 acres and controlled the brush on 42 acres of pasture. Two farm ponds are stocked.

William Hughes has a 181 acre farm in Pleasant Township with 109 acres of cropland and 48 acres of pastureland with 23 acres of woodland and wildlife area. Bottomland fields have been tiled to improve the drainage and all of the sloping fields which are cropped have terraces and are farmed on the contour.

Russell Maddy farms a total of 467 acres in Wayne Township with 60 acres of row crop each year and the balance of the farm in rotation meadow and improved pasture. Maddy has a 105 head Angus cow herd and markets about 500 hogs each year.

His conversion work includes 8,500 feet of standard terraces, seven acres of waterways, 4,000 feet of diversion terraces, two ponds, 25,000 feet of field tile and improved pasture and meadow seeding on 300 acres.

Don John, who received the Goodyear award, has 120 acres in Troy Township. He's been a district cooperator since 1952 and has consistently maintained a good conservation program on the farm over the years. His conservation practices include 67 acres of contoured cropland, 40 acres of pasture and hayland seeding, 2,500 feet of terraces, an acre of waterways, a farm pond plus a fishing pond.



Barker is remembered

Dale Barker, right, retiring Monroe County soil conservationist, received an envelope of silver Monday night at the annual district banquet. Barker has served the local district since 1953. Ollie Kaldenberg, president of the local soils district board, made the presentation.

APRIL 1970

May 7, 1970

County rural water system study is set

A feasibility study for a rural water system in Monroe County was authorized Wednesday evening by the Monroe County Resource Conservation and Development Committee.

The survey will be made on a county-wide system and the potential users plotted on a map preparatory to the authorization of the feasibility study continuing by an engineering firm.

The feasibility study will be based on the results of the county-wide survey and a preliminary study of a rural water and sewer plan made for the Rathbun Regional Planning Commission.

Michael Galer, chairman of the Monroe County RC&D committee said that the survey form used will be identical to one used in Appanoose County and also being used in Lucas and Wayne Counties as they make comparable studies.

At a meeting of the four-county group in Centerville Monday night, representatives stated that the survey material and all figures should be comparable so

Soil commissioners discuss plans for tile-outlet terraces

A tile-outlet terrace program for Monroe County was discussed Thursday at the regular meeting of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District commissioners.

The commissioners approved the development of a resource inventory and an analysis of the soil district to indicate where tile-outlet terraces are needed to control soil erosion on intensively farmed cropland.

In other action taken Thursday, the commissioners agreed to order fifth grade conservation workbooks for the Albia Community School District.

Also, it was reported that Ronald Slatger began work as a farm planner's aid with the district May 25. He will assist in conservation planning and the layout of conservation practices.

Rural water plan meeting June 15

An informational and organizational meeting for a rural water system for Monroe County has tentatively been set for Monday, June 15 by the Monroe County Resource Conservation and Development committee.

At the meeting the project will be explained and plans made to survey potential water users in the county.

The local committee also asked for a project approval on planning development of a 40-acre site given to the Monroe County Conservation Board.

Committee members also asked the four-county executive committee for a concentration of projects in the field of pasture improvement, development of cow-calf herds, rural water system, and the development of recreation.

that the four counties could coordinate their feasibility study.

Galer emphasized that the authorization by the Monroe County RC&D committee does not mean at this point Monroe County will have a rural water system. Rather, he said that it means there is enough interest to justify a household-by-household study outside of the communities already served.

In outlining procedures Galer said this information would then be studied by engineers to ascertain whether the potential usage in any area would justify the cost of the installation.

The survey questions include information about the family and its appliances and uses of water. Also included are questions about present and future livestock numbers.

Complete information is asked on present water usage and sources.

Members of the RC&D committee attending a meeting in Centerville were told interested potential users were paying a \$20 advance fee in order that the feasibility study might be financed. Appanoose County has already organized a local water association.

Lloyd Scott, chief of community service of the Farmers Home Administration in Des Moines, told the group his office now has on hand from Iowa communities 10 applications for funding rural water systems.

Scott pointed out that Kansas has 150 such rural water systems and Colorado, Indiana, and Missouri also have a number. He said the cost per user for the initial installation has ranged from \$1300 to \$1600.

The initial cash outlay for each user at the outset has been from \$150 to \$160 with users per mile varying from 3.4 to 9. The average water bill in four states varies from \$8 per month in Indiana and Colorado to \$11.30 in Kansas.

Scott pointed out that the cost rises appreciably with the increase in livestock usage.

The Monroe County Committee asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture personnel to prepare the forms and take the first steps in setting up the survey committee in each of the areas.

The committee also discussed other resource conservation and development projects.

June 4, 1970

June 11, 1970

Meeting is 16th on rural water

A meeting designed to determine the interest in a rural water system for Monroe County will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Kendall Place in Albia.

Mike Galer, chairman of the Monroe County Steering Committee for the Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development Committee which is

sponsoring a feasibility study of the rural water plan, said that letters have been sent to over 100 county residents inviting them to attend Tuesday's meeting. But Galer said the meeting is open to all interested persons.

The first concrete actions on the planned system were taken earlier this year, with the local Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) committee authorizing a study to determine the feasibility of continuing preliminary work on the plans.

The survey seeks to determine the present sources of water for rural Monroe Countyans, while also finding out how much water is being used.

The Chariton Valley RC&D project committee is investigating the interest in a water system for the rural areas of the county at present. And Tuesday's meeting is part of the steps being taken to make this determination.

The four counties involved in the Chariton Valley effort are Monroe, Lucas, Appanoose and Wayne. Investigations are now being carried out in the three other counties, also.

Field day is Thursday

A farmers' field day is scheduled for Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at the Albia Research Farm for TENCO area farmers to give them an opportunity to look at the grass pastures on the farm which have produced 600 pounds of feed per acre.

Farmers will see the results of grazing trials at the farm and hear Al Seim of Ottumwa, extension crop production specialist discuss adaptation of the grasses and management system for the farmers use.

Grasses used in the trial are orchard grass, bromegrass, tall fescue, and canarygrass.

The field day is being sponsored by the Area Rural Development Committee which is composed of representatives of the Department of Agriculture agencies in the area. It is expected to last about two hours.

Davis working with conservation office under Youth Corps

Donald Davis, a Neighborhood Youth Corps employee, has started working in the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Office.

He will be assisting in conservation planning and the layout of conservation practices under the supervision of Roger Hansen, district conservationist, and John Botts, conservation technician.

Davis, 16, is the son of Mrs. Alice Davis. He will be a senior at Albia High School.

The South Central Iowa Community Action Agency is a sponsor of the youth corps program.

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To survey rural needs--

Form water group

Formation of the Monroe County Rural Water Association followed an informational meeting held Tuesday night and attended by about 30 interested persons.

The association elected its officers and set its first meeting for Tuesday at 8:15 p.m. in the

Iowa Southern Utilities building, 18 S. Main St.

John Peterson was unanimously elected chairman of the association, with Maurice Scieszinski being selected as vice chairman. John Fynaardt and Mrs. Janet Maddison were elected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Of major importance to the association at present is the completion of a feasibility survey to determine which and how many people would desire rural water, the location of these interested persons, and their anticipated water consumption levels.

The door-to-door survey is expected to begin following next week's meeting, and it is hoped work on the survey can be completed by the middle of July.

A team of about three residents in each township will make the survey of each household in their township. Such information as present volumes of water consumption, anticipated future volumes, livestock numbers among others will be included in the survey.

The 12 members of the board of directors of the association will serve as township survey captains, and will appoint additional persons to help with the survey.

Members of the board of directors and the townships they represent are:

John Fynaardt, Pleasant; Janet Maddison, Bluff Creek; Albert Etcher, Union; Maurice Scieszinski, Wayne; Joe Hollinrake, Cedar; Mick Brock, Guilford; Morris Sinclair, Franklin; John Peterson, Monroe; Raymond Vance, Urbana; Wilbert Hoover, Mantua; Charles Mock, Troy; and Dave Sinclair, Jackson.

In addition to completing the survey, the surveyors will also collect \$20 from each prospective water user. Funds from these persons will be used to hire an engineer if there is interest in a rural water system. The engineer will then make a preliminary feasibility study for the association.

Chuck McCarty, Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development project coordinator, told those attending Tuesday night's meeting that the door-to-door survey is of prime importance. "This is the thing that sees if it (water system) goes any farther. This is all important."

He said that such questions as how much construction of a system costs, the water costs, and installation fees per user cannot be answered until the association receives the preliminary plan

from an engineer.

"If it is feasible," McCarty said, "we go ahead and develop a loan." He explained that if the engineer's study shows the system is feasible, the association will ask the FHA for a loan commitment.

Following approval of this by the FHA, the board of directors would then hire an attorney and organize as a non-profit corporation and file their articles of incorporation with the secretary of state.

Following completion of the final plans by the engineer, water users would then apply for the water service and make their contribution for a membership certificate. It was explained that the loan can only pay for 95 per cent of the total cost with the remaining 5 per cent having to come from other sources — memberships.

The board's attorney would then obtain all the necessary rights-of-way and easements, and the association's loan application packet would be sent to the FHA for review and approval.

Following approval of the loan, he said the corporation would advertise for bids, let the contracts and close the loan.

E. H. Scales, Monroe County Farmers Home Administration (FHA) director, said the loans — approved by the FHA — would be for a maximum of \$4 million. They are made at 5 per cent interest and to be retired within a 40 year period.

It was explained that the payment of the \$20 does not obligate a person to hook onto the water system in the event it is established. The \$20 levy is only a way to finance the preliminary work by the association.

However, if a water system is constructed, and a person decides to hook on, the \$20 will not be refunded. But if an engineer decides construction of a water system is not feasible, any

—Continued on Page 2.1.

part not used in paying the costs of the preliminary planning will be refunded proportionately.

The \$20 will also apply on the hook-up charge.

McCarty and Scales could give no indication how long it may be before a water system could be put in operation, assuming there is a desire for one. They said they have no way of knowing how long it will take.

McCarty explained, "It depends a lot on how well the people cooperate, how well the committee pushes the project along, and the availability of loan funds. The greater the participation by the people, the faster the project will move along."

Robert Kaldenberg forwarded the belief that the quicker the association moves now, "the better off we're going to be." He explained that while there are no rural water systems operating in Iowa now, there are 10 loan applications. Within another year when the rural water concept catches on, he said, "people are going to be standing in line" for loans.

During a question and answer period, McCarty and Scales pointed out that:

- No taxes can be levied by the association against real estate or personal property to pay for construction.

- Non one would be forced to hook up to the system.

- The board of directors of the corporation would set the water rates, and other operating practices of the system.

- Revenue from the operation of the system would be used to repay the loan and pay operating and maintenance expenses, while also building up a reserve for future expansion or repair of the system. The revenue would be derived from the sale of membership certificates and also the sale of water.

- The water association may purchase from or sell water to incorporated communities.

- Those purchasing water from the system would be the owners of the water system.

Following Monroe County's formation of a water association, the four counties which in the late 1960s organized the Rathbun Regional Sewer and Water Commission — Appanoose, Lucas, Monroe and Wayne — have all begun preliminary steps toward constructing a water system for residents of the counties not living in incorporated towns and cities.

The major effort of the Rathbun commission, a comprehensive report on water and sewage improvements for the four counties, was the framework on which the latest efforts in the counties toward rural water have been built. The report was a concept of what a rural water and sewage system would consist of.

Currently, Appanoose is farther along than the other three counties. There, about \$14,000 has been received to hire an engineer to conduct the preliminary feasibility study.

In Wayne and Lucas counties, door-to-door surveys are now being made. It is hoped that both can be finished with their surveys by the end of July.

Past experience of several of the Great Plains states which now have rural water systems has shown that there the average cost per membership to hook up to the water system has been about \$159. Monthly water costs have ranged from \$8 to \$13.

To construct the system, the average cost per user has been about \$1500.

Prior to the beginning of the Monroe County survey, the Albia Newspapers will publish a list of questions to be asked in the survey, in addition to a list of questions which are frequently asked about rural water systems and their operation.

Observe Soil Conservation Week --

Stress conservation

With the current emphasis which is being placed on preservation of the environment, Iowa farmers are moving to take positive steps to improve the quality of the environment by developing soil and water conservation plans for the land they own or operate.

And, during this week, Soil and Water Conservation week, they have been recognized for their achievements.

Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, said that while over 67,000 Iowa landowners have made leaps and bounds in conservation 86 per cent of Iowa's farmland is still excessively erod-

ed.

He said that all Iowans have a stake in conservation work since Iowa's land—some of the world's most fertile—is a part of the greatest contributor to pollution in terms of volume. This pollutant is soil erosion, he said.

Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, said that local work is no longer confined to the individual farm. Thanks to legislation passed during the last session of the Iowa General Assembly, cities and towns are now officially included along with the agricultural lands in the state's 100 soil conservation districts.

During this year, local emphasis is being placed on implementation of a tile outlet terrace (TOT) program. The TOTs are very effective in controlling erosion on intensively farmed cropland, Kaldenberg said.

The terraces are compatible to both large farm machinery and continuous row cropping since they are built parallel. The TOTs eliminate the need for waterways and provide some drainage to wet soils.

Kaldenberg cited an additional benefit of the terraces—they "keep the soil and farm chemicals where they belong and out of our streams and lakes."

June 18, 1970

June 25, 1970

Provide answers to questions on rural water systems

With the rural water survey now underway in Monroe County, the Albia Union-Republican is printing the following frequently asked questions concerning rural water and their answers.

What is a rural water association?

A rural water association is a non-profit corporation organized not for profit. Its primary function is to finance, construct, operate and maintain a rural water distribution system.

If I own land or live within the boundaries of a rural water association, am I obligated in any way?

No. You are obligated only when you apply for a water service and are accepted as a water user.

Will my land or personal property be taxed to pay the cost of a water system and rural water association?

No. A rural water association has no power of taxation.

How will a rural water association raise money with which to retire its indebtedness and pay

cash operating and maintenance costs?

Revenue is raised from the sale of water service called membership certificates and from monthly water bills from the sale of water.

How are membership certificate costs and water rates established?

The board of directors elected by the association members of the water association will determine the costs of a membership certificate. The water association cannot borrow more than 95 per cent of the construction cost. This means it must raise at least 5 per cent of the construction cost plus an additional amount to pay costs of organizing the district.

How are the monthly water rates established?

The monthly water rates will be established by the board of directors. They will need to raise enough money from this source to repay the loan, maintain and operate the system, and build a reasonable reserve for future expansion, replacement, etc. By

considering an estimate of the amount of water each customer will use monthly, the monthly costs, and the number of water users, the directors can calculate the approximate water rate that will need to be charged.

Will the water association have a lien on my land for my share of the cost of the water system if I sign up to be a water user?

No. Am I personally liable for the debts of the water association?

No. If I hook up to the water association system and after two or three years I decide that I no longer want the water, am I obligated to continue paying the water bill?

No. However, you are obligated to notify the board of directors that you no longer want the water. Where are the water lines usually laid?

On privately owned lands where they will not be disturbed. Will landowners along the lines be asked to grant rights-of-way or easements?

Yes. Will water associations pay an award for rights-of-way?

No. Rural water lines benefit lands and the people in a community.

What will a water system cost?

The cost cannot be determined until a survey of the people is made to determine: 1. The number who will use water; 2. The source of water; 3. The estimate of water use by each user; 4. The distance between users; and 5. Other pertinent facts.

Who will make such a survey?

The organizing committee with the assistance of a consulting engineer.

What will the survey or preliminary report show?

It will show: People who want water; location of potential users; source of water; location, size, type of water distribution lines; storage and treatment facilities; total cost; average member cost; monthly water rate; cost of each membership and water service.

What will such a report cost?

It usually costs not more than \$25 per prospective water user, and \$20 will be charged in Monroe County.

How is this money raised?

The interested people will usually contribute not more than \$25 each. This amount will be included in membership certificate cost if a water system is built.

Will I get my contribution back if the money is not used, and the water system is not constructed?

Any part not used in paying the costs of making the preliminary survey will be refunded if the system does not prove to be feasible and is not constructed.

If I pay \$20 now and later decide not to hook up to the water system prior to construction, will I get my money back?

No. If the system is constructed, the only people who will get their money back are those outside of the association's boundaries whom the engineer determines cannot be served.

Will the water be of good quality?

The water will be treated the same as city water under the direction of the State Department of Health.

If I do not become a member at the outset, can I sign up and be accepted later?

The association cannot assure you that it will be in a position to serve you later. The system will be designed to serve those who become members at the outset.

If I purchase a membership certificate, will I have to pay a water bill each month if I do not use water right away?

Yes. Each member will be required to pay the minimum water bill from the time water is available whether he uses it or not. This is the only way the association can raise revenue to operate and pay off the loan.

I would like to have a hook-up at my pasture. Will I have to pay the same water rate as a farmstead or residence?

Yes. The big cost of the water is the construction. It costs just as much to pipe water to a pasture as it does to a farmstead or house.

How large are most water associations?

They vary in size, but systems financed so far range from 20 to over 190 water users. In Kansas, the range is from 10 to 350 users.

Where can we get the money to finance a water association?

If funds are available, the Farmers Home Administration may make loans up to \$4 million to water associations to provide rural water systems serving primarily farms and rural residents. These loans are made at present rates of 5 per cent simple interest to be repaid in not to exceed 40 years.

How long does it take from the time we start until we could complete a system and put it into operation?

The time varies. It depends a lot on how well the people cooperate, how well the committee pushes the project along, and the availability of loan funds. Such a project is a community endeavor, the system will be owned by the water users, and they will operate their own system. The greater the participation by the people, the faster the project will move along.

What provisions are made to insure collection of water bills?

The board of directors is authorized by provisions of the

by-laws to disconnect a service if the bill is not paid within a specified time. It is important that such rules be strictly enforced on an impartial basis.

Will I have a water meter?

Yes. Water will be metered to each service.

Where will the meter be located?

Usually meters are located at the property line adjacent to the point of use, or a certain number of feet from the point of use. The directors and the engineer will make this determination.

Can I connect more than one residence or business establishment to a meter?

No. Each residence and each business establishment must have a meter.

What about trailer houses?

They are considered a residence and must pay the same rate and work fees. Business rates will be established for trailer courts. Usually any place that parks four or more trailers would be considered a trailer court.

Can I have more than one meter for one membership certificate?

No. Each membership certificate entitles the owner to only one water service.

How does a water association operate after construction is completed?

The board of directors is elected by membership certificate holders. The books are audited annually. An annual meeting is held.

June 25, 1970

Rural water survey is underway

Teams of surveyors will be moving into the rural areas of Monroe County armed with forms to determine information needed in the second phase of the local effort to secure a rural water system.

The survey which will gather information to be used by an engineer to decide if or how large a rural water system is needed for Monroe County, was put into gear Tuesday night at the second meeting of the Monroe County

Rural Water Association. (Information on the survey can be found in another story on the front page of today's newspaper.)

John Peterson, chairman of the water association, said the group is shooting for a July 15 completion of the survey.

Scheduled to be making the survey and the township in which they'll be working are:

Monroe, John Peterson, DeWayne Johnson, Wayne, Maurice Scieszinski, Joe Carr, Paul McGrath, Janice Sinnott, Pleasant, Henry Fynaardt, Sam Kool, Lyle H. Haselkuhn, Bluff Creek, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Maddison, Mr. Mrs. Albert Pirnat, Charles Scott, Union, Albert Etcher, Dallas Tucker, Cedar, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hollinrake, S. A. Conrad, Guilford,

Mick Brock, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sinnott, Francis Hamilton, Franklin, Maurice Sinclair, Helen Sinclair, Urbana, Raymond Vance.

Mantua Wilbert Hoover, Dennis F. Graham, Troy, Charles Mock, Herbert Bettis, Jackson, David Sinclair.

The surveyors are volunteers, and receive no compensation for their work.

In addition to completing the survey forms with each rural household, the surveyors will ask each person to pay a \$20 advance tap-on fee, which will be used to hire the engineer who will answer such questions for the association as: is the water system feasible; how much will it cost to construct; what will it cost to become a system member; and how much is the water going to cost. However, if it is found in taking the survey, that there is little interest in rural water, an engineer probably would not be

hired.

Payment of the \$20 does not obligate the signer to hook on to the water system if it is constructed. But if the system is constructed, the payment will apply to the initial membership certificate cost.

However, if the person decides he doesn't want water if the system is constructed, the \$20 will not be refunded. But if a system isn't built, all remaining funds will be returned.

Peterson told those attending Tuesday's meeting, "It's imperative that we get the sign-ups. If we don't get them, there's no

chance for a rural water system."

To be surveyed are all dwellings in the county, except those in the incorporated communities of Albia, Melrose, and Lovilia. Residents of these three towns are not eligible to hook onto a rural water system under the rules laid down by the Farmers Home Administration, the loan making body for rural water systems.

With Tuesday's go ahead for the survey, Monroe County becomes the fourth and final member in the four-county Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development project to undertake the water survey.

Appanoose County has completed its survey, and by the middle of July Wayne and Lucas Counties should be finished with their surveys.

June 29, 1970

Resource inventory asked by Rathbun Region group

A request for four resource inventories, received from the the Rathbun Regional Planning Commission, has been approved by the district commissioners of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

Soils personnel will start work on the inventories and the related studies immediately. The plan involves the Rathbun watershed as it is located in Monroe County. Similar requests have been made in Wayne, Appanoose, and Lucas Counties.

Potential structure sites will be inventoried, with the listing to include sites for stabilization, flood control and recreation structures.

A base study and resource inventory of the watersheds in Monroe County will also be made as will a comparable study and inventory of the critical areas in the county soils district.

A fourth study will involve information on potential sites for solid waste disposal within Monroe County.

June 29, 1970

Miss Jacobs to district

Sheila Jacobs, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Jacobs, Rte. 3, will be in the local entran in the regional Soil Conservation Service speech contest to be held July 15 at the Holiday Inn in Ottumwa.

Miss Jacobs will speak on the general topic this year "Youth's Role in Soil and Water Conservation."

The contest is sponsored by the ladies auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company.

John Botts is honored for 25 years of service to SCS

In recognition of a quarter-century of work with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) John Botts of Albia has been presented a certificate for 25 years of service.

Botts, 52, is the Monroe County Soil Conservation Service's technician working closely with farmers in implementing conservation programs. A native of Davis County, he came to Albia as a conservation aide six months

after the local soil conservation district was formed.

That was 1944, and in that 25 years, Botts has witnessed the growth of conservation implementation.

In that time, Botts said, he has seen a "tremendous change" in the amount of pasture improvements, and terrace systems. The number of farm ponds has increased, along with their size. And he attributed this in part to larger pastures and increased numbers of livestock on these improved pastures.

Botts also observed, "I wouldn't be surprised if the livestock population has tripled."

Looking to the future, he foresees pollution as the main target of conservation work. "Conservation is not an economical thing," Botts declared, "It's an obligation to others."

He has attended the SCS's Carbondale, Ill. training center, in addition to taking correspondence courses in areas related to conservation. Botts is scheduled to undergo additional training in July in Lincoln, Neb.

June 25, 1970 →

June 25, 1970

Survey to determine county's water needs

Determination of both the present levels of water consumption in Monroe County and the anticipated future volumes of use is one of the primary goals of the water use survey now starting to be taken by the Monroe County Rural Water Association.

Rural families will be asked questions about their household and farm water uses in an effort to gather information which can be used by an engineer to find out if it is feasible to construct a rural water system serving the county.

By determining how much water is now being used and what uses it has, an engineer can arrive at a recommendation on continuation of planning for rural water. Also of importance in fixing a size for the system are the projected consumption levels.

However, E. H. Scales, Monroe County Farmers Home Administration (FHA) supervisor, stressed that the survey must be accurate. If, for example, Scales said, people inflate the future size of their livestock holdings, the engineer would design a system based on this and recommend water rates accordingly.

If the system is built bigger than the demand, Scales said

revenue would be inadequate, and an increase in the water rates would result.

Concerning households, the survey wants to know the number of adults and children living in the household, plus the present or planned uses for water for such appliances as clothes washers or dishwashers. Also surveyors will be interested in whether water is or would be used for lawn sprinkling or vegetable garden watering.

The survey also contains questions dealing with the present source of water for personal consumption, the method used in supplying it, plus the capacity of any wells or other storage methods.

For those hauling water, they will be asked about the cost of delivered water, how far it is hauled, and how many gallons per month they purchase.

In addition, the quality and quantity of well water available will also be asked.

Concerning livestock, the survey wants to find out the average and maximum number of head of various types of livestock the farm now waters during the four seasons of the year. A sim-

ilar section asks the same questions, except that the answers are for foreseeable livestock numbers.

The survey considers itself with feeder cattle weighing from 500 to 800 pounds, feeder cattle from 800 to 1200 pounds, feeder pigs from 10 to 100 pounds, feeder pigs from 100 to 250 pounds, sows, milking cows, dry cows and heifers, dairy calves, beef cows, beef calves, sheep, poultry and horses.

The current sources of water and the methods of supplying it, along with the type and size of storage tanks, plus the number of ponds are included in the form which the survey teams will complete with each rural resident.

A final portion of the survey asks persons how much water they would purchase from a rural water system for their household usage, present livestock usage and the foreseeable livestock usage. Persons will not be asked to supply gallon figures, but rather, to indicate about what per cent of the water which they would use for the three areas would be purchased from the water system.

June 29, 1970



Water survey under way

A survey to determine present levels of water consumption, future water consumption and the interest in a rural water system for Monroe County got under way here this week with the start of interviews in each of the 12 townships in the county. Chairman of the Monroe

County Rural Water Association is John Peterson, left, shown conferring with E. H. Scales, supervisor for the Monroe County Farmers Home Administration, and Robert Hanson, farm planner for the Monroe County Conservation District.

July 2, 1970

July 13, 1970

Rural water survey done by July 15

Officers of the Monroe County Rural Water Association today asked individuals working on the county-wide survey to complete these surveys as soon as possible so that all information can be available for a meeting July 15.

Workers started the house-by-house survey of the rural areas last week, obtaining information on present and future use of water for the home and farm use and obtaining a \$20 membership fee in the association. The membership fee will finance further economic feasibility studies necessary before engineering and financing can be arranged on a system.

The survey being conducted in Monroe County is identical to surveys being completed at this time in Appanoose, Wayne, and Lucas Counties—the four counties making up the Rathbun Region.

Comparable studies and surveys were made in other areas in Iowa before communities made applications for Farmers Home Administration financing. E. H. Scales, Monroe County FHA supervisor, pointed out that there are currently 10 applications for funding in Iowa alone.

Roger Hansen, Monroe County extension director, pointed out that rural water systems have been organized in Colorado, Indiana, and Missouri for a number of years with 150 in existence in those states at the present. He said the initial cash outlay for each user at the outset has been from \$150 to \$160 with users varying from 3.4 to 9 per mile. The average water bill in four states varies from \$8 per month in Indiana and Colorado to \$11.30 in Kansas.

Water meet

A meeting of the Monroe County Rural Water Association is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, at 8:15 p.m. in the Farm Bureau Hall here.

John Peterson, president of the association, said he has asked each of those making rural water surveys in each of the townships to attend the meeting. Peterson said that work on the surveys is nearing completion and progress reports will be given at the meeting.

July 20, 1970

CONTEST WINNER—

Steve Freguson, 17, of New Sharon, was the winner of the Region 9 Soil Conservation speech contest last week in Ottumwa. Sheila Jacobs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jacobs of Albia was the Monroe County entrant.

July 16, 1970

4-county resource group gets official approval

Congressman John Kyl today announced in Washington official approval of the extension of the Appanoose-Monroe Counties Resource Conservation and Development project so it will now include Lucas and Wayne Counties.

The four-county effort has been re-named the Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development Project.

Reorganization of the project and the inclusion of the two additional counties in the Rathbun region will mean accelerated technical and financial assistance from U. S. Department of Agriculture agencies in carrying out plans of local sponsors.

Each of the four counties is represented on an executive committee of the Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and De-

velopment Project and each of the counties has a local committee.

The sponsoring agencies in each county include the soil conservation districts and the board of supervisors.

The project emphasis in the four-county area will be on the conservation of natural resources, pasture improvement, cow-calf herd improvement, the development of rural sewer and water systems, and the development of tourism.

A number of projects are already under way in the four counties and each of the counties has now formed a rural water association to study the economic feasibility of water systems throughout the counties.

July 16, 1970

425 persons signed up in rural water survey

The newly organized Monroe County Rural Water Association has a total of 425 persons signed as members, persons who have given \$20 each to provide funds for an economic feasibility study of the serving of rural areas in the county.

The report was given at a meeting last evening.

John Peterson, who is president of the association, said that more than \$8,000 has been collected so far to provide funds for the study. He pointed out that the survey has been extended to July 29 to enable persons to complete their surveys in the various townships.

He added that a survey of Urbana Township has not been made because the local group

has been unable to find anyone to make the door-to-door survey. He suggested that if anyone in Urbana Township is interested in signing up for the association and the survey they can contact him.

Township workers attending the meeting last night pointed out that a Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan of the four-county Rathbun Region represents only preliminary planning and assumes everyone in the four counties is interested. It shows what might be done if the interest in the project were 100 per cent in the counties.

But the survey being taken now and the \$20 deposit for the study will determine which people are interested and where they are located and whether their

present and future use of water indicates the system might be economically sound.

Similar surveys are being taken in Lucas, Wayne, and Appanoose Counties and the four counties hope to do their planning work together.

Persons who are interested in the rural water survey and who have not yet signed up can contact their township chairmen: Bluff Creek, Mrs. Janet Maddison; Cedar, Joe Hollinrake; Franklin, Maurice Sinclair; Guilford, Phillip Brock; Jackson, David Sinclair; Mantua, Wilbert Hoover; Monroe, John Peterson; Pleasant, Henry Fynaardt; Troy, Charles Mock; Union, Albert Etcher; and Wayne, Maurice Scieszinski.

Rural water group meets Wednesday

A meeting of the Monroe County Rural Water Association is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, at 8:15 p.m. in the Farm Bureau Hall.

That date, July 29, is the deadline for the rural water survey. John Peterson, chairman of the association, said persons who are interested in the rural water system and who have not yet signed up can contact their township captains in their townships. The township captains are:

Bluff Creek, Mrs. Janet Maddison; Cedar, Joe Hollinrake; Franklin, Maurice Sinclair; Guilford, Phillip Brock; Jackson, David J. Sinclair; Mantua, Wilbert Hoover; Monroe, John Peterson; Pleasant, Henry Fynaardt; Troy, Charles Mock; Union, Albert Etcher; and Wayne, Maurice Scieszinski.

Peterson said he has asked each of those making rural water surveys in each township to attend the meeting so the rural water survey can be completed.

July 30, 1970

Mrs. Howells, Hughes win soil awards

Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District announced today the Monroe County winners of the 1970 Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program.

Mrs. Jessie H. Howells, eighth grade science teacher for the past 21 years in the Albion Community School District, has been selected by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners as the Outstanding Conservation Teacher for 1970.

The Outstanding Conservation Teacher Awards Program is sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the Iowa Farm and Home Register co-operating with the Iowa Conservation Education Council as a division of the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program.

The objective of the program is to recognize public or parochial school teachers of kindergarten through twelfth grade who are performing outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to safeguard our national heritage of natural and human resources.

William Hughes, Rte. 1, Eddyville, has been selected the winner of the family-operated farms division. Among the conservation accomplishments on the Hughes farm are: 12,250 feet of terraces, 26 acres of pasture renovation, and three farm ponds.

Kaldenberg said this contest is to encourage better land use programs and environmental control on farms in Iowa through recognition of farmers doing a good job of conservation and also to recognize teachers who are doing a fine job of teaching conservation to our children.

The Soil Conservation Achievement Program is sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and Iowa Farm and Home Register.

August 3, 1970

535 members sign in rural water association survey

A total of 535 members have signed up for the Monroe County Rural Water Association, indicating an interest in a rural water supply on a county wide basis if possible.

More than \$8,510 has been deposited in the association account in an Albion bank, funds which will be used for preliminary planning for the system if approved by Farmers Home Administration officials.

John Peterson, president of the association, asked residents of the county who may have been missed or residents who may want to sign up for the rural water system to contact township chairmen no later than this week.

Peterson pointed out that the locations on the farms will be

platted on a map to see which areas can be served economically and that every membership obtained by the end of this week will help in getting approval of the project.

He added that the contacts in three townships are being completed now and in each of the other townships two or three farms remain to be contacted.

Peterson pointed out that the association would like to locate interested farmers, get the information platted and compiled, and submitted to Farmers Home Administration officials as soon as possible.

Appanoose County has already submitted its report to FHA offices in Des Moines and Lucas and Wayne Counties are in the process of completing their surveys.

August 20, 1970

11,000 catfish distributed Wednesday for stocking

Over 11,000 fingerling channel catfish were stocked in 38 Monroe County ponds Wednesday.

The stocking program is sponsored annually by the Soil Conservation District in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Wednesday's distribution of the fingerlings is the second one this summer. In June, about the same number of largemouth bass were distributed in a number of ponds locally.

The fish generally are stocked into new ponds, however, with the number of fish killed during the past winter, some restocking has been taking place.

Applications for the fish are handled through the local Soil Conservation Service office. The application deadline is March 30. To be eligible for receiving the fish which are provided at no cost, the person's body of water must be protected from livestock.

The 11,000 catfish were stocked into just over 36 total acres of water.

Handling Wednesday's distribution were John Botts, local Soil Conservation Service technician, and Frank Paruka of the Fairport National Fish Hatchery in Muscatine.

Scheduled to receive the fingerlings were: Edward J. Ryan, Francis Sinnott, the Monroe County Farm, John Schleier, William F. Terrell, Raymond Vance,

Elmer V. Vance, Gerald Vandenberg, Pieterella Verhulst, Glenn West, Paul Wignall, Dr. A. E. Bastron, James Cooper, John Curran, Judge Curran, Albert DeGeus, Blanche Flattery, Everett Gardner, Walter Gardner, Gene Harper, Lyle Hashlunh, Versal Hough, Max Lewis, T. J. Luse, L. E. Main, Louie McCoy, Lloyd A. Morgan, M. B. Murphy and Roy C. Rinehart.

August 10, 1970

Prize winners in Monroe fair drawings announced

Winners of drawings held at the Monroe County 4-H and FFA Fair last week can pick up their prizes at the participating business firms.

The winners:

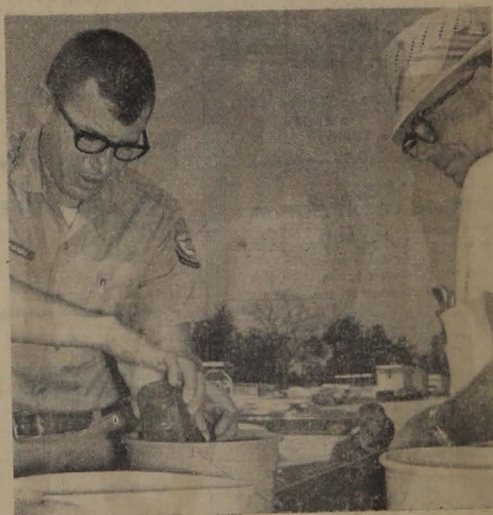
Carl Edwards, Rte. 1, won the trouble spot light given by the 4-H Safety Club.

Lloyd Clark of Lovilia, Thomas Gatcher of Rte. 1, Russell Brown of Rte. 2, Moravia, Connie Mathias, Rte. 3, and Bernie Tierney of Lovilia each won a pair of rubber footwear at The Shoe Box.

Winners of prizes given by the Williams Clothing Co. were Jerry Carr, Albion, Wolverine work shoes; Scott Rowley, Bussey, boys shoes; Ray Gardner, Rte. 5, Big Smith overalls; Ricky Zaputit, Mystic, pair of Farah jeans.

Elmer Noxon of Lovilia won a rod and reel and Kevin Dunkin of Lovilia the bow and arrow given by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

August 24, 1970



Catfish counters

John Botts (right) and Frank Paruka of the Fairport National Fish Hatchery, are shown as they counted out more than 11,000 fingerling channel catfish which were distributed last week for stocking in Monroe County ponds.

Sept. 8, 1970

Soil group talks of state meeting

Plans for the 24th annual conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners were discussed Thursday at the regular meeting of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

The conference will be held Sept. 13 to 15 in Waterloo.

The group decided to further explore the possibility of conducting a conservation art contest in the county after Chuck McCarty reviewed such a contest which was held in the Hardin County Soil Conservation District recently.

In other business, cooperative agreements with the district were approved with Charles Scholtz for 265 acres in Urbana Township; George W. Ryan, 156 acres in Jackson Township; and George J. McCombs, 73 acres in Bluff Creek Township.

Sept. 28, 1970

Resource plan at Miami Lake

Members of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Board at their regular meeting Thursday evening approved a request for a resource inventory and plan for the Miami Lake watershed.

The request was received from the Iowa State Conservation Commission. Local SCS personnel will start working on the inventory and plan this fall.

The local group also approved a cooperative agreement with St. Patrick's Cemetery for 15 acres in Jackson Township and basic conservation plans for David Roberts, 320 acres, Pleasant Township; Ronald Reed, 306 acres, Pleasant Township; and William Welsh, 150 acres, Cedar Township.

10-15-70

8-17

Sanitary landfill discussed at meet

Eighty government officials from ten counties surrounding Ottumwa attended a meeting held this week at the sanitary landfill located in rural Marion County between Bussey and Knoxville.

Jack Clemons from the Iowa Department of Health, and the Director of the General Sanitation Division was present to discuss regulations for sanitary landfills. Abbie Davis, Marion County engineer, was also on the program and explained the operation of sanitary landfills in Marion County.

The national average cost

for sanitary landfills is \$4 per person. The Marion County landfill is costing about \$1.10 per person. Clemons stated that all city dumps are to be closed and it will be illegal to operate after July 1, 1975. This includes no burning, a law already in effect, daily coverage of garbage and proper design to prevent water pollution. The state law covering solid waste disposal was passed by the 63rd General Assembly and provides for inter-governmental cooperation and joint development of landfill sites.

The sanitary landfill is

covered daily and eliminates problems with rodents and insects. Then as the site is being phased out, two feet of dirt will cover the garbage.

Persons attending the meeting from Monroe County were: John Scott, Walter Judge, Harold Waters, Ralph Goode, E. H. Scales and Richard Johnson.

The meeting was sponsored by the Tenco Rural Development Committee which consists of ASCS, SCS, Farmers Home Administration and extension personnel from the Tenco Area.

Sept. 10, 70

Rural water evaluation by Iowa FHA

Farmers Home Administration officials in Des Moines will next week start their evaluation of the economic possibilities of a rural water supply system for Monroe County.

Approximately 550 individuals joined the Monroe County Rural Water Association during the drive this summer, paying \$20 in membership to finance the economic feasibility studies.

Members of the Monroe County Resource Conservation and Development Project Committee were told at their meeting Tuesday night that platting of the membership of the local group will be completed next week and forwarded to the FHA officials. Funds for the construction of a rural water system can be borrowed from the FHA.

E. H. Scales, supervisor of the county FHA office, pointed out that 80 per cent of those living along a proposed water line must be interested in having the service. Scales said that the evaluation of the Appanoose County plan is being completed now and the Monroe County plan will be the next to be studied.

Lucas County, he said, is re-surveying three of its townships and Wayne County is getting a fresh start on its rural water study.

RC&D committee members indicated also that an erosion control project along the road leading to Lake Miami will probably be let later this month with grading to be done this fall and seeding to be done in the spring.

The four county executive committee is scheduled to meet in Albia Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. at Kit's Restaurant to go over the current program.

Oct. 15, 1970



578 homes want water system

Miss Peggy Saner and E. H. Scales of the Farmers Home Administration take a check of 578 homes in Monroe County for which a rural water system is asked. All are member of the Monroe County Rural Water Association. FHA engineers in Des Moines are studying the results of the local survey to determine the economic feasibility and whether FHA can finance its installation. Homes asking for the system ranged from 93 in Troy Township to nine in Franklin Township with 50 or more homes in each of six townships members of the association.

10-26-70

APPROVE PLANS—

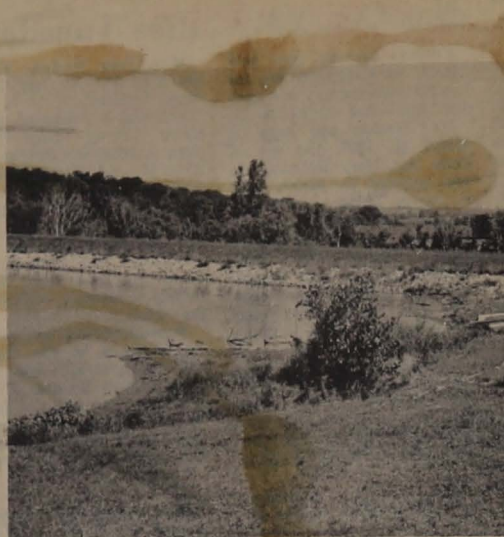
The Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners at their regular meeting Thursday evening approved cooperative agreements with Ben Grayson for 4 acres in Troy Township; Oak View Cemetery, 70 acres, Troy Township; and Harry D. Parker, 200 acres, Jackson Township.

Nov. 5, 1970



**Gulley
it's big**

And it is deep. That's Roger Hansen of the Soil Conservation Service almost lost in this gulley on the Miami Lake road. An erosion control structure is being built at this point to control the sediment and drainage into the lake.



Sedimental journey

You'll pardon the pun, but the sedimental journey taken by this topsoil has created this point of land at Miami Lake and it could continue and sharply reduce the lake's usage.



**Washin'
on down**

The newly constructed road along the east side of Miami Lake has created some problems with more gulley per mile than any comparable road. These banks are due for seeding and perhaps sodding under the resource conservation program.

Miami Lake erosion control project started

A two-part erosion control project along the 1 1/4 mile road on the east side of Lake Miami should control the silting and the washing of sediment into the recreation and fishing lake in Bluff Creek Township, its sponsors feel.

The two part project has been started this past week with E. L. Cooper of Albia receiving the \$11,910.89 project of the extending of one road outlet flume, the excavation of a channel leading into Miami Lake and the construction of three erosion control structures.

Cooper hopes to have the construction completed this fall, weather permitting.

The second part of the project involves the regrading of three miles of road ditches. An area of 17 acres along the road will be seeded, mulched, and possibly sodded to establish an adequate vegetative cover in the

eroding areas. This phase of the project is to be completed in the spring.

Sponsors of the project at Miami Lake are the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, the Monroe County Board of Supervisors, the Monroe County Conservation Board and the State Conservation District, the Monroe County Conservation Board and the State Conservation Commission.

Announcement of the project was made by Michael

Galer, chairman of the Monroe County Resource Conservation and Development Committee and Ollie K. nberg, chairman of the Chariton Valley REC&D executive board. The project is funded through the latter's cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service. All needed land rights have been provided by the county and state agencies involved.

The project was started

when the local supervisors asked for assistance in stabilizing the erosion along the road on the east side of Miami Lake. An excessive amount of sediment has been entering the lake at an annual rate of five acre feet a year. This is the equivalent of five acres of sediment, one foot deep.

Sponsors of the project point out that the sediment disposition would appreciably reduce the expected life of the

lake, would create a muddy water condition harmful to the aquatic life, reduce the esthetic value of the lake, making it less pleasing to the eye, and reducing the economic impact from fishing and hunting.

Kalden
"by 1
am
in

County and the surrounding area."

Sgt. 24, 1975

Ponds can help increase potential of cattle herds

Farmers in the Monroe County Area have more potential for increasing their income through beef cattle herds than anywhere else in the state. But the shortage of a dependable supply of groundwater can be a problem.

The solution, said John Frieden, district conservationist, is to build ponds for livestock water.

The rolling hills of Monroe county lend themselves to good pond sites, and the heavy tills usually found under loess caps are ideally suited for building ponds.

According to the recent census, Monroe County has approximately 29,000 of beef cows among over 35,000 head cattle.

A large portion of these animals are supplied water from either ponds or structures. It would probably be uneconomical to provide this amount of water from a deep well system.

Monroe County landowners have constructed 1,550 ponds and 120 structures through cost-sharing programs. Numerous wells and springs have also been developed.

"While we cannot predict the exact amount of rainfall

and runoff we will receive in any given year, ponds can be constructed large enough that most livestock men can store two or three years' supply," Frieden said.

Having a water supply in several areas of pasture so cattle don't have to walk far, is an important pasture management practice. Small, low-cost ponds can usually be located for best management of pasture areas.

Structures (dams) are usually built to control gullied areas in cropland, but they can also provide a winter supply of water for cattle cleaning cropland fields, Frieden said.

Many livestock men leave pond water running through their livestock tanks during winter months, a practice few would be willing to gamble on with water supplied by wells.

Beside livestock water supplies, ponds provide many side benefits. Among these are recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, and picnicing.

They also give fire protection, especially if they're near the farmstead or nearby on a hard surfaced road.

In some instances, pond

water may be treated for household use. Several companies provide small treatment plants for such treatment.

Frieden noted that there are literally hundreds of ponds and structures scattered over Monroe County which are providing many of the above benefits besides contributing to good land use and providing erosion control.

"Why not make the hardest working acre on your farm a pond?" he concluded.



Multi-purpose ponds such as this one located near a Monroe County pond can help increase profit and size of cattle herds.

Oct. 15, 1975

County survey set to begin spring of '77

Albia undertaking soil survey for future land-use planning

Gary Lindgren, soil scientist for the Monroe County Soil Conservation Service, is currently in the process of doing a soil survey of lands in and immediately joining the City of Albia.

The survey was requested by Mayor Bernard Carr and Garden Engineering of Oskaloosa. Garden Engineering serves as the city's engineer.

Lindgren noted that the city is primarily interested "in the limitations and major soil features affecting such items as foundations for low buildings, septic tanks and disposal fields,

residential development, sanitary sewer construction, and lagoon and sewage treatment construction."

Once completed, Lindgren explained that the city will use the information obtained from the survey "as a basis for sound land-use planning in future years."

He expects to be completed with the soil survey shortly, adding that it will then take approximately a month for results to be known.

Lindgren is also scheduled to undertake a Standard Soil Survey for Monroe County, tentatively slated to start in the spring of 1977.



Gary Lindgren makes soil boring in Albia

The county survey is expected to take approximately four years to complete, but could take longer. The length of this survey will depend on the availability of other soil scientists in the area.

Lindgren, however, is scheduled to complete most of the work himself.

The length of time involved in survey work will be due to the small number of soil scientists in the state.

The cost will be divided equally among the federal Soil Conservation Service, state Soil Conservation Committee, Iowa State University, and the county.

The survey will cost the county approximately \$52,000 and will be paid in equal six-month installments over the four-year period the survey is taken. A half-mill tax levy will be used to finance the survey.

Monroe County is one of the last counties in south-central Iowa to begin a soil survey. Surveys are now underway or will soon begin in most of Iowa's 99 counties.

The survey will involve making aerial photographs of the entire county. With these photo maps, the soil scientists will go into the county and make soil borings.

The borings—up to five feet in depth—will then be analyzed to determine the type of soil found in that particular area. This information will then be recorded on the aerial maps.

The last survey of soils in the county was made in the early 1930s. However, it was incomplete and was not detailed.

Lindgren noted that results from a survey can be used for the next 40 to 50 years.

The survey could be used by the Soil Conservation Service, various planning groups, utilities, rural water and sewer associations, and prospective industries.

Another possible use of survey information would be to equalize assessments on the basis of soil types.

Soil conservation seminar next week

A two-day training seminar for soil conservation contractors will be held next week at Indian Hills Community College. Sessions are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 3 and 5, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in Building 41 on the Ottumwa campus.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and soil conservation districts are cooperating in the presentation.

Subjects to be covered are use of conservation plans, survey techniques, tile design and installation, tile outlet terrace design, construction techniques and pond design.

Jeff Anliker of Ottumwa, Stan Simmons of Fairfield and R.B. (Doc) Howorth of Cantril will represent the Soil Conservation Service on the panel of instructors.

Participants from Des Moines will be Bruce Patterson and Kenneth White of Can-Tex Industries and Virgil Chamberlain of the Levine Company. Doug Smith, Ottumwa farmer, will speak on the use of conservation plans.

Advance registration may be made with Enoch Weston of the Indian Hills Adult Education Department. The fee is \$5. Certificates will be awarded.

Cost sharing available for conservation projects

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District commissioners have announced that requests for cost-sharing on permanent soil and water conservation practices will be accepted from March 1 through May 1, 1976.

Practices that have top priority this year for state cost-sharing are:

- 1) Tile outlet terraces.
- 2) Erosion-control structures.
- 3) Waterways.
- 4) Diversions.

The commissioners stated that not more than 50 per cent of the actual cost of installing the conservation practices will be paid by government funds.

They further pointed out that practices installed on the cost-sharing program must adequately control erosion. They also must be properly planned and installed as a condition to payment under the program.

The staff of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District will provide technical assistance to those landowners and operators requesting cost-sharing funds.

Applications can be made and further information obtained at the Soil Conservation District office located at 14B Second Ave. West in the Agricultural Building in Albia.

enviro gram



By JOHN BOTTS
Soil Conservation Technician

I walked into the large walnut-paneled room. My left arm was hanging limp and lifeless. There was no feeling or pain. I could see it and feel it with my right hand, but it really didn't seem to be a part of me.

A young lady dressed in white greeted me as she shuffled papers at a large walnut desk. She said, "Be seated, the doctor will be with you in a minute."

As I sat there looking out of the large glassed wall on the west, I could see huge concrete silos. There was row after row of them. They were so high they seemed to disappear into the sky.

I asked the nice lady what they were.

She said, "Don't you know? The government built those to store top soil in. They are called Soil Banks."

"The children pick the soil up from the ditches and haul it here in their little red wagons to store for future use."

She was right! I could see the children coming with their wagons. There were thousands of them coming over the horizon. They were strange little people. They didn't look like they were over foot high.

I remarked to the nurse, "I don't remember anything about this type of program."

She replied, "That's because your recall switch is broken. The doctor will replace that for you today and then you will be able to recall everything you ever knew."

Just then the alarm clock rang. That was the signal for a new day to start for me. My left arm was numb from lying on it, but the feeling soon came back.

Isn't it strange how parts of our dreams approach reality...and other parts are pure fantasy.

There isn't any doubt about me needing a new "recall switch." However, it would seem that storing top soil in silos would be a poor system to conserve it for future generations.

We have a copy of a Conservation Plan which was developed by Mike Heffron in 1937. This plan was prepared with the assistance of Dale Shadle, a conservationist with the CCC Camp.

The plan called for the construction of a masonry structure to control a gully, sodding of waterways, and the construction of terraces.

I think the amazing thing about this Conservation Plan is that all of the practices were completed in the late 30s and they are still intact.

I'm sure that Mike had a concern for the "little people" that would also need the top soil. Mike didn't dream in vain, for his sons continue the same tradition.

This year we will be building terraces on the farm of Mike's son, Dave. A different farm, a different generation, a different kind of terrace (tile-outlet), but the same goal.

Save Top Soil!!!

Agricultural conservation program open

The Monroe County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee announced today that the 1976 Agricultural Conservation Program is now opened.

The object of the program is to cost share with public funds the performance of enduring soil and water conservation measures on farmland that would not be performed without cost sharing.

This will help assure that the public tax dollar is buying needed conservation beyond which the farmer would accomplish with his

own resources.

There will be a continual sign-up period through the year for the annual ASCS practices. However, the sign-up period for filing applications for a long-term agreement will end April 30.

The program is now open and the county office is accepting applications for cost-sharing requests from Monroe County farmers.

ASCS personnel will review practices that are available under this year's program with farmers if they stop at the local ASCS office.

3-3-76

Soil district dinner to be held March 15

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District awards banquet will be Monday, March 15, at 7 p.m. at the First Christian Church.

Ollie Kaldenberg, district chairman, said tickets at \$2.75 each can be purchased from any of the district commissioners.

The district and the Albia Rotary Club will be presenting conservation awards to three persons at the dinner meeting.

March 24, 1976

Will name Kaldenberg Iowa Master Farmer

A Monroe County farmer will be among the five 1976 recipients of the Iowa Master Farmer awards to be presented at a luncheon at the Holiday Inn in Des Moines this Thursday, March 25. The Albia Union-Republican has been told.

Ollie Kaldenberg of Rt. 5, Albia, a Bluff Creek Township farmer who operates 1,000 acres with his son, Tom, is the local resident who is one of the five recipients of the award.

The Kaldenberg family will be guests at a breakfast with the Wallaces Farmer staff Thursday morning in the Downtown Holiday Inn. The formal announcement of the

Cite 3 county farmers for land conservation

Three county farmers—Kenneth Shepard, Lloyd Clark, and D.E. Cooper—were honored Monday night at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Awards Banquet at the First Christian Church in Albia.

All three were presented Albia Rotary Club awards for soil conservation practices on their farms. The awards were presented for overall conservation practices through the past several years.

Shepard operates a 207-acre farm north of Albia in Bluff Creek Township. Conservation structures on his land include:

- 5,800 feet of tile outlet terraces.
- 4,300 feet of tile for the terraces.
- 20 water-control structures.
- Two erosion-control structures.

—One pond.

Clark operates a total of 439 acres of land on two farms in Troy and Union townships. Conservation structures on his land include:

- 4,200 feet of tile outlet terraces.
- 6,000 feet of tile for the terraces.
- 18 water-control structures.
- Two erosion-control structures.
- Two ponds.
- 2,000 feet of diversion terraces.
- 80 acres of improved pasture to combat soil erosion.

Cooper operates a 120-acre farm in Franklin Township west of Moravia. Conservation structures on his farm include:

- 14,800 feet of terraces.
- 8,800 feet of tile for the terraces.
- 32 water-control structures.
- One erosion-control structure.

March 17 - 1976

March 10, 1976

Edwards replaces Frieden



Keith Edwards

Keith Edwards has taken over duties as soil conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Monroe County. Edwards, 23, replaces John Frieden.

Frieden, who had served as soil conservationist here the past 3½ years, is currently on a two-year leave of absence from the SCS. Frieden, who is continuing to live in Albia, is conducting a liquid waste control study of the Rathbun area.

The liquid waste study is being financed through a grant from the federal government. Frieden left the SCS in Monroe County on Feb. 1.

Edwards, his replacement with the SCS, has moved here from Harlan where he was soil conservationist with the SCS in Shelby County. He held the position there the past eight months.

Edwards graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor degree in farm operations last May. He is a native of Columbus Junction, having graduated from Columbus Community High School in 1971.

Edwards lives at 17½ North Main St. above Dr. D.W. Cunningham's office.

The remainder of the staff with the Monroe County SCS remains intact. John Botts is soil conservation technician, Gary Lindgren is soil scientist, and Carol Presley is district clerk.

3-15-76

Conservation awards fete set tonight

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District Awards Banquet will be held tonight (Monday) at the First Christian Church in Albia beginning at 7 p.m. John Botts of the local Soil Conservation Service noted that approximately 170 tickets have been sold to the banquet. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$2.75.

The Albia Rotary Club will present three plaques to "outstanding local conservation farmers" at the banquet.

James L. Lightsey, director of river transportation for the Iowa Department of Transportation, will be the speaker at the banquet.

May 26, 76

Soil Stewardship Week

May 23 - May 30, 1976

Theme of Soil Stewardship Week

In recent years and especially during the past 40, rural Americans and their neighbors in adjoining towns have been moved to observe a day of gratitude centered not only on the produce of the land but on the glory of the earth itself.

This observance is known as Soil Stewardship Sunday, or Soil Stewardship Week, and undertakes to emphasize man's responsibility to protect and use wisely gifts of soil, water and the related elements making up our environment.

Once we had more than we do now. But during our early years and up to the beginnings of the nation-wide soil conservation program in the 1930s, we lost millions of tons of irreplaceable topsoil from millions of acres.

As we move toward the year 2000 and beyond, we are doing somewhat better. During the past 40 years, through the efforts of conservation technicians and scientists, the programs of 3,000 local conservation districts, and the work of some two million individual landowners and operators, our record has improved sharply.

On the basis of present use and treatment, about 40 per cent of our productive land is protected against waste and damage. This means approximately 60 per cent is in need of conservation treatment.

The erosion problem on our cropland has been aggravated in recent years by the enlarged demands for agricultural production for both domestic and export markets. The soil bank, conservation set-aside and similar government programs aimed at production adjustment have been ended. Larger farms with larger machinery are being farmed more intensively and often with less regard for the safety of the land itself.

There is a vast amount of work yet to be done by those devoted to the goals of soil stewardship and a better environment. With leadership and perseverance we can make the turn around in the years ahead. We can rebuild the national interest in our cause. We can extend the measures of erosion control to the vulnerable lands. We can revive and spread the small watershed program. We can restore the corp of conservation technicians to essential levels. We can revitalize our pasture and rangelands. We can rejuvenate our farm forests. We can extend the quality and usefulness of our water supplies.

We can do all this and more during our Third Century as a nation if we believe we can.

Taken from "We Begin Again . . .", a booklet published by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and purchased by the Monroe Soil Conservation District for use by area churches.

May 26, 76

Strip farming a century old

While poor farming practices causing erosion and other neglect of the soil prevailed well into the 20th century, there is evidence of early attempts at conservation methods dating back a century or more.

In 1865, more than 200 farms on rounded hills in Lycoming County, Pa. were being tilled according to strip farming practices, alternating crops like corn with uncultivated crops like grass or winter wheat. Slowly, the practice spread.

In 1928, the U.S. Department of Agriculture started to awaken many farmers to the

threat of poor farming practices in its bulletin, "Soil Erosion a National Menace." But it took a farming disaster, the "Black Blizzard" of May, 1934 to drive the extent of the problem home. Then a series of droughts accompanied by high winds stripped farms in Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado of their top soil and carried the dense black clouds for hundreds of miles.

The "dust bowl" and the pathetic migrations of destitute farm families resulted in expansion of efforts of the government's Soil Conservation Service, which had just been created in 1933.

3-8-76

Soil district award dinner next Monday

James L. Lightsey, director of river transportation for the Iowa Department of Transportation, will be the speaker at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District awards banquet next Monday night.

The banquet will be at 7 p.m. in the basement of the First Christian Church.

Conservation awards will be presented to three individuals with the Albion Rotary Club and the district making the awards.

Lightsey, born in Atlanta, Ga., graduated from High School in Chamblee, Ga., and received Associate of Science degree in Industrial Management from Southern Technical Institute, Chamblee, Georgia.

He began a 20-year career with the United States Navy in 1955, serving in such assignments as pilot, flight instructor, ground school instructor, maintenance and operations officer of an aircraft squadron, Commander of an Air Antisubmarine Warfare Task Group, Commanding Officer of naval recruiting, State of Iowa, and Associate Professor of Naval Science at Iowa State University.

He received his Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif., in 1968. He graduated from the Naval War College, Newport, R.I., in 1971 and also did graduate work in International Affairs at George



James Lightsey

Washington University during this period. He had further graduate course work in Industrial Relations at Iowa State University.

Members of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District's board of commissioners include Ollie Kaldenberg, DeWayne Johnson, Ray Vance, Bill McGrath, Albert Etcher, Lloyd Morgan, Lloyd Clark, Edna Wilson, Bob McGinnis, Bob Putnam and George Mackey.

Dinner tickets are \$2.75 each and can be purchased from any of the above commissioners.

1-21-76

enviro gram

By JOHN BOTTS, Soil Conservation Technician



When I was 10 years old, I went with my Dad and two brothers to the Kinnomans to help put hay in the barn.

The Kinnomans had two boys a year or so older. Our job was to help Jake. Jake, being the older of the five boys, was given the responsibility of taking care of the "fork horse."

Jake was also the leader of "our" gang . . . and he always had wonderful and exciting things to do to pass the time while we were waiting for the next load of hay.

One day while waiting for a load of hay, Jake was showing us the "fine art" of playing "multi-peg." That is a game played by flipping the jack-knife into a bullseye drawn on bare ground.

The knife has one blade completely open, half open. The scoring is determined by various changing rules (as most game rules go with kids).

At one hot session of "multi-peg," Jake noticed that his younger brother had a seed-wart on his hand. Jake assured us that the wart could be removed without pain.

A sure-cure method was by letting a "setting-hen" peck the wart until it bled. Off to the barn we went to fetch a "setting-hen" and an ear of corn to remove Junior's wart.

We returned with just the right kind of a hen, according to Jake. He said she had been on the nest for some time without eating and could be hungry.

Jake was holding the setting-hen. He told one of us to place a kernel of corn on Junior's wart.

Junior wasn't sure he wanted to go ahead with this wart-removal operation. He didn't always cooperate by holding his hand still. Hence, the corn would fall from the wart to the ground.

The hen didn't mind, she grabbed the kernel of corn regardless of where it was.

We were successful a few times in keeping the corn on the wart, but the hen failed to draw blood.

Eventually the hen got her fill of corn and was no longer interested in our surgical procedure.

This is just about the same way we have been going at the task of removing the blemishing wart of erosion. We have been doing a lot of pecking and taking, but we haven't drawn much blood.

I suggest we apply the true surgical knife to erosion. How about applying terraces to our cropland for starters?

March 31, 1976

June 16, 1976

1976

me to the Champion's Club



Monroe

Assistant
Commissioner

Top corn grower

Lloyd Clark of Lovilia was honored recently in Des Moines as one of Iowa's outstanding corn farmers. Because his yield in the National Corn Growers contest placed him in the top 20 per cent of the Iowa entrants, he was named to Pioneer Champions Club. Clark planted Pioneer Hybrid

3366 to obtain his good official yield. Mr. and Mrs. Clark are shown here receiving their plaque from Dr. Owen J. Newlin (left), President of Central Division of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, which sponsored recent Champions Day luncheon and program.

Conservation tillage tour on June 28

Three Wapello County farms will be visited on Tuesday, June 29, in a conservation tillage plot twilight tour which will start at 7:30 o'clock that evening.

The first farm to be visited will be that of Charles Brown, a mile west of the north road at the Ottumwa Industrial Airport. The plot is a bluegrass pasture which has been interseeded with birdsfoot trefoil, using a zip seeder.

The Ed Klodt farm has a conservation tillage plot with corn-on-corn, using conventional tillage, a Buffalo till planter, and an AC no-till planter.

At the Duane Brinegar farm there will be a review of fields of corn-on-corn and corn-on-soybeans, using a Buffalo till planter.

June 30, 1976

\$1,230 prizes in conservation speech contest

Participants in the 1976 soil conservation speech contest, open to all Iowa school students in grades 7 through 12, will be vying for \$1,230 in prizes.

The local contest will be held this summer and will be open to all graduating seniors of the class of 1976 as well as those who will be returning to school this fall.

The regional contest, which includes participants from 11 counties in southeastern Iowa will be held in October in Ottumwa and the state contest will be held in December.

"Soil Conservation Lifeline to Continued Prosperity" is the topic for this year's contest.

Regional winners will compete for a total of \$75 in cash prizes. State winners will compete for \$255 in cash prizes in addition to a \$300 scholarship which will go to the first place winner.

Fair prizes

Aug. 1976

The following people were winners in drawings and contests at the commercial exhibits at the fair.

MONROE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Three nut trees given away at the fair by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District were won by Dennis Frederick, Janice Turner, and Mary Hanchar, all of rural Albia.

Gift certificates for these may be picked up at the Soil Conservation office in Albia.

EPA approves water quality area plan

Approval of the water quality plan for the four-county Chariton Valley Regional Services Agency has been approved by the Kansas City regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The pre-planning approved is the prelude to a two-year water quality management program in Wayne, Appanoose, Lucas, and Monroe Counties.

Dr. Andrew B. Schilling, director of water quality for the CVRSA, pointed out that the four-county organization has already set up a 44-member technical committee and presently is setting up a 15-member land use committee for the four counties.

The pre-planning phase of the water quality work is the culmination of a 18-month effort and the approval also includes final acceptance of the grant application for \$325,000.

Residents of the four counties will now be working closely, implementing the plan and achieving the "national goals of water quality", according to Dr. Schilling.

He pointed out also that in connection with the approval, the

EPA is reviewing contracts between the CVRSA and French-Reneker Associates, the engineering consultant; Hoskins-Western-Sonderegger, the planning consultant; with Milani, Johnston, Milani, Craver and Anderson, the legal consultants; the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality and the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

James J. Cooper of Chariton is chairman of the water quality division of the CVRSA, whose offices are in the Yocum building, Eighth and Braden, in Chariton.

Will form resource committee

A Monroe County Resource Coordinating Committee will be formed here Monday night at a meeting at 8 p.m. at the Monroe County Extension Office, 107 Benton Ave. E.

The committee will assist in developing guidelines for water quality management planning.

A member of the county committee will be chosen to

serve on the Conservancy District advisory committee—a link between the local residents and the conservancy districts.

Membership on the county committee is open to all interested local residents as well as representatives of local governments in Monroe County.

August 18, 1976

Election procedures are changed

Commissioners for the Monroe County Soil Conservation District will be chosen at the general election to be held Tuesday, November 2.

Nominating petitions can be obtained from the Commissioner of Elections, David I. Grimes, at his office in the Monroe County Courthouse. The signed petitions must be filed by 5 p.m. Sept. 8.

All qualified electors living in the district, whether on farms or in cities and towns, are eligible for the office of commissioner, can sign nominating petitions, and can vote in the commissioner election.

A candidate for the office of commissioner can not submit his name as a candidate in a township in which a commissioner already resides. However, this limitation does not include a commissioner whose term is expiring and who is a candidate for re-election.

Persons desiring more information can contact the Monroe County Soil Conservation District office.

Aug. 18, 1976

Early harvest, dry weather are worries

An early harvest and the dry weather are beginning to worry soil conservationists who remember the fall Iowa experienced last year when more than 8 million acres of land was fall plowed and opened up to wind erosion.

William Brune, state conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) points out that "much of that did blow and we had dust in the air and soil piled up in road ditches last winter."

He pointed out that the erosion problem had already been aggravated by the dry weather this year. The drought has encouraged farmers to chop corn for silage, a process that uses all of the plant.

Brune urges the farmers to leave cornstalks and beanstalks on top of the ground for soil protection. "Research shows there's no yield advantage to fall plowing soybean land. If tillage is done on corn land, we hope it's some kind of reduced tillage that doesn't bury all the corn residue and destroy what soil protection there was."

SCS agronomist John Maddy says the key to stopping wind erosion on the latter soils is to leave at least half of this year's residue on the soil surface. "If you leave half of this year's stalks on top of the ground, you stop most wind erosion. And you generally cut water erosion in half. The amount left is the key, rather than the machine used," he pointed out.

Maddy says that the chisel plow, an increasingly popular substitute for the moldboard plow, is a good tillage tool. It leaves residue on the soil surface and you can take advantage of its ridging by chiseling perpendicular to prevailing winds.

But he adds a word of caution: "You can go across a field too many times. Farmers who chisel two or three times bury most of their residue, too, especially on soybean ground. Last year soybean ground that was over-chiseled blew as badly as conventionally plowed ground."

SCS personnel point out that some fall plowing had already been done in the state. The advantage of this is that some soils "work up" better for spring planting and the work can be done in the fall when the farmer has more time.

"But our topsoil simply won't last if we keep losing it at our present rate," Brune said. "On unprotected sloping soils, we have only 6 inches to 8 inches of topsoil left. We're losing an inch of that every 12 years. If it stays dry, we'll probably have wind erosion. If it rains, we get water erosion. Soil protection is the answer."



Planting around pond on B. F. Ullem farm in Franklin Township.

Oct. 13, 1976

Area teachers study water, watersheds

Ten area educators attended a regional environmental conference recently to study the watersheds and water quality of the Mississippi River Valley.

The conference, held at a camp near Strawberry Point, attracted educators from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa.

One Blakesburg and five Albia teachers participated in the four-day workshop. Richard James of Lincoln Middle School; Carl Spaur of Lovilia Elementary; Donna Major of Grant Elementary; Mary Scieszinski of Jefferson Elementary; Joan Peterson of Kennedy Elementary; and Janet Williams, biology teacher at Blakesburg High School.

Conservation speech talks here Oct. 14

"Soil Conservation—Lifeline to Continued Prosperity" will be the topic in the 1975 speech contest being sponsored by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

Open to all junior and senior high school students as well as all 1976 graduates living in the county, the district contest will be held Thursday, October 14 at 4 p.m. in the Lincoln Middle School library.

The local contest winner will be entered in regional competition November 4 at the Holiday Inn in Ottumwa. Regional contest winners will receive \$30, \$20 and \$15 in first, second and third placings. An additional \$10 Merit Award may be chosen by the judges.

The state contest will be November 29 at the annual conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Des Moines. The first place winner in the state meet will receive a \$300 college scholarship and \$110 in cash. Second and third place winners will receive \$85 and \$60, respectively.

Regional and state contests are co-sponsored by the ladies auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company of Grinnell.

Youths, urban and rural, who are interested in entering the contest can obtain more information at the SCS office or the high school vocational agriculture department.

Sept. 22, 1976



Oct. 13, 1976

18-27-76

Speech meet in Ottumwa

Rita Gergely, winner of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District speech contest held here October 14, will be competing in the Region 9 contest in Ottumwa next week.

The contest will be held Thursday, Nov. 4, at the Holiday Inn in Ottumwa. Contestants from 12 other counties in Region 9 will also be competing. The winner will receive a plaque and advance to the state contest.

Michael Putnam placed second to Miss Gergely in the contest here.

Larger bales popular

Larger bales of hay have become increasingly popular with Monroe County farmers in the past several years. This picture was taken on the Paul

Koffman farm southeast of Albia and shows the big bales. The corn in the background was planted on non-tilled ground.

Oct. 6, 1976

Improved pastures

Rain of the past several weeks has improved the pasture outlook throughout this section of Iowa according to the Iowa Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. This picture of grazing dairy cattle was taken on the Albert Etcher farm in Union Township.



Union-Republican Farm Page

SECOND SECTION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1976

SECOND SECTION

Soil erosion from fall tillage

An earlier-than-usual harvest this year means farmers have more time for working their land this fall. But Gary M. Peterson, Monroe County extension director warns that fall plowing or disking encourages soil erosion.

Min Anemiyia, extension agronomist at Iowa State University, has suggestions for avoiding potential serious erosion problems that can occur between harvest and the time next year's crop covers the ground:

Following soybeans: Don't use a moldboard plow or disk. Fall disking after soybeans can cause erosion as severe as that following fall moldboard plowing.

If fall tillage is necessary, use a chisel. Leave the soil as

rough and with as much residue on the surface as possible.

Chisel sloping fields along the contour of the land. A chisel operated up-and-down hill will invite severe water erosion because the furrows left by the chisel provide channels for water flow.

If a chisel-type tool is not available, delay all tillage until spring. Untilled soybean stubble can control soil movement. "There is little to gain by fall tillage of soybean ground, but much to lose through soil erosion," Anemiyia said.

Following corn: Operate a chisel or disk so that the soil is left as rough and with as much residue on the surface as possible. Work sloping land on the contour.

A disk is not as effective as a chisel for erosion control because it buries more residue. But disking is better than complete incorporation of residue as with a moldboard plow.

A chisel plow with straight shanks can leave as much of 75 per cent of the crop residue on the soil surface. With curved shovels, about 50 to 60 per cent of the residue will remain on the surface.

A disk will leave 25 to 50 per cent of the residue on the surface. All of the residue can be incorporated with a moldboard plow.

In general: Limit fall moldboard plowing to fields that have little erosion hazard. Plow the land rough, leaving some residue sticking out. Make no further

smoothing operations.

Plow gently sloping land on the contour. Do not moldboard plow slopes greater than 5 per cent.

When moldboard plowing level to nearly level land subject to wind erosion, leave unplowed strips about 25 feet wide for every 100 to 125 feet of plowed ground. The unplowed strips will serve as windbreaks.

Don't moldboard plow soils low in organic matter or soils with a high silt content. These soils tend to run together and will require spring tillage anyway.

Leave sandy soils untilled in the fall. They are subject to severe wind erosion if fall tilled.

The agronomist says that fall tillage spreads a farmer's

workload and permits early spring planting. Without some fall tillage, all field work must be done in the spring. Also, with some implements and on some soils, fall tillage can open up the soil and make it more receptive to fall and winter rains to build up soil moisture reserves.

On heavy-textured and poorly drained soils, it may be nearly impossible to delay all tillage until spring and still get the soil in proper condition for timely planting. Some fall tillage is beneficial under those conditions.

Anemiyia reminds farmers of the hazards of unnecessarily exposing soil over winter to possible water and wind erosion. Last season is a good example. Lack of snow cover and high winds caused much wind erosion early in 1976.

Most of the blowing soil came from fields that had been disked or moldboard plowed the previous fall, especially on land that had been in soybeans. Following that, heavy spring rains caused water runoff and soil erosion.

Those situations can be avoided by following his suggestions for fall tillage.

Special education	12	11	10
Total Elementary	723	735	719
6th	150	149	151
7th	155	152	148
8th	147	146	158
Special education	12	5	0
Total Middle School	457	452	457
9th	172	164	149
10th	156	153	167
11th	156	151	155
12th	149	145	151
Special Education	7	11	0
Total High School	640	624	622
Total enrollment	1,820	1,811	1,798
Special education	3	4	5
(Outside of district)			
Composite total	1,823	1,815	1,803

Conservation tour Monday

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District is hosting a tour of Monroe County farms Monday afternoon, showing the soil conservation practices on approximately 10 farms in the area.

The group will leave by bus at 4 p.m. from in front of Tony's Steak and Pizza House. The two-hour tour will include members of the Albia Rotary Club and the Albia Lions Club. Other interested individuals are also invited to attend.

The Peoples National Bank and the First Iowa State Bank will be hosts at a supper following the tour.

Soil conservation practices in Monroe County are featured in a 12 page tabloid Soil Conservation Week section in today's Union-Republican.

Sentence Lovilia robbers

The three men who pleaded guilty to robbing the Lovilia Office of the State Bank of Bussey on June 30 have been sentenced to seven-year terms in a federal prison.

Robert Ross, 21, of Lovilia, and Donald Burk, 19, of Marysville, were sentenced by Judge William Stuart in U.S. District Court in Des Moines on Monday.

A third man involved, Michael Laxson, 23, of Knoxville, received an identical seven-year term at his sentencing on August 23.

The three men were apprehended within 24 hours of the robbery and the money was recovered.

Fish hatchery opening in spring 1977

The Rathbun Lake Fish hatchery is expected to be open to the public by the spring of 1977.

The project of the Iowa Conservation Commission is estimated to cost \$5,500,000. It has been in partial operation since the summer of 1975.

The warm water hatchery is located on 375 acres directly below Rathbun Dam. Land is under lease from the Corps of Engineers.

Visitor related facilities will include an information center, aquariums for viewing warm water fish, exhibits by the Iowa Conservation Commission on the over-all conservation program in Iowa. The Corps of Engineers will also have displays giving information on Rathbun Lake.

A self-tour program will take visitors along glass enclosed walkways through the hatching and rearing areas of the hatchery. Tourists can also view the grounds and outside rearing tanks from an observation deck.

Outside will be a viewing pond with large fish. It will be a shallow pool with clear water.

Inside the facility will be a hatching area with a capacity of 200 jars for hatching eggs.

Each jar will hold around two quarts of walleye raw eggs or two pounds of catfish eggs. The two are roughly equivalent in volume.

Two quarts of walleye eggs would contain between 75,000 and 100,000 eggs. Since catfish eggs are much larger, the same volume would contain approximately 20,000 eggs.

Adjacent to the hatching area are 40 concrete rearing tanks which will be used mainly for catfish in early

spring.

The fish will be moved outside in May to circulating concrete rearing ponds. There are 20 outside ponds where the water is continually circulated at the rate of 400-500 gallons per minute. Each pond has a capacity for 40,000 fish.

Water for the facility is piped directly from Rathbun Lake. Before entering the hatchery, all water goes through a strainer. The water then passes through an aeration

apparatus where oxygen can be added as needed. From there water is pumped directly into the outside tanks.

Water going into the hatchery building after aeration goes through a liquid-solid separator, through sand and gravel filters and then passes through an ultra-violet light system. This clears the water and will practically eliminate fish disease problems in the hatchery. The system has a capacity of 1,000 gallons

per minute.

From this point the water can be pumped directly to the hatching area and inside rearing tanks or can go through a boiler system if heating is desired.

The building also contains an office area for administration. Included is a

Hatchery

Continued on Page 2



Hatchery biologist Andy Moore is shown with the control panel of the monitoring system located in the administrative office. If a malfunction occurs, an alarm is sounded and the panel can be checked to determine the problem and its location.

Study Iowa water quality problems

Iowans are starting to study their water quality, looking at the problems in water supply, and determining priorities on the use of the available water supply.

The study, including one being made in Monroe County, will culminate in a 20-year plan which will take effect in 1978.

A Monroe County Resource Coordinating Committee will hold a meeting Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Soil Conservation Service office at 148 Second Ave. W.

Membership on the committee is open to anyone willing to work on Iowa's water quality and problems for the next two years.

A Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 requires area wide water quality management planning for all areas of the country. It requires states to develop procedures assuring swimmable and fishable waters by 1983.

Gov. Robert D. Ray has designated the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality as the agency responsible for working with residents throughout the state in the planning and the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation is coordinating the nonpoint pollution study.

Conservation tour Monday

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Soil conservation practices in Monroe County are featured in a 12 page tabloid Soil Conservation Week section in today's Union-Republican.

Nov. 10, 1976

Here's a picture of conservation farming

Conservation farming in several forms is pictured in this photograph from the U.S. Department of Agriculture with terracing, contouring, and an inlet all pictured here. Obviously the season isn't fall as the farmer is cultivating his corn, but the terrain could have been any one of a number of places in Monroe County.



11-3-76



On a Monroe County farm

Soil conservationists urge fall plowing stop

Early harvest is leaving many farmers with some extra time on their hands before winter, and bringing a plea from soil conservation officials for farmers to use that time for something other than fall plowing.

"We can understand the fact that farmers get itchy in the fall to get some of their field work done, and that there can be some good reasons for fall tillage," says William Brune, state conservationist of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

"But climatologists tell us the probability is high for dry weather into the winter, based on statistical information from the past. The drought index is moderate to extreme statewide, and as of now we're 5 inches short of our average rainfall statewide. This condition makes wind erosion a real possibility this winter and next March, if we don't have soil protection," Brune says.

More than 10 per cent of the fall plowing in Iowa was already done by mid-October. Soybean harvest is nearly complete, and corn harvest is more than a third complete.

"One of the first things a farmer thinks about after harvest is being prepared for next year," Brune says. "We just want to keep pointing out the risks involved in leaving no protection for the soil."

"We recognize there are advantages to fall tillage and that it needs to be done on some soils," says SCS Agronomist John Maddy. "What we're saying is that there are alternatives to moldboard plowing. The moldboard leaves stalks on top of the ground for soil protection. A disk covers

some residue, but it's better than a moldboard plow."

Maddy says there's no yield advantage to fall tillage of soybean land, and that soybean land is best left undisturbed until the spring. Soybean fields and sandy soils are highly susceptible to both wind and water erosion.

"You need to leave at least half the residue on the soil surface," Maddy says. "That stops wind erosion, and cuts water erosion in half. Wind erosion will be the threat this winter but we're also concerned about water erosion next spring. Once

plowing has been done, it's too late to go back for erosion control for that season."

Chisel plowing, disking, or other operations should be done around the hill on the contour. Tillage paths made by the implements hold water that way, and otherwise could increase erosion up and down hill.

Soil Conservation Service officials in Iowa had issued a caution on fall plowing about a month ago, and say this additional reminder is to try to help prevent soil erosion similar to the past 3 years.

10-27-76



Cattle enjoy lush pasture

11-18-76

A Jackson County farmer looks at tillage practices and wonders about his soil

The following editorial appeared in the Maquette Community Press and was written by a concerned farmer, Bill Wentworth, who lives near Spragueville in Jackson County. Although his prime concern is basically soil erosion, the tillage practices that cause increased erosion also pose problems for wildlife. Cropfields that are fall-plowed not only expose the soil to erosion but bury potential winter food sources for wildlife. Growing or plowing into grasses, waterways not only increases erosion but eliminates needed wildlife cover. A crop rotation system involving row crops, grasses, and legumes helps reduce erosion and produce wildlife.

Individual farmers can determine their own machinery figures, but I believe we can all add another cost to the attempt to produce corn. There is no actual outlay of cash nor can anyone put an exact dollar and cent value on it. Just a trip or two over the field with a disc or cultivator and everything will seem to look the same as before. But it won't be the same, and likely it never will be as it was before.

Possibly in the long run, with all factors considered, this added cost may be the most expensive cost that many farmers will pay for corn production this year. It will not only mean reduced yields this year, but also reduced yields and increased fertilizer costs for years to come.

We live in abundance compared with the plight of millions and even billions of other humans. How many of

us appreciate this fully? How many of us realize that we live within the thickness of one step from a world that would be anything but abundant and pleasant?

To enter this world we would only have to take one short step straight down. If we were forced to exist on the surface of the earth one step down for just one growing season, I am sure we would much more appreciate the great natural resource upon which our civilization and affluence is built.

Obviously this resource is our topsoil of agricultural land. And also obvious is that the immeasurable expense to farmers is the soil erosion that is now so apparent around the countryside.

Topsoil depths vary in different areas. Some are many feet deep. But on farmlands that were formed under timber (such as most of Jackson County) the topsoil is a very thin layer. As the richer topsoil erodes away, the underlying soil is incorporated into the cultivated layer over a period of time.

Through the use of legumes, decomposition of plant growth and through fertilization, this underlying soil does increase in fertility. But this is a slow and expensive process and often the erosion takes place at a faster rate than the rate of increasing fertility.

Whatever the situation, wherever soil erosion occurs, the farmer is going to have increased fertilizer costs and reduced yields. It costs him both ways.

Farm machinery is getting bigger and bigger. Fields are getting bigger and bigger. Fewer farmers work more

and more acres. This trend will continue. And with this trend to farm more acres comes the expediency of ignoring soil conservation practices. Contouring and stripcropping takes more time and effort, so this practice is set aside in favor of farming more acres. But can this really be sound thinking? Can the farmer really gain in the long run when soil loss causes lower yields and increased costs for many years?

Today's machines can cover ground and it's not comfortable for any of us, with big machines or little, to work short rows. It is almost instinct to head for the other end of a field by the easiest possible route, regardless of the lay of the land. It never will be easier to do otherwise.

Certainly today the choice of conservation practices is with the individual farmer. Pollution laws may apply, but are presently difficult to enforce. Another certainty is that the topsoil that left this country is not gone. It is somewhere, much of it settling where other people live and play. Some of those people don't want that rich topsoil. They didn't ask for it and they are not going to be happy when they get it. In the past there was little they could do, but times are changing in more ways than just the size of farms and machines.

Maybe you don't have time for soil conservation today or at least you think you don't. Maybe you should. I can't believe that soil erosion as experienced in this area will be allowed to go on much longer without some rather severe laws enacted to try to control it.

If that day does come, you

will have time for soil conservation, for the Federal Government will very plainly show you where the strips go and where the short rows will be. I don't want that and doubt that you do either.

No conservation practice can completely prevent erosion on tilled land in the face of rains we receive during some years. But they can greatly reduce the rate of loss. This may be a good time to observe and appraise your own situation when you return to the fields and think and plan for future conservation practices while the choice is still yours.

One thing that puzzles me about this situation is this, I see the farmer of today as a dedicated, hard-working man, ingenious and resourceful, a gambler of a degree that would make most people flee. They know the properties of fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, planting rates, figure miles per hour, pounds per acre, and feed formulas. They are herdsmen, feeders, vets to a degree, repairmen, mechanics, farmhands, and managers.

"Dumb farmer" or "just a farmer"? Don't fool yourself. Farmers are among the most talented and versatile businessmen today. Their record of efficiency in production is unmatched by the rest of our economy.

What makes me wonder is how the farmer can be so aware of costs and factors in so much of his business, yet not apply this to the soil. How easily he lets this precious, irreplaceable resource escape him. The resource that in fact is the very basis for his livelihood and his way of life.



Farm pond in Monroe County



Terraces 'Prevent' Soil Loss

Rows of beans show the terracing of this field on the Debora Scribner farm about seven miles north of Albia. This type of crooked terrace is no longer built.

Now title outlet terraces enable farmers to plant across the terrace in a straight line.



Cattle Graze on Terrace

Some of the 80 Holstein cows in the milking herd of Price Bain who lives six miles north of Albia graze on his new outlet terrace constructed in cooperation with the Monroe County Agricultural Con-

servation Committee. On another terrace located to the east of this one, corn is planted across the terrace. In the background the outlet pipe can be seen.



Little Strip-Cropping in County

One of the few strip-cropped field in Monroe County is on a farm about five miles north of Albia owned by Dr. Dean

Stocker, local veterinarian. The field is strip-cropped with orchard grass and grain sorghum.

Wind damage possible on 7.5 million acres

Dust storms like those in Kansas and Oklahoma last week have not occurred in Iowa, but there's a possibility they could, according to figures released today by the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

The agency made a survey of all Iowa Soil Conservation Service offices, and estimates that 7,557,000 acres of Iowa land are susceptible to wind erosion. "Most of that land was plowed last fall, and nothing is left on the soil surface to protect soil from the wind," says William Brune, state conservationist for the agency.

"Actually, we had 8.5 million acres listed as susceptible to wind erosion last year at this time, so there's more cover on the ground this year than last. More farmers have used a chisel or disk, or

not touched their stalks this winter with a tillage tool," he says.

"But we're dry, and facing the month when Iowa gets its most wind erosion. March winds can cause problems with dry soil," Brune adds.

North-central Iowa again has the most potential for wind erosion. A 15-county area there has an estimated 2,600,000 acres susceptible to erosion. A 12-county area in northwest Iowa lists 945,000 acres susceptible; a 15-county estimate in northeast Iowa lists 958,000; 11 counties in west-central Iowa list 513,000 acres; 15 counties in central Iowa list 1,091,000 acres; 17 counties in southeast Iowa estimate 984,000 acres might be affected by wind erosion; and 14 counties along Iowa's southern border list 403,000 acres.

"There has been some freezing and thawing of the ground, and that makes the soil dislodge easier," says SCS resource conservationist Mervin Danielson. "It only takes a 13 mile an hour wind to move unprotected soil. There's been some blowing soil already this year in Iowa (SCS estimates 740,000 acres), but that's not from protected land."

Land with grass on it, or with enough cornstalks or bean residues covering it, won't be picked up by the wind. "Iowa farmers have done a lot in the way of leaving cornstalks and bean residues on the soil surface for protection," Danielson says. Last year, 7 million acres were planted by a reduced tillage system. That's in contrast to virtually no land planted that way 10 years ago.

SOILS DINNER TONIGHT
The annual district awards banquet of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District will be held tonight at 7 p.m. at the First Christian Church. Marvin Ross, director of the Mines and Minerals Department of the Iowa Soil Conservation Department, will be the speaker.

To survey farmers on conservation, water quality

A survey, seeking advice from farmers on soil conservation and water quality, is being made in the county by the Monroe County Resource Coordinating Committee.

Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the committee, pointed out that "this plan is being followed to improve the water quality in the nation's rivers. In Iowa and Monroe County this means the control of soil erosion and agricultural runoff, and non-point pollution."

Kaldenberg said that 70 surveys are

being mailed in Monroe County to a randomly selected list of landowners and operators. There will be no personal identification of individuals participating.

These surveys should be returned to the Monroe County Soil Conservation office, 14B Second Ave. W. They'll be used to advise the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation throughout the water quality planning process.

Others who may wish to participate in the survey can mail the survey form printed below.

WATER QUALITY FARM SURVEY

1. How much land do you own? _____ acres
2. How much land do you farm? _____ acres
3. Do you feel soil erosion caused by water runoff is a problem on this farm (s)? _____ yes _____ no
4. Do you feel there are water quality problems caused by erosion in your county? _____ yes _____ no
5. Are you satisfied with the quality of the water in your county or drainage area? _____ yes _____ no
6. How much of the land you own or farm has an active conservation plan prepared by the local soil conservation district? _____ acres
7. Does this plan accurately reflect the way you are presently farming this land? _____ yes _____ no
8. Do you follow fertilizer recommendations from soil tests on your farm(s)? _____ yes _____ no
9. How often do you have the soil on your farm(s) tested? _____
10. If soil conservation practices must be installed to improve water quality what source(s) of funds should be available? (Check as many as you like)
_____ federal funds _____ local funds _____ no funds
_____ state funds _____ other
11. What method would you favor for financial assistance to farmers in applying conservation practices? (Check as many as you like)
_____ cost-share what per cent? _____
_____ long-term low-interest loans
_____ no assistance
_____ other _____
_____ some form of tax incentive (please list type)
12. Do you favor an acreage set-aside program to allow conservation construction during the summer? _____ yes _____ no
13. If public money is used for installation of soil conservation practices should farm operators be held responsible for all maintenance of these practices? _____ yes _____ no

Soil conservation hearings this week

The U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee will hold field hearings at three Iowa locations March 25 and 26 to gather testimony on soil conservation problems, it was announced today.

Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa), the committee member who will chair the hearings, said hearing sessions will be held Friday, March 25, at Cumming, near Des Moines, and at Whittier, near Cedar Rapids, and Saturday, March 26, at Blue Grass, near Davenport.

Clark said the purpose of the hearings is to receive input from Iowa farmers, farm groups, conservationists and others on soil conservation problems, the effectiveness of current programs and the need for new program efforts. Various conservation measures being developed in Congress also will be discussed, he said.

Clark conducted similar hearing from the Committee last year in western Iowa.

The Cumming session will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon on the 25th at the St. John's Catholic Church. The Whittier session will be held from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. the same day at the Whittier Community hall. The Blue Grass hearing will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon the following day at the Blue Grass Community Hall.

Various groups and individuals are being asked to testify. Persons who have not received a formal invitation will be welcome to submit their views as well, either orally as time permits—or in writing.

The hearings will be open to the general public, and anyone with an interest in the subject is welcome to attend.

"We have made great progress in the area of soil conservation over the last 40 years," Clark said, "but we are still not using our soil as wisely as we must. These hearing are part of a continuing effort to develop the approaches needed to protect our soil resources from the intense pressures of today's full-production agricultural policies."

March 1977

Theme: 'If you eat you're involved'

Three United Methodist women are presenting four workshops across the state with the theme, "If You Eat, You're Involved in Agriculture."

The women are Mrs. Earl (Mardyll) Albertson of Albia, Mrs. Robert (Naomi) Christensen of Hastings, and Mrs. Paul (Ev) Farnham of Gowrie.

The closest workshop will be in Washington on March 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If there is enough interest, a bus will leave the Monroe County Farm Bureau office at 8 a.m. Bus fare is \$5 with payment in advance at the Farm Bureau office by March 23.

Luncheon reservations at \$1.25 per person will automatically be made for all persons with bus reservations, unless it is requested otherwise.

Persons providing their own transportation should make luncheon reservations with the United Methodist Church in Washington by March 23.

More information can be obtained by contacting Mrs. Albertson at 932-5377.

The bus will also stop at the Oskaloosa Central Methodist Church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. for anyone in that area who desires transportation.

Other workshops will be held in



Mrs. Albertson

Mrs. Albertson.

She said, "We feel these meetings are of the utmost importance to everyone if the family farmer is to survive as food and fibre are essential to life. We hope to reach 500 people by the end of our four days. Organizations all over the state are invited to come and work together. Hopefully we can fire up, instill, and enthruse them to go home to their own areas or counties and present workshops and get the word around."

The United Methodist Women's Family Farm Project is being sponsored all over the United States. The three Iowa women were among the 50 women from 29 states attending meetings in April, 1976, at Oklahoma City, Okla., and again in Dayton, Ohio in November, 1976.

The participants heard speakers such as agriculture consultant Roger Blobaum from Creston, Al Krebs, formerly of the agri-business accountability project, and agri-women's Laura Heuser of Michigan.

The purpose and concern of the

project is to help save and promote the survival of the family farm and the value it contributes to society, and to alert all to the hazard facing independent agriculture. It is also to encourage stewardship of land, water, energy and other resources in the light of world hunger and food shortages for the present and future generations.

Through the previous national conferences, the group of women discovered that they were very diversified throughout the states with crops, products and ways of farming, but had much in common in problems and issues.



Cherokee on March 28, Oelwein on March 29, and Anita on March 31.

The issues to be probed and discussed and ideas to solve them will be on land use and stewardship, tax reform and relief and structures, and farm income and consumer education.

Each person attending will be involved in all three areas for a one hour workshop.

The group is concerned about the land use laws and people who should be on the committees. Urbanization, strip mining, recreation areas, minimum tillage and loss of topsoil, water and pollution, new ways to produce and conserve energy, and ecology are also concerns pertaining to the issue.

Some of the issues to be probed are tax reform, new federal and state laws to be passed, inheritance, estate and property tax relief, and tax write-offs for corporations involved in farming.

Mrs. Albertson said, under structure we are very concerned about the take-over of corporate farming and the big brand name conglomerates and oligopolies in the food and fibre industry, and farm land ownership and control and the manipulation of it in many ways to benefit themselves instead of the consumer. She said already over 60 per cent of the land in Iowa and Illinois is operated by people who do not own it, and we must slow this down or do away with it and prevent it.

She noted that farm income is a major concern because of highly inflated prices of products we buy and the low prices for products and commodities which we sell with no bargaining or marketing power.

Mrs. Albertson said we believe consumer education is very important. By the end of 1975, 50 per cent of the American food supply was produced under corporate contract and by 1985, 75 per cent of our food will be under the control of the integrators, according to

FFA-SCS groups co-sponsor soil judging contest

On April 6, a soil judging contest was held on the Don Kepfer farm. The contest was co-sponsored by the sub-district FFA and the Appanoose, Lucas, Monroe and Wayne County Soil Conservation Services.

Albia entered 3 of the 26 teams competing in the contest. Larry Clark, Joe McDonough, Mike Fisher and Tim Wilberding finished fourth, Mark Maddy, Scott Maddy, Kevin Dunkin and Mark Long received 9th with Don Hollinrake, Dave Chance and Dean Lathrop finishing in 20th place.

Ninety-five members participated in the soil judging contest. Larry Clark received 235 points which gave him eighth place individual. Mark Maddy had 212 points for 18th place and Joe McDonough to 20th place with 206 points. — Albia FFA Chapter, Mark Maddy.

March 3, 1977

Soil Conservation banquet at First Christian Church

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District Awards Banquet will be held Monday, March 7 at 7 p.m. at the First Christian Church.

Marvin Ross, director of the Mines and Minerals Department of Soil Conservation will be the speaker. Ross represents William Griener on the Energy Policy Council and is on the Iowa State University staff as consultant to the Iowa Coal Research project. He will show a film entitled "The Last Pony Mine."

John Botts will give the invocation and Ollie Kaldenberg will give the welcome. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Sweet Adelines.

Raymond Vance will honor past district commissioners, and Keith

Edwards will also speak. Rita Gergely will be honored as the district speech contest winner.

Gary Peterson, president of Rotary, will present plaques to the Rotary soil conservation district award winners.

DeWayne Johnson will present certificates to the district award winners.

Tickets for the banquet may be purchased at the Soil Conservation District office at 14B Second Ave. West or from any of the following district and assistant commissioners: Ollie Kaldenberg, DeWayne Johnson, William McGrath, Albert Etcher, Raymond Vance, Bob McGinnis, Robert Putnam, Edna Wilson, Ed Mahoney, Steve Crall and Lloyd Clark.

Aug. 4, 1976

Emphasize soil, water resources

The wise use of land and water resources will be emphasized during Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa, Sept. 12-18.

"These resources are essential to maintain and enhance rural and urban standards of living and to maintain an adequate food supply," says Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University.

Soil erosion has been a big problem the past few years, he said.

Soil erosion prevention continues to be an important task of farm operators and Amemiya encourages farmers to select land use practices that reduce soil and water movement. On row crop land, he advocates such practices as contour farming, strip cropping, grassed waterways, diversions, terraces, and conservation tillage systems that leave soil surfaces rough and protected with plant residues.

On sloping land considered too steep for continuous row crops, the agronomist encourages crop rotations or conversion to permanent grass or grass-legume cover.

Soil movement by wind also can be a problem, especially on flat land. Amemiya suggests cropping and tillage systems that leave the surface rough and protected with a mulch of plant residue to reduce soil movement by wind.

Soil erosion by water and wind also can occur on land disturbed for non-agricultural uses. The same principles for controlling erosion on farmland also apply in such instances.

"If Iowa is to maintain its agricultural heritage and leadership, it can do so only by protecting its most valuable resource, the soil, from unnecessary degradation and loss. It is obvious that more emphasis must be devoted to this endeavor," Amemiya said.

May 19, 1977

Litter

While the Iowa Legislature was debating the litter bill, some residents of Monroe County were ignoring pleas to reduce litter. These pictures were taken along a rural road in Monroe County during the past week.



4-21-77



Trees for third graders

John Palmer, principal of Kendall Elementary School, presents Russian olive trees to four of the third grade students at Kendall. Each third grader in the Albia Community Schools (Kendall, Truman, Grant, Jefferson, and Kennedy), Eddyville, Blakesburg, and

Moravia schools were given trees Wednesday. The 253 trees were given to the students by the Monroe County Soil Conservation Service. From left to right are: Palmer, Jeff Kree, Bill Brink, Todd Ratliff and Laura Culbertson.

3-31-77

Soil judging contest on Don Kipfer farm

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District is sponsoring the Chariton Valley Soil Judging Contest, Wednesday, April 6, at 1 p.m. at the Don Kipfer farm south of Albia.

FFA chapters from Albia, Centerville, Chariton, Corydon, Moravia, Moulton-Udell and Seymour are planning to attend. The contest will begin promptly at 1 p.m. with the official placings and review of the soils at approximately 2 p.m. followed by the presentation of awards.

The district invites all interested persons to come and learn about soil, soil mapping, soil classification, soil interpretations and land use.

May 9, 1977



Terrace building

Larry Wilkin is having a number of terraces built on his farm five miles northeast of Albia. Mervin Ellison of Moravia is the contractor on the project which is

being built under the state cost sharing program. There will be four terraces constructed as part of the tile outlet terrace system.

Soil conservation work is off to early start

Soil conservation work got off to an early start in Iowa this year and soil conservation officials are predicting a good year for progress in the fight against soil erosion.

Keith Edwards, Monroe County farm planner with the Soil Conservation

Services, pointed out that in Monroe County so far this year a total of 22 terraces and diversions have been completed and two structures have been completed.

William Brune, state conservationist for the USDA SCS, said this week that "we're in the planting season now, so the terrace building has slowed down — but we had a heavy construction period this spring. The conditions were right for building terraces early this spring and if weather conditions are favorable this fall, we expect a big year in construction of soil saving practices and structures on Iowa farmland."

The dry winter left the soil so dry that contractors began building terraces in March this year. Usually, April is the month for beginning construction.

Last year, more terraces were built in Iowa than any year since the 1950's. SCS reported 2186 miles of terraces built in 1976 — enough to stretch from Sioux City to Davenport six times if laid end to end. Fremont County in southwestern Iowa, where more terraces have been built than any other county, was the state's high county again in 1976 with 140 miles of terraces built.

Brune expects this year to be similar to last year. "Some farmers have made

plans to build terraces in oat fields after harvest. Many others will wait until fall after their corn and beans are harvested, and the kind of fall we have will have a lot to do with how many terraces are built," he says.

But Brune concedes that even with a good year in conservation construction, much of Iowa's land remains unprotected against soil erosion. SCS is in the process of updating figures on how much of the land in Iowa is not protected — the agency expects to find that at least half of Iowa's 21 million acres of cropland are still not adequately protected against soil erosion.

"I'm not sure people understand what a tremendous job lies ahead in protecting Iowa's topsoil," Brune says. "For instance, we're looking at an increase in soybeans this year. Soybean land can be quite erosive. We've had a 5 million acre soybean increase in the state in the last 15 years, and this intensive row crop pattern increases soil erosion hazards. This land needs protection."

Conservation tillage, the practice of leaving last year's crop residues on or near the soil surface, is a farming method the conservationists hope will help solve the problem. Some form of conservation tillage was used on 7.1 million acres of Iowa cropland last year. "We hope that figure will increase this year," says SCS agronomist John Maddy. "The dry weather we've had this spring should have encouraged more farmers to try it, since conservation tillage helps save moisture as well as soil."

Both the terrace building and conservation tillage increases are good signs for Iowa's water quality programs.

"Sediment is our number one water pollutant by volume, and if we stop it, we stop much of our water quality problem," says SCS water quality spokesman Rollin Swank.

The SCS is working with the Department of Soil Conservation and soil conservation districts in the state to develop a "non-point" water quality plan for Iowa by 1978. The plan will be designed to pin-point sediment producing areas and recommend "best management practices" which can help stop the erosion.

Nov. 14, 1977



Jeff Talsky

Talsky is new soil scientist

Jeff Talsky, 25, is a new employee of the Soil Conservation Service. He will be working on the county soil survey as a soil scientist.

A graduate of Stephens Point University of Wisconsin, he has a major in resource management with a minor in soils and forestry. He is single and lives at 303 S. Clinton St.

Talsky is from Milwaukee, Wis., and was formerly a trainee with the Internal Revenue Service.

April 11 - 1977

Conservationists urging reduced tillage this year

Soil conservationists are urging farmers to consider cropping systems this year that will save moisture and soil. "The moisture we've received in March has topsoil moisture up, but there's still a lack of subsoil moisture," says William J. Brune, State Conservationist of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. "So we're asking farmers to consider conservation tillage, or reduced tillage, which saves moisture and soil."

Conservation tillage leaves corn stalks and other crop residues on the surface of the soil. It means fewer trips across a field, which saves fuel and time as well as soil and water.

"Good conservation tillage does not overwork the soil," SCS Agronomist John Maddy says. "The corn stalks on the surface act as an insulator for the soil, keeping sun rays from hitting it and drying it out. The stalks also help to protect the soil from the wind, leaving it

more moist and not as susceptible to wind erosion," he says.

The conservationists added that any tillage work done on the contour would also help to save moisture, by allowing more rain to soak into the ground.

"We're not telling farmers anything most of them don't already know," says Brune. "Because they've been the ones to try new systems, and many have been willing to try reduced tillage in the past few years. We're just saying this year the system could be especially important."

The agency's surveys show that last year about 40 per cent of Iowa's farmers used some kind of reduced tillage on 7.1 million acres of cropland.

Soils district honors 3 farmers, 2 teachers

Operators of three Monroe County farms, the landlord of another, two Albia teachers and The Albia NEWSpapers all received awards Monday night at the annual banquet of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

The sweepstakes award was won by The Albia NEWSpapers for their year-around support of soil and water conservation activities and their promotion of Soil Stewardship Week and Soil Conservation Week.

Sam Kool received the owner-operator award, Steve Kurimski the new cooperators award, and Dr. George Anton and Steve Crall the landlord-tenant award.

Two teachers in the Albia Community School District also received awards: Peg Haluska and Robert Putnam. Mrs. Haluska received her recognition for work in environmental and earth science, the paper drive by her science students, and the trip of these students to Chicago, as well as her work at the teachers camp and on field trips by her students. Putnam, an assistant commissioner, received recognition for his work on the speech contest and recruiting teachers for the conservation camp.

All received awards from the Monroe County Soil Conservation District and the three farmers honored also received plaques from the Albia Rotary Club, plaques presented by Gary Peterson, club president.

Kool, who received the owner-operator award, farms 540 acres on Iowa 137 in Pleasant Township. He has 330 acres of cropland and 130 acres in pasture and hayland with the balance in woodland pasture and wildlife. He has had contour farming, minimum tillage and 32 acres of pasture improvement. He's installed 6,246 feet of tile-outlet-terraces with 33 intakes and 18,000 feet of tile drainage to protect over 100 acres of row crop ground. This year he plans to install a total of 8,800 feet of tile-outlet-terraces. Kool feeds cattle and hogs.

Steve Kurimski, the new cooperators winner, has 660 acres in Cedar Township with a cow herd and he feeds cattle and hogs. During the past year he installed 4,500 feet of tile-outlet-terraces, 5,407 feet of tile and constructed 25 intakes to protect 75 acres of cropland. Kurimski also has three ponds and an erosion control structure on his farm.

The landlord-tenant awards went to Dr. George Anton and Steve Crall for

their conservation practices on the 240-acre Anton farm in Monroe Township. The farm includes 111 acres of cropland, 89 acres of pasture and hay with the balance in woodland. Contour farming is used with tile-outlet-terraces and there are three erosion control structures to reduce gully erosion. During 1976 7,300 feet of tile-outlet-terraces were built, with 7,700 feet of tiling for outlets and 24 intakes. All pastures are improved seedings. During the past year a total of 85 acres of cropland were protected from severe erosion.

At the meeting Monday night Marvin Ross, director of the mines and minerals division of the Department of Soil Conservation, spoke on the current energy crisis, outlining for the audience the necessity both for conservation of energy and a continuing search for new fuel sources. Ross also showed a film of the last pony coal mine in Iowa, a mine at Centerville which closed in the past several years.

Personnel from throughout the state, district and assistant commissioners and past commissioners were introduced. William Baltimore was honored as a long-time cooperator (since 1945) and DeWayne Johnson was

honored as an outstanding commissioner.

In commenting upon the work of the district during the past year Keith Edwards, district conservationist, reviewed a projection made by the district in 1959, listing the work which should be accomplished by 1975. The conservation needs analysis of that year showed that by 1975 Monroe County farmers would need:

31,000 acres of contouring (16,000 acres have been contoured).

663 miles of terracing (278 miles have been terraced).

75 miles of diversion terraces (97 miles have been constructed).

889 acres of grassed waterways (1119 acres are grassed).

1493 farm ponds (1553 have been constructed).

151 erosion control structures (147 have been built).

19,000 acres of improved seeding (61,000 acres have been improved).

976 acres of woodland planting (305 acres of trees have been planted and 1006 acres of woodland have been improved).

Edwards told the conservationists that 123,079 acres, or 45 per cent of the needed acres, have been adequately treated.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING ON APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO STORE WATER IN MONROE COUNTY, IOWA

Notice is hereby given that there are now on file in the Office of the Iowa Natural Resources Council, James W. Grimes Building, Des Moines, Iowa, applications from the Monroe County Soil Conservation District for permits to store water for erosion control purposes in Monroe County, Iowa as herein described.

Applicant requests a permit to store water in the maximum amount of 64.13 acre-feet at a maximum rate of natural runoff from 821 acres throughout each year on land owned by Raymond G. Romp in the E½ of the SE¼ and the W½ of the SW¼ of the SE¼ of Section 29, T73N, R17W, Monroe County, Iowa.

Applicant requests a permit to store water in the maximum amount of 67.09 acre-feet at a maximum rate of natural runoff from 610 acres throughout each year on land owned by Delbert G. Love in the W½ of the SE¼ and the E½ of the SE¼ of the SW¼ of Section 30, T73N, R17W, Monroe County, Iowa.

Applicant requests a permit to store water in the maximum amount of 63.83 acre-feet at a maximum rate of natural runoff from 618 acres throughout each year on land owned by Richard and Betty Chance and C. B. Findley in the SE¼ of the SW¼ of Section 19, the NW¼ of the NE¼ of the NW¼ and the NE¼ of the NE¼ of the NW¼ of the NW¼ of Section 30, all in T73N, R17W, Monroe County, Iowa.

Notice is further given that pursuant to 455A.18 and 455A.19, Iowa Code 1977, as amended, a public hearing will be held at 10:30 A.M., DST, on October 24, 1977, at the Office of the Water Commissioner, James W. Grimes Building, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time and place or at any adjournment, the Water Commissioner or his Deputy will take evidence by the applicant and any other person either in support of or in opposition to the granting of the permits requested.

Michael H. Smith
Deputy Water Commissioner
Oct. 3, 1977

June 13, 1977



Award winners

Top award winners recognized at the annual banquet of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Monday night received plaques from the Albia Rotary Club and certificates from the Monroe County Soil Conservation District. Gary Peterson, right, president of the Albia Rotary Club is

presenting a plaque to Sam Kool, who received his award in the owner-operator class. Steve Kurimski left, won the award for a new cooperator, and Steve Crall and Dr. George Anton received recognition in the landlord-tenant category.

June 13, 1977

Conservation week to be Sept. 11-18

Soil and Water Conservation Week for 1977 in Iowa will be Sept. 11-18, reports Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University.

Preventing soil erosion is an important task of farm operators, and Amemiya encourages farmers to select land use practices that reduce soil and water movement.

On row crop land, he advocates contour farming, strip cropping, grassed waterways, mulch tillage, terraces, and conservation tillage systems that leave soil surfaces rough and protected with plant residues.

On sloping land too steep for continuous row crops, the agronomist encourages crop rotations or converting the land to permanent grass or grass-legume cover.

Wind erosion also can be a problem. Amemiya suggests cropping and tillage systems that leave the surface rough and protected with a mulch of plant residue to reduce soil movement by wind.

Land disturbed for non-agricultural uses also is vulnerable to soil erosion by water and wind. The same principles of controlling erosion on farmland also apply for these areas.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO STORE WATER IN MONROE COUNTY, IOWA

Notice is hereby given that there are now on file in the Office of the Iowa Natural Resources Council, James W. Grimes Building, Des Moines, Iowa, applications from the Monroe County Soil Conservation District for permits to store water for erosion control purposes in Monroe County, Iowa as herein described.

Applicant requests a permit to store water in the maximum amount of 64.13 acre-feet at a maximum rate of natural runoff from 834 acres throughout each year on land owned by Raymond G. Romp in the E $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, T73N, R17W, Monroe County, Iowa.

Applicant requests a permit to store water in the maximum amount of 67.09 acre-feet at a maximum rate of natural runoff from 610 acres throughout each year on land owned by Delbert G. Love in the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, T73N, R17W, Monroe County, Iowa.

Applicant requests a permit to store water in the maximum amount of 63.93 acre-feet at a maximum rate of natural runoff from 618 acres throughout each year on land owned by Richard and Betty Chance and C.R. Findley in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, all in T73N, R17W, Monroe County, Iowa.

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Moines, Iowa, at which time and place or at any adjournment, the Water Commissioner or his Deputy will take evidence by the applicant and any other person either in support of or in opposition to the granting of the permits requested.

Michael H. Smith

Deputy Water Commissioner

Oct. 3, 10, 1977

10-3-77

10-10-77

35,000 Rathbun raised catfish in farm ponds

Approximately 350 private farm ponds in 70 counties were recently stocked with two-inch fingerling bluegill and channel catfish by the Iowa Conservation Commission. Over 350,000 bluegill and 35,000 channel catfish were released. The bluegill were produced at the Fairport Hatchery in Muscatine County and the catfish were reared at the new Rathbun Hatchery in Appanoose County.

Under the farm pond program, pond owners must first contact the local commission wildlife management biologist who checks the pond for suitability. Ponds must be at least one-half acre in size and free of fish. The ponds receiving bluegill and catfish this fall will be stocked with largemouth bass fry next spring.

While the farm ponds were receiving fish, 66 public lakes around the state were stocked with 140,000 large (8-10

inch) channel catfish. These two-year-old fish were raised to this size in the circular rearing ponds at Rathbun. Larger catfish were stocked to prevent heavy predation losses where fish populations already exist. To continue to provide quality catfishing in public lakes, commission fishery officials explained that catfish have to be stocked as these fish seldom reproduce in lake environments.

The commission also announced the following lakes will be stocked this fall with five-inch largemouth bass: 36,000 at Rathbun, Appanoose County; 5,000 at Lake MacBride, Johnson County; 2,500 at Lake Cornelia, Wright County; and 1,600 at Don Williams Lake in Boone County. These bass were raised at Rathbun on a pelleted diet. All of the small bass were fin-clipped so that biologists will be able to distinguish them from bass already present.

9-19-77

Land preservation policy groups set

Temporary county land preservation policy commissions have been organized in all of Iowa's 99 counties, according to Charles E. Donhowe, dean of university extension at Iowa State University.

The commissions were organized by the ISU Extension Service under the State Land Preservation Policy Act passed by the Iowa General Assembly at its last session. The law required organization of the county commissions by August 29.

There are a total of 921 commission members throughout the state, all of whom are locally elected officials — county supervisors, soil conservation district commissioners, mayors or council members.

The county commissions have two major functions, Donhowe says — to develop a suggested county land preservation policy and to make recommendations for a state policy. The commissions are to conduct three public hearings in each county to hear citizen's suggestions for these policies.

Initially, the commissions will review present county land use plans, policies, ordinances and regulations. They will also examine existing resources and growth trends of the county and identify state land use issues.

The commissions will elect one-third of their membership to attend conventions organized by congressional districts next April. The district conventions will elect members of the state policy commission.

Over-all intent of the new legislation is to develop a land preservation policy for consideration by the General Assembly through participation and recommendations of citizens and local government, Donhowe added. Specific goals of the policy will be to provide for the orderly use and development of land and related natural resources in Iowa and to preserve private property rights and prime agricultural land for agricultural production. County suggestions for the state policy are to be submitted by July 1 of next year.

9-26-77

Soil erosion causing water quality problem

Dewayne Johnson, chairman of the Monroe County Resource Coordinating Committee has received the statewide results from a survey of farm operator opinions concerning soil erosion and rural water quality.

This survey was conducted by the county resource coordinating committees in each Iowa county as part of Section 208 water quality planning required by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92-500). The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation assisted these county committees with this effort.

Seventy randomly selected farm owners or operators were polled from each of Iowa's 100 soil conservation districts. In the Monroe Soil Conservation District 17 people completed the survey. Over 2,500 completed surveys were included in the statewide total.

Statewide, the majority of people surveyed were satisfied with the quality of water in their home drainage areas. Monroe County respondents indicated, 7 to 9, that they were not satisfied with the quality of the area's water. Fourteen of these people indicated that they felt soil erosion was contributing to the pollution problem in Monroe County,

and 13 felt that they had a soil erosion problem on their own farm.

Statewide, 70 per cent of the people who returned the survey indicated that they felt soil erosion was causing local water quality problems, and 52 per cent felt that there were soil erosion problems on their own farm.

Survey results indicated that 93 per cent of the respondents felt that some type of government assistance should be available to farmers for erosion control to improve water quality. The most popular forms of assistance were cost-share funds and long-term low interest loans to farm operators for erosion control investments. Ninety-four per cent of Monroe County farmers stated that they thought cost-share assistance should be made available for water quality improvement. Also, 18 per cent indicated they thought a loan program would be desirable.

Results from these questions and others dealing with levels of cost-share assistance, conservation set-aside programs, soil conservation district cooperation, and other related areas can be reviewed at the Monroe Soil Conservation District office in Albion.

10-31-77

Soil survey of county commenced Thursday

A four-year effort to inventory all of the soil types in Monroe County officially commenced Thursday during a "First Acre" ceremony at Georgetown Conservation Rest Area.

State and federal conservationists joined city and county officials in the commemorative program marking a major update of the outmoded soil survey compiled in 1931.

The brief ceremony marked the first acre to be included in the Monroe County soil survey. The soil survey team, under the direction of Douglas Oelmann the soil survey party leader, will map all 277,760 acres of Monroe County. Gary M. Peterson, County Extension Director for Monroe County, stated that the soils inventory will be accomplished by the soil surveyors walking across all the land in the county and observing the characteristics of the soil and the soil patterns on the land. The information will be recorded on aerial photographs.

Peterson said, "Monroe County is the 75th county in Iowa to start a modern soil survey. Fifty-seven counties have completed soil surveys and 18 counties are currently being surveyed. Twenty-two counties have starting dates scheduled between now and 1982. Only 2 Iowa counties are not committed to a modern soil survey."

Peterson said that copies of each

photograph will be available in the County Soil Conservation Office. After the fieldwork for the soil survey is completed, all of the soil maps will be published in booklet form and copies will be distributed to county residents.

Conservation tillage meet to be Jan. 27

"Managing Tillage for Conservation" will be the theme of a conservation tillage conference announced this week by Lowell McCracken, chairman of the Pathfinders Resource Conservation and Development District.

The conference will be held Jan. 27, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ottumwa Coliseum.

The purpose of the conference will be to acquaint farmers with ways to more successfully use conservation tillage methods. It will feature talks by Iowa State University and Soil Conservation Service specialists, a champion corn grower and conservation farmer, and a discussion of tillage systems by a panel of farmers. Additionally, there will be displays of equipment and pesticides used in conservation tillage systems.

The conference is being sponsored by the Charlton Valley, Geode Wonderland and Pathfinders Resource Conservation and Development Districts, McCracken said. Other organizations assisting with the conference include the Soil Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Districts and the Extension Service.

Soil contractors workshop Feb. 20-24

A five-day workshop for soil contractors will be held at Indian Hills Community College Feb. 20-24.

This workshop is one of eight in the state sponsored by Iowa's Area Colleges, the soil conservation service and the land improvement contractors' association.

Insurance, laser beam tilling and underground utilities will be discussed on Monday, Feb. 20.

Tuesday's schedule is the design of bonding and soils. Wednesday's and Thursday's will be beginning surveying and advanced surveying and design. Records management, drainage law and septic tank installation will complete the workshop on Friday.

The fee is \$6 per day which includes registration and handouts. All sessions begin at 8 a.m. and will be held in Building 41 on the Indian Hills campus.

Enoch Weston, adult career education department chairman, is in charge of the workshop and may be contacted at Indian Hills Community College.

Plan water, soil resource long term use

A cooperative three-year planning effort to develop a long range plan for using soil and water resources of the Des Moines River Basin is just beginning. Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe Soil Conservation District, says the sponsors are looking for ideas from county residents.

Public meetings will be held throughout the basin area to identify local problems. The meeting in this area will be at the Brad Mar Restaurant, 107 E. Second St., in Ottumwa on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 10 a.m.

"Public participation is critical in the development of a long range plan of action," says Ken Kassel, leader of the Des Moines Conservancy District. He urges all interested parties to come and discuss their land and water resource problems.

After the problems are identified, alternate solutions will be developed during the 3-year planning period. Kassel says some of the likely problems are land use competition, soil erosion, lack of wildlife habitat, inadequate drainage, shortage of recreation areas and poor water quality.

The study is sponsored by the Des Moines Conservancy District, Iowa Conservation Commission, Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, Iowa Natural Resources Council and the Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Board. Contact your local Soil Conservation District for more details.



Corn growers

Top corn growers from throughout Iowa gathered at the Howard Johnson Motor Inn in Des Moines last week to be recognized by DEKALB AgResearch, Inc.—a northern Illinois-based seed company—for their outstanding yield

achievements in the company's Yieldmasters Club. Local members of this elite group of grain producers include (from left to right): Jerry Eames, district manager, with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Vance, Moravia.

McGrath, McCarty speak at national soils meet

William J. McGrath of Melrose and Charles A. McCarty of Centerville, chairman and executive director, respectively, of the Rathbun Region Resource Conservation and Development Committee, will tell of the work of that organization Tuesday at a national meeting in Anaheim, Calif.

The extensive presentation will be made at a convention of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts which is being held in Anaheim Monday through Thursday of this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Kaldenberg of Albia are attending. Kaldenberg is a member of the county commission.

In their illustrated presentation McGrath and McCarty are tracing the history of the four-county region, telling of the working together over a period of years to make Rathbun Lake become a reality, and then telling of the cooperative efforts of Appanoose, Monroe, Lucas and Wayne counties in many fields, including the development of the Rathbun Rural Water Association.

State soil conservation program cost is shared

Monroe County landowners investing in soil conservation measures can get cost-share assistance from Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, says Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

Iowa began its own cost-share program in 1973. State funds are used for permanent soil conservation practices and are administered through local offices of the soil conservation districts.

Landowners who voluntarily install conservation practices may receive 50 percent of the cost from the state program.

The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation oversees the program.

Applicants for assistance under the state program receive technical assistance from the USDA's Soil Conservation Service for layout and design of needed conservation measures.

Cost sharing helps pay for needed conservation work done on a voluntary and cooperative basis. Both landowners and the public benefit from measures installed, so they share the cost, Kaldenberg asserted.

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners have set priorities on terraces, erosion control structures and diversions for cost-sharing, but waterways, field windbreaks, tree planting and seedlings

of critical areas may also be considered for state cost-share funds.

Approximately 5 percent of the state cost-share funds is held in reserve in case of mandatory measures required by Iowa's Sediment Control Law. Under Iowa law, persons whose land erodes at a rate exceeding the soil loss limits set by their local soil conservation district can have a complaint filed against them by adjoining landowners receiving sediment damage.

The law requires 75 percent cost sharing be provided if landowners must install conservation measures because of a complaint.

Soil loss limits also apply to construction sites and nonagricultural lands, but cost sharing is not required on these sites.

Another portion of the state funds is used for watersheds above state-owned lakes. Lake Miami qualifies for special project status and is eligible for reserve funds plus those allocated to the local soil conservation district.

The soil conservation districts require a landowner to be a cooperater with the district before state cost-share funds can be made available for the voluntary and special project categories. In the 75 percent cost-sharing category where conservation practices are mandated, the landowner does not have to be a cooperater with the district.

The Iowa cost-share program has increased the application of soil

conservation practice on Iowa lands. If farmers are interested in this assistance they should contact the Monroe County Soil Conservation District office.

Applications will be accepted beginning March 1.

Silting, erosion create problems on Rathbun lake

—Reprinted from
Iowa Conservationist

Rathbun is a good lake, but not perfect. A good deal of soil is washed into the lake every year from the watershed. In addition, large sections of the shoreline are eroding badly, adding to the turbidity and siltation in the lake.

The bank erosion problem is accelerated by the fluctuating water level which is an integral part of any flood control reservoir. Turbidity reduces the phototrophic zone and results in less production of the lower forms of plant and animal life which form the basis of the food chain. It also decreases the ability of sight-feeding fish, such as crappie, walleye, and largemouth bass, to catch their prey. As the soil particles settle out they form a fairly tight clay substrate (bottom) that is unfavorable to insect life and largely unsuitable for nest building fish (bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass) or other game fish such as walleye. In addition, as this siltation occurs it can smother existing insects, as well as larval fish and fish eggs.

A number of organizations and agencies, including the Iowa Conservation Commission, Corps of Engineers, and The Rathbun Lake Association are concerned about this problem and are seeking solutions to it. Silt from the watershed can be greatly reduced by changes in farming practices. Silt retention dams would also be of benefit in reducing the amount of soil entering the reservoir every year.

Neither of these actions will take place "overnight" and a great deal more soil will be moved to the lake from the watershed before the problem is alleviated.

Possible solutions to the problem of shoreline erosion which have been considered include rip-rap, revegetation, and water level control. Revegetation has been attempted by planting of willow shoots near the water line; this has met with little success. Survival of the planted willows has been good, however, in the areas of major bank erosion both the trees and planting sites have washed into the lake during high water periods.

Rock rip-rap has been used in critical areas such as the dam and to protect roads and camping areas. This is an effective method for controlling shoreline erosion, but it is expensive and it will take a good deal of time and money before its remedy can be applied to any significant portion of the area of serious bank erosion along Rathbun's 180-mile shoreline. Water level control is not conducive to the management of this type of reservoir.

All of this leaves us with a problem and no immediate action. In the fall of 1976, we began installing reefs. These are basically a bunch of tires tied together and anchored in the water.

Breakwaters such as these have been utilized on the East Coast to protect facilities, such as boat docks, from the ocean waves. They are designed to give way to the waves and

they have the effect of reducing the force of the waves on whatever facilities or land happens to lie directly to the leeward. Their potential for reducing shoreline erosion was evident and plans were made to place some of these in Rathbun to determine the feasibility of large scale application in this water.

During the spring and summer of 1977, approximately 200 yards of breakwater were constructed and placed along the north shore of the main body of the lake. This is located off the south shore of Honey Creek State Park, one of the most serious and spectacular areas of erosion with raw clay banks up to 50 feet in height.

Scrap tires were gathered from service stations, junk yards, and tire dealers from a radius of about 50 miles around the lake. The tires were hauled to the Rathbun Fish Hatchery and subsections of about 20 tires were bound together utilizing 3/4-inch concrete reinforcing rod. These subsections were then taken to the lake and strung on a cable.

When a 50-yard section was gathered, the unit was towed to its destination in the lake and anchored. Ten foot of slack was left in anchor lines in anticipation of increased water levels which are inevitable in a flood control reservoir. The last unit was

Rathbun Lake

—Continued on Page 2

Tires serve as reef

Ja

Protecting Rathbun shoreline

Rathbun Lake

—Continued from Page 1

not put in place until September. The entire structure contains some 2,500 tires.

This experiment with artificial breakwaters as a means for controlling shoreline erosion and the resultant turbidity has shown the following to date.

The tire breakwaters as we have constructed them are inadequate to withstand the forces of waves generated at Rathbun. It will be necessary to construct a more rigid unit which will be able to ride on the slack anchor line without bowing and folding in on itself. It will also be necessary to use more or better anchors.

The artificial breakwaters do reduce the force of waves hitting the shoreline and theoretically should reduce the extent of erosion, however they have not been in place long enough to measure their effect in this respect. They do not reduce the waves to the extent that shore area turbidity is significantly reduced. In fact it appears that turbidity is greater behind the reefs. Perhaps the reduced wave action decreases the amount and speed with which soil particles are carried out to deeper water and deposited beyond the depth of the wave action. This does not necessarily mean that the long term effect would not be beneficial.

The breakwaters act as fish attractors. During the past summer gizzard shad spawned on the tires and numerous small fish (walleye, largemouth bass, and bluegill) were observed around the structures. There was some increase in fishing pressure around the structures and angling success was fair.

Material and equipment operation costs for the structures are reasonable, with the 200 yards costing under \$500; however, labor costs, as the units are presently constructed, would appear to run quite high.

Some questions remain to be answered regarding the use of tire breakwaters. The foremost question is how well these structures can withstand ice-out. Possibilities here include destruction of the structures on shore as the ice moves in or movement of the structures to deeper water if the ice should move out. It is hoped the tires, being black, will thaw out of the ice before it moves and any shift of the ice, in or out, will slide over the tires. Time

will tell. As previously mentioned, we have not yet measured the effect of the structures on shoreline erosion or determined what type of bottom will develop in the shoreline area back of the structures.

In addition to the floating breakwater, a more conventional type of bank stabilization is being evaluated. This method involves placing tires directly on the shoreline; the completed structure could be termed rubber rip-rap. Scrap tires were placed upright in approximately six inches of water. One or two layers of tires, lying flat, were placed between the upright tires and the bank. In theory the upright tires reduce wave action while the flat tires hold loose soil, gradually sloping and stabilizing the cut bank. The upright tires are held in position by a cable running through the center and tied to steel posts on each end. Approximately 100 yards of shoreline were treated in this manner during August and the effect will be evaluated during the coming year.

Material costs were less than ten dollars for the 100 yard section of "rip-rap."

As previously mentioned, Rathbun Lake is a flood control reservoir and by design has a fluctuating water level. The fluctuation is not as extreme as some, but is sufficient to create problems in the design or implementation of any bank stabilization program since whatever method is utilized must be effective throughout the potential 22 foot change in reservoir water level to be totally effective. This is one point that favors the use of a floating breakwater which would be effective throughout the span of water level change. This same fact makes it very difficult to anchor the structures adequately.

The use of tires on the shoreline as rip-rap is limited in its value at water levels over 2 feet above conservation pool level; however the brief history we have indicates that the water level will be below this elevation about 75 percent of the time. The fluctuating water also makes evaluation of results difficult since changes which occur may be viewed differently at various water levels.

Work will continue during the coming year to further develop and evaluate these methods of bank stabilization.

2-6-78

Hearing Feb. 9 on land use policy for county

The Monroe County Land Preservation Policy Commission will hold its third hearing on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in the courtrooms at the Monroe County Courthouse.

The commission is in the process of submitting to the state committee a land use policy for Monroe County. These hearings are an attempt to get input from the citizens of the county.

A number of statements have been received by the committee for their considerations. These considerations are as follows:

1. Agricultural land should be preserved for food and fiber production.
2. County zoning should be required through a local board upon completion of the county soil survey. Land should be zoned according to the recommended suitability as indicated in the soil survey.
3. Zoning restrictions should provide

for solid waste other than what the landfill will accept.

4. County zoning ordinances should restrict the construction of homes on agricultural land, based on the soil survey.

5. The state should restrict the annexation power of the cities.

6. All zoning and/or land use should be determined at a local level.

7. All incorporated towns should have zoning ordinances.

8. All green belts and recreational areas should be designated by zoning.

9. County and municipal governments should prohibit the sales of non-returnable beverage bottles and cans in order to prolong the life of landfill sites.

10. State law should prohibit construction of new nuclear power plants in Iowa to prevent contamination of land and water.

11. Transmission lines should not obstruct agricultural land but run along railroads or highways.

12. The development of flood plains should be prevented and the area used for future green belt development.

13. Development of watersheds to reduce flooding and erosion in areas below the watershed should be promoted.

14. All sewage should be recycled to a product of usable form.

15. All land for strip mining should be returned to its original state or better.

16. All liquid waste entering a reservoir should be treated.

17. Financial stimulation for mass transport should have priority over highway transportation.

Persons having some input to the committee on the above or other items should attend the hearing on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in the courtrooms.

March 13, 1978

Soil banquet is March 27

The Monroe County Soil Conservation Awards banquet will be held March 27 at 7 p.m. at the First Christian Church.

The Albia Rotary Club and Monroe County Soil Conservation District will present awards for outstanding achievement in conservation education, conservation leadership and conservation farming.

The program will feature a presentation given at the National Association of Conservation Districts convention at Anaheim, Calif. by William McGrath and Charles McCarty on the Resource Conservation & Development program in the Chariton Valley RC&D area.

Tickets may be purchased at the Monroe County Soil Conservation Office at 14B 2nd Ave. West or from one of the following commissioners and assistant commissioners: Ollie Kaldenberg, Albert Etcher, Bill McGrath, Ray Vance, DeWayne Johnson, Linda Lindgren, Mardyll Albertson, Bob McGinnis, Bob Putnam, Lloyd Clark, Steve Crall and Ed Mahoney.

2-9-78

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Albia Union RepublicWhere published Albia, Ia.Date of issue 3-30-78Sent by MonroeS. C. D. MonroeStationed at Albia, Ia.

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 (Other) ☐
 Feature (SCS) ☐
 (Other) ☐
 Editorial ☐
 Advertisement ☐
 Cont. matter ☐

APR 3 1978

20 applications for school post narrowed to 2

Establish Council on Aging

The Monroe County Council for the Aging has been established as a result of a merger of the Monroe County Home Health Association and the Monroe County Committee for the Aging.

The two groups have merged and will combine forces to work together for the needs of the elderly in the county.

Officers for the non-profit incorporated group were elected at a meeting Monday afternoon. Those elected were: Joanna Hess, president; Carol Sovern, vice-president; Virginia Ryan, secretary; and Nancy Henderson, treasurer.

DIRECTORS MEET—

Members of the board of directors of the Albia Chamber of Commerce will hold their monthly meeting Saturday at 6:30 a.m. at Tony's Steak and Pizza House.

Kauzlarich seeks representative post

Barbara Kauzlarich, of Rt. 1, Mystic, has announced her candidacy for the Democratic nomination for state representative in the 93rd District of Iowa.

Barbara is married to Leon Kauzlarich, they are the parents of three children, David, Mollee, and Lori.

Clean streets, mayor requests keep cars off

Mayor Bernard Carr issued a reminder today that cars should not be parked on the square or on the streets within one block of the square after midnight on Thursdays and Sundays.

Carr said that city crews will begin sweeping the streets at midnight on those two days of the week. Owners leaving cars parked in those areas during the hours of midnight to 6 a.m. are in violation of a city ordinance. Cars will be towed away at the expense of the owners.

Albia Committee composed

Morgan, Marvin Fine, P. Bettis and John Palmer selected six of the 40 applicants for interviews.

The six persons were interviewed during the past week and the list was cut to two persons.

Members of the committee are now in the process of visiting the communities of those two persons and will then make a recommendation to the board of directors.

There were no applications from persons currently employed in the Albia Community School district.

The Kauzlarich family are members of the Christian Church in Mystic.

Mrs. Kauzlarich is a former Democratic county chairperson in Appanoose County, and has served on the Appanoose County Central Committee and in various other positions for the past 20 years.

In making her announcement, Mrs. Kauzlarich stated, "I have been encouraged by my friends and associates to seek the House seat being vacated by John Brunow. I have always had an interest in holding public office. This will provide me with the opportunity to represent the people of the 93rd District. The counties in this district have special problems, and I believe my lifetime association qualifies me to speak out on those issues that affect our economy and human resources. I am prepared to devote my full time and energy to this office."

Until recently, Mrs. Kauzlarich was employed by the McGraw Edison Company of Centerville. The 93rd District of Iowa consists of portions of Wayne, Appanoose, Lucas, Clarke, and Monroe counties.

Security, sanitation, supervision and the cooperation of the sheriff drew ratings of excellent, according to the report of William J. Swassing, jail inspector for the Bureau of Community Correctional Services.

The physical conditions, safety, segregation and facility maintenance were rated as good. No items were rated as average or poor.

The following comments were

orderly with the paint finish in good condition.

When females are confined, the matron maintains a complete record of the individual.

Plastic has been installed on the inside of windows to conserve heat.

Expanded metal has been installed on the outside of all windows to help control passage of cold air.

Three meals a day are obtained from the hospital. The noon meal being served at the time of the inspection appeared to be of sufficient quantity and was pleasing to the sight and provided an appetizing odor.

The sheriff and city police officers have been moved into the former residence attached to the jail. With

greatly improved. Much easier access for the public provides better service, and much needed additional office space. One provides contact with both law enforcement agencies. All public agencies involved in the improvement are to be commended.

The installation of recessed light fixtures and door between the tank and security are still on the needed list.

The lock on a first floor inspection corridor door needs to be replaced. Caulking of window frames has not been completed.

The facility has a capacity for 12 male and one female adults. It also has a capacity for our juveniles with three for males and one for a female.

Coffee day nets \$203 for retarded

Coffee Day, the Iowa Restaurant Association's March 24th project to aid mentally retarded Iowans, was a statewide success according to Bob Loughman of the A & W in Albia.

Loughman served as the association's co-chairman for the 18th annual statewide Coffee Day with Wilma Kelly of the Monroe County Association for Retarded Citizens.

In Monroe County, \$203.70 was collected. Statewide results are still being tabulated.

Businesses participating were: Hess Drug Store, Rathbun House, Bluebird Cafe, Tony's, Tower Lanes, Lady Bug Beauty Salon, Shear Perfection, Gerri's Cut & Curl, Cindy's Beauty Hut, Sale Barn Restaurant, D & D Coffee Shop, Albia Doughnut Co., Smitty's Sandwich Shop, Albia Super Valu, Albia A & W and the Albia Dairy Bar.

Friday is last day for tax payment without penalty

Friday is the last day to pay property taxes without penalty. Taxes for 1977, payable in 1977 and 1978, become delinquent April 1. A penalty of one percent per month is added beginning Saturday.

Ruth Morgan, treasurer, said that the collector has been running about the same as last year. During March 1977, \$889,541 was collected for property taxes. Mrs. Morgan said that she anticipates collecting about the same amount during March this year.

As of 4 p.m. Tuesday, \$392,894.50 had been collected this month. Tuesday's collection amounted to \$69,882.92 of that total.

Taxpayers planning to make payments on Friday may find a long line at the treasurer's office.

Soil district presents awards at banquet

The annual Monroe County Soil Conservation district banquet was held Monday night at the First Christian Church.

William F. McGrath, chairman of the RC&D executive board, gave a slide presentation of the work of the RC&D.

Rotary Soil Conservation Awards were presented by Gary Peterson. DeWayne Johnson made the

presentation of the Soil Conservation District Awards. Billie Kaldenberg presented awards to the winners of the elementary and middle school art poster contest.

Richard James and Mary Coram were honored for their participation in a conservation workshop which they attended last summer at Strawberry Point. Miss Coram teaches at Kendall

Elementary School and James teaches science at Lincoln Middle School.

Other award winners were:

Albert Etcher

The outstanding Soil Conservation district commissioner is Albert Etcher. He was been a commissioner for nine years and has spent one year as assistant commissioner. Of his 626 acres, over 500 acres are currently

adequately treated. His conservation accomplishments include 8,400 feet of terraces, 8,850 feet of diversion terrace, one erosion control structure, three ponds and 300 acres of pasture improvement. Of the 265 acres devoted to corn production, 170 acres are contour and 5,280 feet of open ditch add 54,000 feet of tile drainage have been installed to increase production.

This farm also produces milk from 120 dairy cows and fatted cattle.

Etcher has been active in the work of the district. He served on organizational committees for RC&D and rural water, county conference board for soil survey, 208 non-point advisory committee and is currently helping draft the County Land Preservation Policy.

In the past year he helped with the

soil conservation activities of the Farm Progress Show, the fair booth, the operation a maintenance inspection for RC&D and attending regional meetings and

Soil district

—Continued on Page 2



Albert Etcher



Ray Gardner



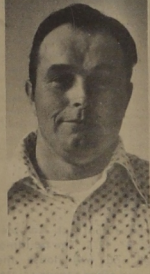
Dave McGrath



Stanley Bay



Delbert Low



Bill Van Polen



Alan Ammons



Mike McGee



Clifford Powers

Soil district award banquet

state conferences.

He has previously been given the Rotary Conservation Award.

Alan Ammons

The Rotary new cooperator award winner is Alan Ammons. He entered farming in the spring of 1972.

Ammons became a cooperator with the Monroe County Soil conservation district in December 1976. He plants 200 acres of corn and 100 acres of soybeans with 150 acres of hay and 150 acres of pasture. He operates a 100 sow farrow to finish hog operation and maintains a 50 cow beef herd.

He is currently developing a conservation plan with the Monroe County Soil Conservation district to protect his cropland from erosion and to install erosion control measures that will also provide livestock water for increased pasture utilization.

Ammons installed tile-outlet-terraces in the fall of 1976 and spring of 1977. He is also working closely with the district in providing information and experience in conservation tillage. He has used the buffalo-till-planter for 2 seasons.

Ammons participated on a farmer-panel discussion at the RC&D sponsored Conservation tillage conference in Ottumwa to share his knowledge of conservation tillage and the associated reduction of soil movement with over 300 farmers across southeast Iowa.

Mike McGee

Clifford Powers

Clifford Powers and Mike McGee are winners of the Rotary Conservation Award for landlord-tenant operations. The 289 acre farm includes 147 acres of cropland, 88 acres pastureland and 52 acres of woodland and wildlife. Grassed backslope terraces protect 90 acres.

Plans this year call for the construction of tile-outlet-terraces on the remaining cropland and improve 20 acres of pasture.

Ray Gardner

Our Sweepstakes Award winner this year was also our district entry in the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. Ray Gardner farms 515 acres in Bluff Creek Township.

Gardner entered into a long term agreement with the Monroe County Soil Conservation district and the Monroe County ASCS in 1974. The long term agreement is a cost-shared program that guarantees availability of cost-share funds for eligible practices to adequately control erosion.

Adverse weather prevented him from completing his 160-acre tile-outlet-terrace program last fall; however, he plans to protect 40 acres more in 1978 to complete his cropland protection in five years. He uses conservation tillage (chisel-disk-plant)

on the contour with tile-outlet-terraces on all of his 195 acres of cropland. He has renovated 281 acres of pasture and has improved nine acres with a new pasture planting. He has built three farm ponds for erosion control and livestock water and plans to complete three more.

Gardner has installed over 8,500 feet of drain tile to improve drainage and to reduce runoff and improve water quality when used with tile-outlet-terraces.

The important thing is that he developed a plan to adequately protect his land from erosion and has stuck with it. Today over 85 percent of his land is free of excessive soil loss.

Dave McGrath

Dave McGrath operates a 249-acre farm in Jackson Township. He has been a District Cooperator since 1945. His conservation work includes terraces on cropland and long rotations to minimize soil loss. There are adequate ponds to permit him to use good rotation on his improved pastures.

Stanley Bay

Stanley Bay farms 1,200 acres in Pleasant Township.

He has utilized tile drainage and terraces on the cropland to improve crop production. He also makes good use of the bottomland field for cropping.

A large portion of his farm is devoted

to pasture and hay.

Delbert Love

Delbert Love operates a 310-acre farm in Bluff Creek Township. He has shown his dedication to conservation for a long time. He started his conservation work in 1953. Since that time he has improved all of the pastureland, terraced the cropland, built one large gully control structure and a number of smaller structures.

Bill Van Polen

Bill Van Polen is the winner of the Rotary award for outstanding achievement in the owner-operator category.

Van Polen became a cooperator in 1969 and developed a soil and water conservation plan later that year. On his 320-acre farm, he is using tile-drainage and tile-outlet-terraces to protect his cropland. Since 1971 he has installed 33,576 feet of drain tile and 12,750 feet of the tile-outlet-terraces.

This adequately protects over 100 acres of cropland from erosion. He must believe tile-outlet-terraces are worth the bother since he tills and plants around 40 intakes and several grassed backslopes.

Crop insurance deadline is Friday on oats

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has announced that the final date for accepting applications for insurance on oats is Mar. 31, according to Thomas E. Hawks, Federal Crop Insurance director of the Des Moines region which includes Iowa and Missouri.

Hawks said that Mar. 31 is the final date for farmers who are presently insured who might wish to change their price per bushel election on oats.

Hawks said that the normal closing date for accepting applications is April 25 for corn in Iowa and Missouri and May 10 for soybeans. Federal Crop is offering a new \$2 price election on corn for the 1978 crop year. Requests for changes by policyholders cannot be accepted after the final closing date for corn, he said.

Farmers wishing information or desiring to make changes in their price elections should contact the Federal Crop Insurance office in Knoxville.

Talk housing for disabled

A meeting will be held tonight at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the possible development of group residential housing for the developmentally disabled.

A plan to establish a non-profit corporation to explore the possibility of obtaining this type of housing in Albia will be on the agenda.

The meeting is at the Monroe County Activity Center, 116 N. Second St. The public is invited to attend.



Construction started

Grooms Brothers Construction Co., of Ottumwa began clearing the site west of the Albia Community High School this week in preparation for the construction of the Career Center building. Grooms was the low bidder for the project which is being built

under a lease-purchase contract. Completion date for the building is Dec. 31, 1978. The building will contain 19,000 square feet and will house the vocational agriculture classes and other career-related classes.

Four year county soil survey is underway

A complete soil survey of Monroe County is now underway. The survey began in October 1977 and it is expected to take four years to complete the border to border survey.

The last complete survey was done in 1928, however there has been some spot mapping done since that time.

Doug Oelmann, a soil scientist, will be the party leader in charge of the survey for Monroe County. Prior to moving to Albia this month, he was party leader for the Marshall County soil survey. He has also worked in Poweshiek, Marion and Jasper counties.

Oelmann and his wife, Margaret, have three children, Jeff, 8; Jean, 7; and Jennifer, 3. They live at 416 S. Second St.

Oelmann said that approximately 4,000 acres were mapped last fall in the southwest part of the county. He said that the work will resume there and samples will be taken as soon as the frost is out of the ground. A 40-inch hand probe is used to identify layers of soil.

Oelmann stressed that they are not testing the soil but mainly identifying the types. He said that he expects to



Doug Oelmann

find from 50 to 60 different soils in the county. A five-foot boring will be taken

of each type found and it will be sent to Ames for analysis.

Soil scientists are making the survey to learn what kinds of soil are in the county, where they are located and how they can be used. They will likely locate many soils they already know something about and perhaps identify some they have never seen before.

They will observe the steepness, length, and shape of slopes, the size of streams and the general pattern of drainage, the kinds of native plants or crops, the kinds of rock, and other facts about the soil.

The soil scientists will dig holes to expose soil profiles. A profile is the sequence of natural layers or horizons in a soil. It extends from the surface down into the parent material that has been changed very little by leaching or by the action of plant roots.

Survey

—Continued on Page 2

Name soil conservation poster contest winners

Winners of the Soil Conservation Poster Contest have been announced.

Overall winners were Terri Smith, Patricia Flattery and Jay Leshen. Terri is a seventh grader and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith Jr. Patricia is also a seventh grader and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Flattery. Jay, a fourth grader at Jefferson, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Leshen.

Grade winners were: eighth grader Laurie Wynn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Main; seventh grader Cindy Slay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carlon Slay; sixth grader Vanessa Smith, daughter of Janice Summers; fifth grader Sandy Larson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Larson; Grant fourth grader Debbie Lindley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Lindley; Grant third grader Roger Lathen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lathen; Jefferson second grader Fred Zelhart, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Zelhart; Truman first grader Mary Ann Flahive, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Flahive; and Jefferson kindergartner Brenda Griffin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Griffin.

Steve Rohrs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Rohrs and a fifth grader, had the most original poster. Kennedy fourth grader Kimberly Edgerton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Edgerton, received honorable mention.

The winning posters will be displayed and prizes awarded at the Soil Conservation banquet Monday, Mar. 27, at the First Christian Church. Some of the other posters are being displayed in the windows of the First Iowa State Bank and Iowa Southern Utilities on the Albia square.

The contest was sponsored by the Monroe County Soil District Commissioners. All grade school and middle school students in the Albia Community School District drew posters.

Conservation group ok's park plan

Members of the Iowa Conservation Commission Tuesday in their meeting in Des Moines gave approval to the new master plan for the Honey Creek State Park on the north shore of Rathbun Lake.

The total cost of the new plan, adopted unanimously by the seven commissioners, is estimated at \$2.49 million with the first phase scheduled to start in the spring and summer of 1980.

The master plan has not been funded but a spokesman for the ICC said that a special appropriation for the proposed improvement would be asked from the Iowa Legislature.

Also approved Tuesday was the architectural style for an addition to the Honey Creek administration office, the shelter house and bathroom complex.

At the meeting Tuesday, Gary Cowan, owner of the new South Fork Marina, asked the ICC to consider a feasibility study on one aspect of the Honey Creek plan—construction of a full service marina in the Honey Creek area.

Night meeting scheduled for family farm seminar

A daytime session of the Family Farm Survival seminar Tuesday, March 28 at the Trinity United Methodist Church has been cancelled because of the death of a member of that church.

However the evening session will be held with the meal being served from 5:30 through 6:30 p.m. The seminar will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Persons having tickets for the daytime session can obtain a refund or can attend the evening session. Information can be obtained from Mrs. Earl Albertson or Mrs. Larry Wilkin.

Baby sitters will be available for the evening session if arrangements are made with Mrs. Wilkin.

Theme of the seminar is "If You Eat, You Are Involved in Agriculture".

Sponsors of the seminar point out the purpose is to save and promote the value of the family farm and preserve the values it contributes to society. The theme also encourages stewardship of

land, water, energy and other resources in the light of world hunger and food shortages for present and future generations.

Three seminars will be held during the day and during the evening and all participants will have a chance to attend all three:

Land Use and Stewardship conducted by Gary Peterson, county extension director, and Keith Edwards of the

Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

Estate Planning, Tax Reform Relief and Structures, conducted by Mearle Griffith of Earlham.

Farm Income, Financing and Consumer Education, conducted by David Dowdy of the Farmers Home Administration, and Mardyl Albertson, task force chairman.

4-27-78

4-6-78

3-6-78

Monroe County ASC convention is here Saturday, Dec. 17

The Monroe County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee will hold its county convention Saturday, Dec. 17, at the ASC office in Albia. It is scheduled to start at 10 a.m.

Results of the election of ASC community committeemen for 1977 were announced today by Lloyd Ammons, chairman of the Monroe County ASC Committee.

Farmers elected to the committee by townships include:

Bluff Creek—Gerald Peterson, Charles Scott, Melvin Bain, George Teno and William Van Polen.

Cedar—Jim Beary, Delbert Gray, Steve Kurimski, Charles Ryan and LeRoy Hogeland.

Franklin—Larry Derby, Pat Knowles, Richard Eastlick, Merle Prater and

Glen West.

Guilford—Walter Lahart, Don McCarty, David Flattery, Paul Silverio and Marvin Bickel.

Jackson—J. Eugene Walsh, David Heffron, Edward J. Ryan, John Lawless and James P. Coady.

Mantua—Bill Spaur, Wilbert Hoover, Robert Overmyer, Donald McGee and Max Lewis.

Monroe—Paul Koffman, Steve Crall, James Rogers, Don Robinson and Mike Tomlin.

Pleasant—Henry Fynaardt, Sam Kool, Bill Hynik, Robert Dykstra and Donald Teno.

Troy—Earl Albertson, Lawrence C. Amoss, William C. Trinkle, William Wynn and Harold Benson.

Union—James Henderson, John Blomgren, Leo Chance, James Bonnett

and Hal Miller.

Urbana—Herman Leffler, Vaughn Faber, Dean Grinstead, Arthur Townsend and W.D. Wilson.

Wayne—Robert Carr, J. Edward Murphy, Louis Scieszinski, John Francis Sinnott and Larry Scieszinski.

The ASC community committee chairman, vice-chairman and third regular member of each township automatically become delegates to the county convention. Alternate community committeemen become alternate delegates to the convention.

In the list above, the chairman of each township is listed first, the vice-chairman is listed second and the regular member is third. The alternates for each township are the fourth and fifth names on the list.

Soils dinner tonight will

honor farmers

Eight Monroe County farmers will be honored at the annual banquet of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Monday at 7 p.m. at the First Christian Church.

The awards will be by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District with DeWayne Johnson making the presentations and by the Albia Rotary Club with Fred McInnes, club president, making the presentations.

Announcement of the winners will be made at the banquet.

The program will be presented by Charles McCarty, project coordinator for the Resource Conservation and Development office in Centerville, and by William McGrath, chairman of the board of that organization. The program was presented earlier at the convention of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts in California.

A film "Patterns of Progress" will also be shown at the meeting.

The Albia Rotary Club, which for a number of years has made the presentation of soil conservation awards, will join the district cooperators for the dinner Monday.

Soil, water conservation week Sept. 17

Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa will be Sept. 17-23, reports Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University.

The observance will highlight the special efforts being made to conserve soil and water, two of Iowa's precious resources.

Preventing soil erosion is an important task of farm operators. Amemiya encourages farmers to select land use practices that reduce soil and water losses and minimize the entry of sediment, plant nutrients and other organic and inorganic material into streams and lakes.

On row crop land, Amemiya advocates contour farming, strip cropping, grassed waterways, terraces, and conservation tillage systems that leave soil surfaces rough and protected with plant residue.

On land too steep for continuous row crops, the agronomist encourages crop rotation, permanent grass or grass legume cover.

Wind erosion can also be a problem. Amemiya suggests cropping and tillage systems that leave the surface rough and protected with a mulch of plant residue to reduce soil movement by wind.

Land disturbed for non-agricultural uses is also vulnerable to soil erosion by water and wind. The same principles of controlling erosion on farmland apply to these areas.



'First Acre' ceremony

The "First Acre" ceremony signaling the beginning of a soil survey in Monroe County was held Thursday at 10 a.m. near the Georgetown Rest Area. Federal and

state officials were on hand to join with county and city officials as the first soil sample was made.

Rathbun 208 plan final hearing here Wednesday

Residents of the area have been invited to comment on a 208 Water Quality Management Plan proposed by the Chariton Valley Regional Services Agency which represents the four counties in the Rathbun Region.

A public hearing on the final report will be held Wednesday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m., in the courtroom of the Monroe County courthouse.

The plan, developed over the past two years, is designed to protect the Rathbun Region waste resources, particularly the critical area around Rathbun Lake. William F. McGrath of Melrose, representing the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, has served as chairman of the CVRSA.

Other local members have included Bernard F. Carr, D.W. Homerin and Ed Steinbach, representing the City of Albia, and Elmo LaMar, George Klobnak and James J. Crall, representing Monroe County.

The program was started to obtain solutions for anticipated needs in the Rathbun Region:

1. The need to provide adequate sewerage service for the developments around the lake.

2. The need to avoid sewerage problems among rural residents.

3. The need smaller communities might realize from joint operation and maintenance of sewage treatment plans.

4. The need to avoid pollution of Rathbun Lake and other lakes providing water for human consumption.

As a first step was the development of information on the land use, sewage, and water quality in the four counties, defining the problems and then seeking solutions.

At present more than 2,800 lots have been platted in approximately 20 subdivisions in 17 different locations around Rathbun Lake. Approximately 35 percent of the platted lots are on the Honey Creek Peninsula and 45 percent in the Lazy Daz development north of the Bridgeview area.

Slightly fewer than 40 percent of the lots have sewerage system utilizing "no

discharge" lagoons. The others are served by septic tanks, holding tanks "or a variety of good intentions to provide adequate sewerage service at some future time."

Soil Conservation Service surveys indicate only a small percentage of soil in the Chariton Valley Region is suitable for septic tank absorption fields.

The Appanoose County Board of Health adopted a Rural Sewer Ordinance and the avoidance of large scale problems from septic tanks has been credited to the administration of that ordinance and its enforcement.

The plan provides for development of sewage treatment facilities so that by 1995 all developments would be served by central treatment plans. Two regional treatment facilities are projected, one to serve the Lazy Daz area and the other the Honey Creek area. They would also offer service to Honey Creek State Park, the proposed lodge complex and other conservation and Corps of Engineer projects in the area.

The two projected facilities would be located north of the Iconium road.

The plan would rely upon a Zoning Ordinance to regular non-agricultural development, a subdivision ordinance, and a rural sewer ordinance.

A land use plan for the 150 square mile critical lake area would be developed.

Another concern of the 208 plan is the sewerage service for rural residents. The Rathbun Region has more than 5,000 residences outside of the incorporated areas or the developments around the lake. In region 14 of the incorporated towns have populations of less than 400 persons and none of these have municipal sewerage systems, most depending upon septic tanks in areas where soils are not suitable for such tanks.

The 208 plan seeks ways to make sewage treatment available for those individual residences or clusters of residences.

Three of the cities in the region—Albia, Centerville and Chariton—have mechanical treatment facilities while eight other communities have municipal facilities using lagoons or Imhoff tanks (non-mechanical). Plans for Mystic and Cincinnati recommend lagoons.

But the planners were faced with another problem. At the present time more than 90 percent of the pollution in Rathbun Lake comes from "Non-Point

Sources." This is drainage from the land surface and includes sediment from natural erosion, erosion due to farm operations, agricultural chemicals the decay of vegetable matter and other sources.

A study showed that cropland alone contributes more than 320,000 tons of sediment a year to the lake.

So a Soil and Water Quality Conservation Plan will be required of each property owner under a proposal and each farm would have one before being eligible for any local, state or federal cost share for soil and water quality conservation practices.

Members of the CVRSA have developed a step-by-step method of putting the plan into operation.

The three-year planning process has cost U.S. taxpayers \$325,000 (under a federal grant). It has involved several consulting firms, a full-time CVRSA staff, and personnel from the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Did it help solve the problems anticipated?

CVRSA members say the question can't be answered fully until the plans have been implemented. But the members feel that if the plans are implemented the answer from residences of the area 10 years hence will be "Yes."

That's the background and the plan on which residences of the Rathbun Region will have a chance to comment Wednesday night.

Or for those unable to attend the hearing, written comments may be made no later than May 3 to the CVRSA office, P.O. Box 839, Chariton.

June 22, 78

Soil and water conservation week will be Sept. 17-23

Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa will be Sept. 17-23, reports Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University.

The observance will highlight the special efforts being made to conserve soil and water, two of Iowa's precious resources.

Preventing soil erosion is an important task of farm operators. Amemiya encourages farmers to select land use practices that reduce soil and water losses and minimize the entry of sediment, plant nutrients and other organic and inorganic material into streams and lakes.

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Wind erosion can also be a problem. Amemiya suggests cropping and tillage systems that leave the surface rough and protected with a mulch of plant residue to reduce soil movement by wind.

Land disturbed for non-agricultural uses is also vulnerable to soil erosion by water and wind.

Ask public comment on land use policy

Land use policy

- | | Yes | No |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. Agricultural land should be preserved for food and fiber production. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. A county comprehensive plan should be required and administered by a local board upon completion of the county soil survey. Land should be planned according to the recommended suitability as indicated in the soil survey. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Comprehensive planning restrictions should not provide for more solid waste than what the landfill will accept. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Comprehensive planning ordinances should restrict the construction of homes on ag land, based on the soil survey. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. The state should restrict the annexation power of the cities. | _____ | _____ |
| 6. Comprehensive planning and/or land use should be determined at a local level. | _____ | _____ |
| 7. All incorporated towns should have comprehensive planning ordinances. | _____ | _____ |
| 8. All green belts and recreational areas and historical sites should be designated by comprehensive planning. | _____ | _____ |
| 9. County and municipal governments should prohibit the sales of non-returnable beverage bottles and cans in order to prolong the life of landfill sites. | _____ | _____ |
| 10. State law should prohibit construction of new nuclear power plants in Iowa to prevent contamination of land and water. | _____ | _____ |
| 11. Transmission lines should not obstruct agricultural land but run along railroads or highways and highways not go diagonal across ag land. | _____ | _____ |
| 12. The development of flood plains should be prevented and the area used for future green belt development. | _____ | _____ |
| 13. Development of watersheds to reduce flooding and erosion in areas below the watershed should be promoted. | _____ | _____ |
| 14. All sewage should be recycled to a safe usable form. | _____ | _____ |
| 15. All land for strip mining should be returned to its original state or better. | _____ | _____ |
| 16. All liquid waste entering a reservoir should be treated. | _____ | _____ |
| 17. Financial stimulation for mass transport should have priority over highway transportation. | _____ | _____ |

Other comments are encouraged.

Water quality plan study set for Wednesday

A discussion of a second draft proposal for 208 water quality planning in Iowa has been set for Wednesday, July 19 at 8 p.m. in the Monroe County Courthouse.

DeWayne Johnson, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, pointed out that Iowa has been required to develop a plan to control non-point sources of pollutants and that these include sediment and chemical runoff from all lands including farmland.

Development of the plan will be under the Departments of Soil Conservation and Environmental Quality.

At the meeting here Wednesday (a previous meeting on soil conservation is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.) the plan of the Department of Soil Conservation will be presented. The latter maintains that its proposal allows for a number of incentives and alternative pollution control devices.

Lack of public attendance at hearings on a land preservation policy for Monroe County has prompted the Monroe County Land Preservation Policy Commission to give residents of the county an opportunity to express themselves in another way.

The commission, with the cooperation of the Albia Union-Republican, is publishing in today's paper a number of statements on which residents of the county can agree or disagree. The commission is also inviting comments from residents of the county on the tentative policy statements which have been adopted.

The acts which provided for the development of a state land preservation policy was passed by the Sixty-seventh General Assembly and signed by the governor. The legislation requires the establishment of a temporary county land preservation policy representing the board of supervisors, district soil commissioners, and cities in the county.

Members of the commission are responsible for consulting with residents and developing policy statements which are in turn to be used by the state commission in developing a state policy.

Individuals who are interested in commenting or expressing themselves can fill out the blank with this story and return it to the Monroe County extension office. They may also add additional statements if they wish.

Ask public help on conservation problems in area

County residents are being asked for their opinions on the kind of conservation programs which should be offered in the future. Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, said.

"We're asking for public input in any form we can get it. One way is the public meeting scheduled for July 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Monroe County Courthouse. But we're also sending letters to heads of organizations inviting people to stop by the district office and doing whatever else we can to get opinions.

"We're asking people to fill out a worksheet to find out what they think are the most serious problems," Kaldenberg says. "For instance, they tell us whether they're more concerned about soil erosion and flooding than they are about the loss of prime farmland or wildlife habitat."

The Monroe County Conservation District will use the answers in formulating local conservation programs for the future. They'll also forward a summary to state and national offices of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. The information will be used with other county summaries to develop state and national programs.

It's part of the Resources Conservation Act of 1977, termed "unprecedented legislation" by conservation officials. The act requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture to use public opinion as well as scientific data to appraise natural resources on private land all over the U.S. every five years. In cooperation with local soil conservation districts, other resource agencies, and with public input, they must develop a five-year conservation program.

Churches plan services on soil stewardship

The annual loss of five million acres of rural land to non-agricultural use in the United States is a special concern during Soil Stewardship Week April 30-May 7, according to Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

This year's theme, "Compelling Ventures," also stresses the importance of controlling water pollution caused by runoff from unprotected farms, ranches, roadsides, and construction sites, said Kaldenberg.

Soil Stewardship Week is a nationwide observance which emphasizes man's responsibilities to protect and conserve soil, water and other natural resources. Traditionally, churches and local citizen groups participate.

Several churches are planning special services. These include: St. Paul's Lutheran, Trinity United Methodist, First Christian, First Baptist, United Presbyterian, Grace Episcopal, St. Mary's in Albia, St. Mary's in Weller, St. Peter's in Lovilia, St. Patrick's in Melrose, and St. Patrick's in Georgetown.

Kaldenberg said, "Nearly 3,000 conservation districts throughout the county will focus their attention upon conserving and preserving the America's best farmlands during this 21st annual observance." The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that of the five million acres annually lost to agriculture, nearly one million acres are classed as "prime" land.

"We are encouraging the preservation of these top-quality farmlands for farming rather than the indiscriminate use

for housing developments, highways, shopping centers, and the like," said Kaldenberg.

Soil stewardship committee members in Monroe County are all of the district commissioners and the assistant commissioners.

The 1978 reference booklet, "Compelling Ventures," and related materials are available to local churches and community groups in the county. Interested groups should contact the Soil Conservation office at 932-5076.

ON-RE

Thursday, April 5, 1956

Elect McGinnis District Commissioner

STUDY

that Albia must be the slum

Interviews with adults and children through the years, also some reports on community

and they've been indoctrinated that no future in Albia—that get away from home as soon

some students, too, that Albia is dedicated to the status quo

limited to the negative side, brought out in the survey —

Makes Report On His Trip To Russia

The Russian people may be stubborn, but they aren't stupid. And among them is a desire for peace that Herb Flambeck, farm director for WHO-TV and WHO-radio, Des Moines, believes sincere.

Flambeck was in Albia Tuesday night. He spoke on his experiences with the American farm delegation which toured Russia last summer, outlined some of his conclusions, and showed color pictures made on his 10,000-mile trip during 36 days behind the Iron Curtain.

He was heard during the annual Soil Conservation Banquet program at the Christian Service Center.

Flambeck said the men who dictate the policies of the Russian government cannot be trusted, but it was obvious he had formed a sincere liking for the Russian on the street and on the farm.

"I went to Russia with chips on both shoulders. I still cannot trust the Kremlin. But I have an abiding faith in the fact that the masses of Russian people will someday know the truth about their government, and about our great desire to live in peace. I do not think 200 million people—only 15 million of them members of the Communist party—

Give Awards To Farmers At Banquet

Rotary Plaques for Bonnett, Mellick And Wignall.

Bob McGinnis, Monroe township farmer, was elected to the board of Monroe County Soil District Commissioners for a six-year term here Tuesday.

Banquet at the Christian Service Center was followed by a banquet program attended by more than 150 men and women.

McGinnis succeeds Frank Bell, chairman of the board, who was toastmaster for the evening program. Other nominees were Clifford Holter of Pleasant township, Wayne Clark of Monroe township and Albert Elcher of Union township.

McGinnis is president of the Monroe county Farm Bureau.

The banquet program included presentation of awards, to outstanding soil district operators, a report on his summer tour of Russia by Herb Flambeck of Des Moines, and a skit on pasture renovation by John Botta, conservation aide for the Monroe soil district, and J. E. King, Albia banker.

The Albia Rotary club each year presents plaques to farmers who make outstanding records in soil and water conservation. The 1956 awards went to Kenneth Bonnett of Pleasant township, John Mellick of Albia, Cecil Wignall of Pleasant township and Vernon Wignall of Pleasant township.

Recommendations were made by Albert Mellick, member of the Rotary club's committee on agriculture. DeGruy reported that Bonnett has constructed nearly two miles of terraces on his farm, maintains grassed waterways and is building a pond.

Mellick's conservation practices include terraces, two ponds, grassed waterways and contouring, while Wignall practices strip cropping, has improved pastures, built terraces and ponds and grassed waterways.

Iowa Farm & Home Register Conservation awards were presented by Dale Barker, NCS farm planner for the district. They went to Herbert Phillips, operator, and Lawrence Livingston, owner, in the Southland-Des Moines division; to Manfred Derry in the owner-operator division; and to Lee Jones in the new district cooperator division. Phillips farms in Union township, Derry in Pleasant township, and

Continued on Page 2.



One of the large draglines in operation near Bussey.



An overburden drill and earth moving machine are operating near the dragline.
More pictures on Page 7

McConville coal firm began in 1897

Editor's note: The following is the second in a series of articles telling the story of the new strip mining operations in production in the northwest part of Monroe County and in the southern part of Marion County. Employment in the coal mining industry has jumped appreciably with miners, heavy equipment operators and truckers on jobs in the various mines.

By GRACE BUOL

McConville Coal Corporation is an independent family owned company dating back to 1897.

The company is headquartered in southern Marion County and is headed by Owen P. McConville III. It currently operates two strip pits in the Bussey area and plans to open a third one in late fall near Tracy.

The history of the McConville family in coal mining goes back four generations to the 19th century. In 1897, Edward McConville Sr. and his younger brother, John, purchased a small mine in Appanoose County where they began mining north of Centerville.

During the next few years, the company rapidly expanded and the company operated three mines, employed 400 miners and produced more than 100,000 tons of coal annually.

In 1907, the company name was changed to McConville and Sons Coal Co. The six sons of Edward Sr. were given jobs in different capacities. Owen P. McConville Sr. was appointed general superintendent.

Early in the 1930's, the McConville brothers moved north into Marion County where they began one of the state's first surface mining operations. By this time, third generation McConvilles were taking their places in the business and the new firm was called Dunreath Coal Co.

Owen McConville Sr. continued as general superintendent and Owen P. McConville Jr. served as officer of the firm's leasing operation, Marco Coal

Co.

That operation was eventually sold in 1950 to Sinclair Coal Co., a predecessor of Peabody Coal Co.

The tradition is being carried on today by the McConville Coal Corporation headed by Owen P. McConville III.

McConville said that the company has been in operation in the Bussey area for around three and one-half years and currently produces around 25,000 tons per month.

Two Manitowok draglines are being used by the company. Each has an eight-yard drag and carries 120 feet of boom.

Each of the draglines took approximately 1,000 man hours to set up at a cost of between \$50,000 to \$75,000. The draglines were shipped by rail and the first one was unloaded at the North D Street crossing in Albia. The second machine was unloaded in Lovilia.

McConville said that his contracts do not specify washed coal. However, he noted that washing has been considered and might be added later. The coal being mined now has from 2½ to 3½ percent sulfur.

About 15 or 16 acres a month is mined and reclamation of the land is carried on simultaneously with mining operations, according to McConville. He said the coal is down as deep as 75 to 80 feet and averages around 50 feet. The vein of coal itself runs about 30-36 inches.

McConville said that the company has long-term sales agreements and that he thinks the market will hold steady. He said that it really depends on how federal and state governments react to the energy crisis. He said that he feels coal is the answer to meet needs created by the dwindling supplies of natural gas and oil. He pointed out that utilities have little to say about energy sources because they are under federal control.

As an example of the federal regulation of the mining industry, McConville said that in 1976, it cost \$50 to obtain a mining permit. Today, he said that to open the same mine would be a minimum six month project and cost around \$100,000.

McConville Coal Corporation employs 67 people. Of that number, 48 are miners, 14 are exploration drillers and there are five staff members.

Coal from McConville mines is trucked all over the state of Iowa.

Two county seats open for soil commissioners

The terms of two Monroe County soil conservation district commissioners will expire at noon on Jan. 1, 1979.

Successors for William F. McGrath of Jackson Township and Raymond Vance of Urbana Township will be elected at the general election on November 7.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil conservation district, which is all of Monroe County including cities and towns, is eligible for election for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township.

The other current commissioners are Ollie Kaldenberg of Troy Township, DeWayne Johnson of Monroe Township and Albert Etcher of Union Township; therefore, residents of these townships are not eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination papers in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election except that no political party is designated. Nomination papers can be obtained at

the auditor's office in the Monroe County courthouse.

Nomination papers must be filed with the county auditor by 5 p.m. on September 13.

Individuals elected in November will serve a six-year term beginning Jan. 1, 1979. Soil conservation district commissioners serve without pay and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county.

For further information about the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the district office at 14B Second Ave. W. in Albia or call 932-5076.

Sign-up for cost share

Applications are being accepted now for the State-Soil Conservation Cost-Share funds for the current year.

Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, pointed out that a "definite sign-up period will be used this year" and that the sign-up started today (Tuesday) and will continue until the deadline on Friday, Feb. 2.

Applications for the cost-sharing funds will be taken at the soil district office at 14B Second Ave. W. Kaldenberg encouraged all farmers planning to install priority practices to sign-up before the Feb. 2 deadline. Priority practices this year include tile-outlet terraces and erosion control structures.

The cost-sharing program is the responsibility of the district commissioners which include Kaldenberg, DeWayne Johnson, William F. McGrath, Albert Etcher, and Raymond Vance.

Cost share sign-up by this Friday

Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, today reminded farmers that the deadline for the sign-up for state soil conservation cost-share funds is Friday, Feb. 2.

Applications under the program are being received at the soil district office at 14B Second Ave. W. Priority practices this year include tile-outlet terraces and erosion control structures.

Farmers who have not applied for these cost-share funds are urged to do so before Friday, Kaldenberg asserted.

Cost share funds help reclaim old coal mines

Landowners with abandoned coal mines on their land may be eligible for cost-share funds to reclaim the land for other purposes. John Frieden, district conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) at Albia said applications from landowners will be accepted at the SCS office beginning February 1. The sign-up period will last through February.

"Our first step is to see what kind of interest we have in reclaiming the land," Frieden says. "We're just starting into this program, and need an idea of how many people would be interested in reclaiming land. That will have an impact on how much money will be available in Iowa for next year and future years."

The cost-share money is available as a result of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. It provides for collection of money from current coal mining operations, to be put back

into land reclamation programs.

Owners of abandoned coal-mined land will be eligible for both technical and financial help. After the sign-up period, the Soil Conservation Service will assign priorities to the applications.

Highest priority will be given to sites where there could be extreme danger to the public from past mining activity. Second priority will be to protect public health, safety and general welfare from the adverse effects of mining. The Surface Mining Act requires that funds be spent on these priorities first; applications are being taken now for these cases. The third priority is to restore the environment where it has been downgraded.

The cost-share rate depends on how big the site is and on whether the reclamation primarily benefits the landowner or the general public. Highest rates are for sites 120 acres or under, where the main benefits are to the

public. The cost-sharing would be reduced on larger sites or where the land will be changed to an income-producing use such as cropland. Since reclamation costs are high, cost-sharing will cover 75 to 100 percent of the cost of the work. Frieden conceded, however, that there will not be a lot of money available through the program for this year.

When applications are approved, the landowners would sign contracts to do the reclamation work within 5 to 10 years. Work involved could include such things as land shaping; planting of trees, grass and shrubs; and building diversion terraces and sediment basins. The landowner would make a reclamation plan with SCS help.

Frieden said there are many more details to the program, and urged landowners to stop in the office in February to discuss the program and sign up.



County committee

Members of the ASCS county committee meet each Wednesday with the executive director to plan and review ASCS programs in the county. Pictured from

left to right are: Lloyd Ammons, chairman; Raymond Jones, committee member; Ron Parker, executive director; and George Kasper, vice-chairman.

County committee is back-bone of ASCS

The Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service committee system is the back-bone of the ASCS.

There are 36 township committeemen in Monroe County with three of those from each township. The township committeemen are elected annually for a one-year term by the producers in the county.

The township committeemen in turn hold an annual meeting to elect one member to the Monroe County committee for a three-year term. There are three members of the county committee with one elected each year so the terms are staggered. The township committeemen also elect the chairman and vice-chairman of the county committee. A county committeeman may only hold office for three three-year consecutive terms. The township committeemen from each township also have a chairman and vice-chairman.

Members of the county committee are: Lloyd Ammons, chairman; George Kasper, vice-chairman; and Raymond Jones.

Township committee members are: Bluff Creek—Charles Scott, chairman; Gerald Peterson, vice-chairman, and George Teno.

Cedar—Jim Beary, chairman; Steve Kurimski, vice-chairman, and Delbert Gray.

Franklin—Larry Derby, chairman; Richard Eastlick, vice-chairman, and Merle Prater.

Guilford—Joe Heffron, chairman; Paul Silverio, vice-chairman, and Walter Lahart.

Jackson—J. Eugene Walsh, chairman; David Heffron, vice-chairman, and Edward J. Ryan.

Mantua—Max Lewis, chairman; Wilbert Hoover, vice-chairman, and Bill Spaur.

Monroe—Steve Crall, chairman; James Rogers, vice-chairman, and Lloyd Morgan.

Pleasant—Henry Fynaardt, chairman; Robert Dykstra, vice-chairman, and Sam Kool.

Troy—Earl Albertson, chairman; William C. Trinkle, vice-chairman, and Harold Benson.

Union—James Henderson, chairman; John Blomgren, vice-chairman, and James Bonnett.

Urbana—Vaughn Faber, chairman; Raymond Vance, vice-chairman, and Herman Leffler.

Wayne—Robert Carr, chairman; J. Edward Murphy, vice-chairman, and Louis Scieszinski.

The county committee is responsible for making sure the county office operations are farmer oriented and that farmers receive good service. They give balanced attention to all program objectives, policies, benefits, requirements and accomplishments. The committee is to see that programs are carried out effectively, efficiently and impartially.

The Monroe County committee meets every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to review applications for farm storage loans, disaster and emergency feed applications, ACP applications and visits with producers wishing to discuss various matters involving any ASCS program.

Ron Parker, the county executive director, is employed by the county committee and is responsible for carrying out the committee's policies and decisions and keeping it informed on program developments and the operations of the office.

In general, the county committee along with the township committeemen, serve as a vital link between producers and the ASCS programs.

The following information gives a brief review of programs administered by the county committee in 1978.

The farmer-owned Grain Reserve is a program where producers agree to hold feed grains from the market for three years or until prices reach a certain level in exchange for a yearly storage payment. In Monroe County, applications were approved from 20 producers involving 138,241 bushels of 1977 corn and from 11 producers involving 90,177 bushels of 1978 corn. The total storage payment to these 31 producers amounted to \$57,104.50 for one year.

The disaster program is where a producer may receive assistance if he suffered a 40-percent loss of his established yield and was enrolled in the 1978 Feed Grain Program. Currently 68 producers have applied for assistance and to date, the county committee has approved 45 applications amounting to \$48,538.66.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is a program which involves practices that protect the soil and prevent or reduce the pollution of water, air, or land from agricultural or

silvicultural non-point sources.

Assistance when approved by the county committee is authorized to a certain percent of the actual cost to producers who would not be able to do the practice with their own funds.

Monroe County's 1978 allocation for the conservation programs was \$82,900. Cost sharing assistance was provided to 177 farms for nine types of practices.

They included: seedings for 83 farms at \$31,136, tile outlet terraces for 11 farms at \$16,865, conservation tillage on 62 farms at \$15,925, ponds on seven farms at \$9,557, erosion control on four farms at \$5,432, sod waterways on six farms at \$2,923, windbreaks on two farms for \$584, one spring at \$403, and strip cropping on one farm at \$75.

The allocation was not large enough for the county committee to assist all applicants and 107 practices had to be turned down due to lack of funds.

The Soil Conservation Service also assists producers in protecting soil and water by cost-sharing on practices necessary to correct various water and soil problems. In 1978, SCS assisted 23 producers for a total of \$31,833.69.

The Farm Storage Loan Program is available to producers who show a need based on two years of production minus any existing storage. Loans are made up to 85 percent of the actual cost of the structure and equipment at seven percent interest over an eight-year period. During 1978 the county committee approved 58 loans totaling \$437,891.90 for approximately 413,439 bushels of storage.

More information and details of the various ASCS programs can be obtained by contacting the office located at 10 Second Ave. W. The telephone number is 932-7134.

2-13-79

Monroe-Lucas tillage day is March 7

A Monroe and Lucas County conservation tillage day will be held Wednesday March 7 at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia.

The day's program is being sponsored by the soil conservation districts in the two counties, the extension service offices in the two counties and the Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development office.

Exhibits of planters, tillage equipment and interseeders will be a part of the program.

Julie Arment of the Ortho Division of Chevron Chemical Company will talk on "Chemicals and Conservation Tillage". Steve Johnston of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service will tell of the tillage field trials conducted by the Chariton Valley RC&D committee. Ernest Behn will speak on "More Profit from Less Tillage".

The lunch is free, though the complimentary luncheon tickets must be presented at the tour. Interested persons can obtain luncheon tickets at the Monroe County Soil Conservation office, 14-B Second Ave. W.

2-8-79

Assistance available for reclaiming land

The deadline for signing up for assistance in reclaiming abandoned coal mine land is Wednesday, February 28. John Frieden, District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, said that interested landowners should stop at the SCS office at 14 B 2nd Ave. W. in Albia by the deadline date.

Frieden said that a new federal program uses fees collected from current coal mining operations to help owners of land mined in the past reclaim the land for other uses. Up to 100 percent of the cost could be paid by the new program.

"No one is under any obligation by

signing up," Frieden says. "What it does is give us an indication of interest in the program." Frieden says high interest would help get funds for work in the future, while admitting that funds will be limited in 1979.

The reclamation work will involve such work as land shaping; planting of trees, grass, and shrubs; and building of terraces and sediment basins. After all applications are in, local and state committees will determine where funds will be spent first.

Frieden urged landowners with abandoned coal mines to stop in the office to discuss the program.

3-1-79

Tillage meet March

An all-day program on conservation tillage will be held in Albia Wednesday, March 7, at the Trinity United Methodist Church.

Complimentary luncheon tickets are included in the day's schedule but because of the necessity for advance arrangements, those wishing to participate in the tillage day conference and the luncheon have been asked to pick up the tickets at the Monroe County Soil Conservation Office, 14B Second Ave. W.

The day's program is being sponsored by the soil conservation offices and the extension offices in Lucas and Monroe counties and by the Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development Office.

The program will include an exhibit on planters, tillage equipment, and interseeders.

Steve Johnson of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service will tell of the tillage field trials conducted by the Chariton Valley RC&D committee. Ernest Behn will speak on "More Profit from Less

tillage." Also speaking will be Julie Arment of the Ortho Division of Chevron Chemical Co., who will talk on "Chemicals and Conservation Tillage".

3-1-79

SCS proposes \$50 million for Rathbun area

Farmers in the six counties in the Rathbun Lake watershed might be eligible for 75 percent cost-sharing funds under the Rural Water Quality Act if a \$50 million request made by the Soil Conservation District boards in the six counties is approved.

President Jimmy Carter has submitted to Congress a figure of \$75 million for the United States in his budgets.

The \$50 million request from the six counties means that Lucas and Wayne counties would receive the major share since they have the largest number of acres in the watershed.

Monroe County has a total of 6,500 acres in the Rathbun Lake watershed and has proposed a program of \$966,063 with \$241,516 being the 25 percent share to be paid by the landowners and the balance from funding under the federal program.

The Lucas County request is for \$9,261,000 for the 75 percent and local funds would total \$3,087,000. Wayne County's request is for \$28,357,000 with \$7,089,000 in matching funds from landowners. The critical acres in Lucas County total

22,881 and in Wayne County 52,000. Lucas has a total of 89,648 acres in the Rathbun watershed and Wayne has 181,000 acres. Other counties involved include Appanoose, Clarke, and Decatur counties.

John Frieden, district conservationist for the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, pointed out that the request has been filed under Section 208 in order to attain "the 1983 water quality goals established by the Environmental Protection Agency for Rathbun Lake and its watershed."

Frieden pointed out that there have been 13 priority areas established in the state and the protection of the Rathbun Lake watershed has been established as the No. 1 priority.

"This does not mean that we are forgetting the other projects but these will come along in due time but the Rathbun Lake watershed has the top priority. It means that other areas in Monroe County will be affected as we get into the protection of the Des Moines River watershed," Frieden added.

The rural clean water act provides for

a 50-50 cost sharing in most cases but it does provide that the "Secretary may provide a higher percentage if he deems the circumstances warrant."

Section 208 is the same section that is raising problems for municipalities in the area. Chariton and Russell have serious problems with their waste water treatment plants as does the City of Albia which has been the subject of a suit by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Frieden pointed out that "while the request is based on the '208' program, the SCS is not a regulatory agency and in the administration of this program it is and will continue to be completely voluntary. We are offering the farmers an opportunity to cooperate and it will be their decision."

The water quality control projects concern themselves both with the pollution caused by the loss of soil and with "non-point" pollution from farm chemicals.

The project will be reviewed by the Area XV Regional Planning Commission at the board meeting Tuesday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ottumwa Industrial Airport.

3-13-79



Win art awards

Terri Smith, Tanya Twedt and Cindy Slay, right, were the overall winners in the art poster contest conducted by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District in the kindergarten through the eighth grades in

the Albia Community School District. Mardyll Albertson, an assistant district commissioner, presented the checks to the winners at the soil district dinner Monday night.

1-9-79
6-22-78

RC&D board conducting conservation field trials

7-79
3-13-79

The Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development Executive Board is conducting conservation tillage field trials in the Rathbun Lake four-county area.

Its objective is to demonstrate that conservation tillage has potential as an excellent erosion control measure on cropland.

Studies by the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality indicate that more than 90 percent of the pollution in the lake comes from "non-point" sources. (Non-point pollution is small and widespread, not readily identifiable).

The "208" study indicates that cropland alone contributes 320,000 tons of sediment per year to the lake. It is this sediment that carries most of the non-point pollutants to the lake, such as

agricultural chemicals and land nutrients.

The other 10 percent of the pollution comes from "point" sources. These are easily identifiable, such as industrial waste, municipal waste, etc.

The conservation field trials are aimed at controlling the non-point sources of pollution.

The RC&D board found that 65,000 acres of land need treatment to control erosion into the lake.

To control erosion by terracing the land, 19 million feet of terraces would have to be built.

However, that project would take over \$20 million and 271 years to complete.

Obviously, terraces are not the solution. The conservation field trials were chosen as an acceptable alternative.

The trials are designed to develop

systems of conservation tillage to control erosion as well as fertility, insects, weeds and diseases.

The benefits of conservation tillage include: it saves soil, moisture, fuel, time, labor; is energy efficient, equipment investment is lower, and allows farmers to plant earlier.

Over 300 acres are being tested under the program. Two hundred fifty-one acres are under an executive agreement between the RC&D board and the state, and another 70 acres are being leased from the Army Corps of Engineers at Rathbun Lake.

Two main categories of conservation tillage are being employed: the till system, and the no-till system.

Tours will be set up soon for area farmers to observe the progress of the field trials.



Soil survey

Jerry Harmon, assistant soil scientist for the Iowa Soil Conservation Service, and Thomas Fenton, professor of agronomy at Iowa State University in Ames, were in Monroe County last week to conduct a review of soil survey being done here. The survey was

started in October 1977 and to date 30,000 acres have been mapped. The completion date for the 278,400 acres in the county is 1981. Checking a soil profile in the picture above are: John Frieden, Jeff Tolski, Gary Lindgren, Doug Oelmann, Harmon and Fenton.



Soil district winners

These four men were recipients of certificates of recognition presented Monday night by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District. They received their awards from DeWayne Johnson, district commissioner. Recipients were, from left, Ron Clark of

Union Township, Robert Wilson of Urbana Township, Steve Strasko who farms in Pleasant and Bluff Creek Townships, and Carl Martin who farms in Jackson Township.

3-6-79

Sylvan Runkel to speak

Soil conservation dinner is Monday, March 12

Sylvan Runkel will be the guest speaker at the annual awards dinner of the Soil Conservation Service.

The dinner will be 7 p.m. Monday at the First Christian Church. Tickets are \$4 per person and may be purchased from any soil commissioner or at the Soil Conservation office. Reservations are requested by 5 p.m. Friday.

Soil commissioners are Albert Etcher, Ollie Kaldenberg, William F. McGrath, DeWayne Johnson, Raymond Vance, Mardyl Albertson, Bob McGinnis, Robert Putnam, Steve Crall and Ed Mahoney.

Runkel is a graduate of Iowa State

University with a major in forestry. After graduation, he worked on the Economic Land Survey in Wisconsin. Returning to Iowa he became assistant extension forester and then state extension forester.

He held that position until 1933, when he became the first superintendent of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Albia. In 1935, the Soil Conservation Service took over the responsibility of the CCC erosion camps and Runkel began his career with SCS as a forester.

He held this position until the outbreak of World War II when he enlisted as a glider pilot. During "D" Day, Runkel landed his glider behind Utah Beach in the Normandy France invasion. Forced to land in rugged terrain, he and his passengers were thrown

from the plane. He sustained injuries which kept him in hospitals for the next three years and resulted in the characteristic gait he now possesses. His injured knee, however, has not kept him from flying planes, driving cars and taking Scouts on wilderness backpacks in some of the most rugged terrain in North America.

Upon his return to Iowa in 1947, he became district conservationist in Ottumwa and in 1956 took over as biologist for the state until his retirement in 1972.

It was during that period that Runkel began his work in interpretive science with schools. He continues that activity today. For example, he was one of the first teachers at the Springbrook Teachers Camp. He is nearly booked for this spring season of outdoor classrooms, teacher training seminars and other activities.

Runkel has served as president of the Iowa Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society, the Iowa Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Iowa Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, Des Moines Audubon Society and has been chairman of the State Preserves Board.

He has also served on boards of The Nature Conservancy and the Iowa Academy of Science.



Rotary Club winners

The Albia Rotary Club started in 1946 to recognize farmers in Monroe County who have done an outstanding job in soil conservation. Receiving the awards this year were (from left) Tom Kaldenberg, James

Bonnett, John Blomgren, and Walter Gardner Jr. John Botts, right, represented the Albia Rotary Club in making the presentations.

'Natural communities can teach people communities'

"Natural communities can teach people communities," Sylvan Runkel, former biologist for the Soil Conservation Service, maintained in a slide presentation at the annual Monroe County Soil Conservation District banquet at the First Christian Church Monday night.

Runkel, who began his forestry and wildlife career as supervisor in the Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Albia 46 years ago, pointed out that the woods, marshes, and prairies are all natural communities with their own resources supporting plants, animals, and fungi.

He pointed out, too, that these communities maintain a natural balance which controls the development of various forms of life in those communities and limits the plant, animal and fungi life to what the natural community can support.

He also outlined for his audience the ways in which natural communities recycle and build of their resources.

Runkel, in his presentation, showed a number of his personal slides on various plants, animals, and fungi which help maintain this balance in the natural communities.

Following Runkel's presentation a number of soil conservation awards were presented.

Winning Rotary Club Soil Conservation District plaques were James Bon-

nett and John Blomgren, Tom Kaldenberg and Walter Gardner, Jr.

Bonnett and Blomgren were the recipients of the group job award. Working together to control a mutual soil erosion problem, the two constructed 4,500 feet of terraces. They used 4,000 feet of tile and 13 intakes.

Kaldenberg improved three different tracts totaling 460 acres. Improvements included 15,000 feet of tile outlet terraces, two water control structures, one pond, 15 acres of contour farming, 92 acres of contour strip farming, five acres of grass waterways and 80 acres of improved pasture and hay land.

Gardner owns and operates a 320-acre farm in Monroe Township. Conservation practices made by Gardner include 9,000 feet of terraces, 11,000 feet of tile, eight and one-half acres of grassed waterways, 104 acres of improved pasture, one erosion control structure, two ponds and three water control structures.

Certificates from the Soil Conservation District were presented to David Fynaardt, Mark Haselhuhn, Robert Wilson, Steve Strasko, Ron Clark and Carl Martin.

Fynaardt operates 222 acres in Pleasant Township. This includes 179 acres of cropland, 27 acres of pasture and hay land and seven acres in woodland and wildlife.

He has installed 5,000 feet of terrace

and 7,500 feet of tile.

Haselhuhn farms 160 acres in Pleasant Township. He has 123 acres of cropland, 53 acres of pasture and two acres in wildlife management.

He has constructed 17,000 feet of terraces, 14,000 feet of tile, one erosion control structure, two water control structures and has improved 10 acres of pasture.

Wilson farms 209 acres in Urbana Township. On 129 acres of cropland, he has constructed 8,000 feet of terraces using 6,300 feet of tile, two water control structures and two erosion control structures.

Of 80 acres of pasture and hay land, he has 62 acres with improved seeding. Strasko farms 120 acres in Pleasant Township and 160 acres in Bluff Creek Township. He has 146 acres of cropland, 113 acres of pasture and hay and six acres of woodland and wildlife.

Conservation improvements include 7,800 feet of terraces, 13,300 feet of tile, 550 feet of diversion terraces, one water control structure and three ponds.

Farming 246 acres in Union Township is Ron Clark. He has 126 acres of cropland with 3,600 feet of terraces, three water control structures and 10,000 feet of drain tile.

On 120 acres, he has 56 acres of bottom land crop ground with 2,100 feet of diversion terraces, 5,000 feet of drain tile and two water control structures. The other 64 acres of pasture has 56 acres in improved seeding.

Martin has a 320-acre farm in Jackson Township. He contour farms 135 acres. Tile-outlet terraces contain 6,700 feet of terraces and 2,550 feet of tile.

He has constructed two farm ponds and has five acres of grassed

Soil Conservation

—Continued from Page 1

waterways and 50 acres in improved pasture land.

Awards were also made to the winners of the Soil Conservation District Art Poster Contest.

Overall winners were three eighth graders at Lincoln Middle School. They each won \$12.50. The students were: Cindy Slay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carlon Slay of Lovilia; Terri Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith; and Tanya Tweed, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tweed.

EMR students winning \$6 each were Lavinia Conner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Conner; and Diana Beal, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Beal.

Top winners in grades one through eight received \$6 each. They were: first grade at Jefferson—Tim Kaldenberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kaldenberg; second grade at Jefferson—Ricky Flatery, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Flatery; third grade at Kendall—Terry Braun, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Braun; fourth grade at Jefferson—Gina Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Smith; fifth grade—Tim Nolan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nolan; sixth grade—Scott Blomgren, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Blomgren of Lovilia; seventh grade—Vanessa Smith, daughter of Janis Summers of Lovilia; and eighth grade—Jeff Flahive, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Flahive.

Doag DeBruin, an eighth grader and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Orlo DeBruin, won the special soil conservation award of \$3.

Earning \$3 for honorable mention were Jeanne Spaur, eighth grader and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Spaur; Janette Smith, seventh grader and daughter of Janis Summers of Lovilia; and Matt Tyrrel, first grader and son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tyrrel.

Soils dinner will honor 8 farmers

Eight Monroe County farmers will be honored at the annual banquet of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Monday at 7 p.m. at the First Christian Church.

The awards will be by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District with DeWayne Johnson making the presentations and by the Albia Rotary Club with Fred McInnes, club president, making the presentations.

Announcement of the winners will be made at the banquet.

The program will be presented by Charles McCarty, project coordinator for the Resource Conservation and Development office in Centerville, and by William McGrath, chairman of the board of that organization. The program was presented earlier at the convention of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts in California.

A film "Patterns of Progress" will also be shown at the meeting.

The Albia Rotary Club, which for a number of years has made the presentation of soil conservation awards, will join the district cooperators for the dinner Monday.

Conservation no-till tour is Monday

A conservation no-till tour is scheduled for Monday, July 16. It will start at 6:30 p.m. one mile east of Iaconum on the paved county road J-18.

A sign on the south side of the road will mark the place. It says, "Conservation no-till field trials."

The tour will be sponsored by the Soil Conservation Districts in the four counties of Lucas, Appanoose, Wayne and Monroe.

It will include results of chemical and fertilizer usage and those of using different types of machinery.

Along with corn and beans, switch grass has also been planted. There was no plowing or disking prior to planting.

At the end of the one-hour tour, refreshments will be served.



District cooperators

Mark Haselhuhn, Pleasant Township farmer, here received his award from John Frieden of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District. Looking on is David Fynaardt, also a Pleasant Township farmer, who received a comparable award.



Tillage conference

Ollie Kaldenberg is shown talking to the group of 120 persons attending the Monroe and Lucas County tillage day program held Wednesday at Trinity United Methodist Church. The program was sponsored by the

soil conservation districts and the two extension service offices in both counties and the Chariton Valley RC&D. Kaldenberg is one of the district soil commissioners.

120 persons at conservation tillage day

Approximately 120 persons attended a Monroe and Lucas County conservation tillage day Wednesday at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia.

The day program was sponsored by the soil conservation districts in the two counties, the extension service offices in the two counties and the Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development office.

Exhibits of planters, tillage equipment and interseeders were a part of the display. Dealers displaying equipment were G.B. Equipment Co., Henderson Implement, Monroe County Truck and Implement, John Whipple of Soil Services and Van Dorin Implement Co. of Moravia.

Julie Arment of the Ortho Division of the Chevron Chemical Co. talked on "Chemicals and Conservation Tillage." Steve Johnson of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service told of the tillage field trials conducted by the Chariton Valley RC&D committee.

The afternoon speaker was Ernest Behn, a farmer from Boone. He spoke on "More Profit from Less Tillage."

Strip coal mining not thing of past

June 22, 1978

Once Monroe County's largest industry, strip coal mining has recently experienced a period of renewed growth in the area.

Two mines are in operation in the county and no more are located just north of the county line in Marion County.

Three of the mines are shipping a combined 1,000 tons of coal from the area. By next year, when the fourth

mine begins actual coal mining operations, that figure is expected to reach almost 2,000 tons of coal per day.

However, instead of the ugly mining spoils that now are part of the landscape of southern Iowa, the land now mined must be reclaimed.

State and federal regulations state that open strip mine pits or "spoils" must be returned to their original condition. Many times, as shown by the Iowa

Coal Project's demonstration mine, the land can be of better quality after mining operations take place.

A look at three companies mining in the Monroe County area:

Star Coal Company

The Star Coal Company is in the process of mining 120 acres located four miles west of Lovilia.

The company has been shipping 500 tons of coal per day to Marshalltown and Muscatine for about three weeks. In Marshalltown, the coal is used by Iowa Electric Light and Power Co., while coal sent to Muscatine is used for grain processing.

Sixteen persons are employed at the mine, plus two coal prospect drillers and 13 truck drivers who haul coal. An estimated \$1.5 million of equipment is used in the mining process.

The company has a 20-year lease on the land it is now mining, but only expects to be working the land for about three years.

James Heyser, vice-president of the company, noted that "a long-term lease is necessary for a company to get a long-term contract buyer for the coal."

"Also, we can't mine all the coal at one time, anyway. Some coal is economical to mine by today's methods, and some is not. Maybe it will be economical by methods of 20 years from now, however."

The company has just started working the land, so no land reclamation has been done. Heyser said he expects the once pasture land "to be as good or better" after the strip mining.

An initial analysis of the coal shows that it has a relatively low sulphur content.

The coal currently being mined is part of a four-foot seam that was buried by 30 feet of cover.

It was the Star Coal Company that was in charge of mining operations at the Iowa Coal Project demonstration mine six miles east of Bussey. That mine will be officially closed Tuesday.

McConville Coal Corporation

The McConville Coal Corporation is the largest of the three companies, mining 2,000 acres at two sites. The larger of the two locations is two miles south of Attica; the other is one-half mile west of Bussey.

Twenty-two persons are employed at the two mines, but that figure is expected to hit 35 once the newly-opened Attica mine is at peak production.

Approximately 700,000 tons of coal per day are shipped from the Attica site, which has been open about 60 days. Another 150-200 tons are produced at the Bussey site, which has been worked for the past two years.

The coal is shipped to Pella for use at the municipal power plant there.

Equipment valued at \$3 million is used

at the Attica site, and Owen McConville noted. "You have to expect to go deeper to get the coal, so you need larger equipment, anymore."

The McConville company has leased several more areas of land in Marion County, and as McConville commented, "I can't see an end to it (coal production)."

Some of the land at the Attica site had already been strip mined before mining operations were renewed. The land has already been reclaimed. The old "spoiled" area is now pasture. The company plans to level off the land now being mined and keep its quality about the same or better than before mining operation began.

McConville noted that the company had "chosen these two areas because of its unusually clean coal for Iowa."

Which means the sulphur content is low, and "that's important anymore."

Highway 5 is the arbitrary dividing line for coal in Iowa. Usually you find your cleaner coal west of that line," McConville added.

The current strip pit at Attica is about 50 feet deep, but "that can range from 20-100 feet." The vein of coal being extracted is about six to seven feet deep.

Iowa Fuel and Minerals

The smallest of the three companies is the Iowa Fuel and Minerals Company which has recently started mining 34 acres six and one-half miles northwest of Lovilia.

Digging operations have just been underway for a couple of months and so far, "no coal has been mined," said Brice Dahm. "I doubt if we move any this year."

The company is concentrating on setting up the strip mine operations, digging the strip pits. This fall tests will be done on the coal and actual mining will begin early next year.

The land leased by the company was previously stripped in 1938, so that land will be reclaimed along with the soon to be mined areas.

"We hope to put the land back so the owners can grow hay or use it for pasture," Dahm noted.

"How long we're actually working here depends on how tough the overburden is," Dahm said. "We could be here anywhere from three to five years."

No market has been secured for the coal, as the company will wait until the first of next year before making any decision.



Digging the first cut



Strip pit is scene of several operations



Coal is loaded into trucks for transport

Oct. 2, 79



Dragline in operation

Landowners protected by reclamation laws

Editor's note: The following is the third in a series of articles about strip mining operations in production in the northwest part of Monroe County and in the southern part of Marion County. Employment in the coal mining industry has jumped appreciably with new mines operating in the area. The companies are required to operate under federal and state regulations.

By GRACE BUOL

Landowners are well protected under the law in the area of reclamation of land mined for coal, according to Jim Huyser of Star Coal Co.

He said that a mining company must be bonded to reclaim each acre mined. He added that the landowners have virtually no risk involved. Using a cliché,

Huyser equated the landowners' position to that of "Having their cake and eating it too."

He said that under the law, the mining companies must restore the land to a condition comparable to what it was before the mining was started or to a better condition.

Generally, Huyser said that coal land is not highly productive land and most of the time the land is not producing a cash crop. He estimated that it cost \$6-7 to reclaim the land for each ton of coal that is mined.

A plan showing contours and other steps to be used in reclaiming the land must be submitted and approved before a mining permit is issued.

In addition, Huyser said that the min-

ing companies are under tight supervision and are inspected once every two weeks by a state mine inspector. After the land has been reclaimed, the mining company is responsible for five more years.

One of the requirements in the reclamation process is that the top 12 inches of soil is removed and stockpiled for future use. The next four feet of clay and/or decomposed shale is put into another segregated pile. Material removed from depths of five feet or more does not have to be handled

Star Coal

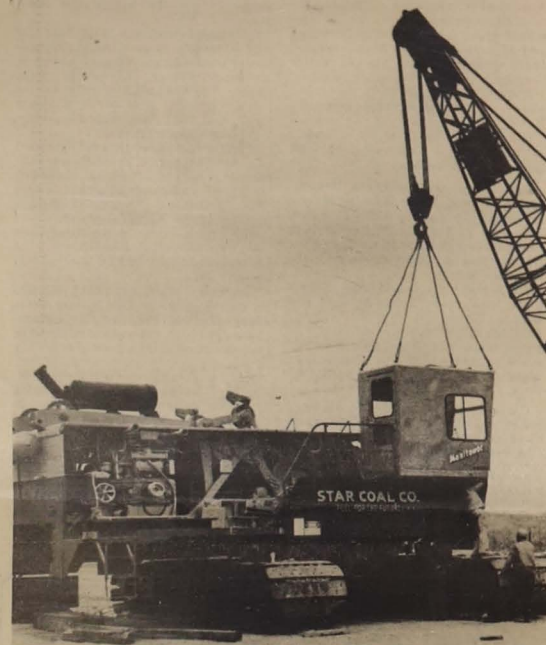
—Continued on Page 2



Coal here is near surface



Oct. 2, 79



New machine being assembled

Star Coal

Continued from Page 1

separately.

Huyser said that another control placed on mining operations concerns the discharge of water from the mine site. He said that companies must construct sediment basins and all water must pass through those before being discharged. Because of this, he noted that a mining operation has less soil loss than a farming operation on a steep slope would have from a heavy rain.

Star Coal Co. was mining in one area when the pit filled up with water. The water then had to be pumped into sediment basins before being discharged.

Huyser said that he believes the high cost of energy is not due to rip-offs by oil companies but is caused by interference by state and federal regulatory agencies. He added that he feels the control needs to be turned back over to the people rather than given to four or five persons in Washington.

He noted that Star Coal has filed suit in federal court against the Office of Surface Mining. He said the company is asking for an injunction to prevent enforcement of the federal law in Iowa regulating land reclamation. Federal law has 550 pages governing land reclamation for coal mining.

Huyser said the law suit charges that federal law is a duplication of effort of state laws. He also added that he believes the state has better inspections and the state inspectors are more knowledgeable of the area.

Star Coal Co. has been in the business of mining coal continuously for 35 years. It has had mines in Mahaska, Wapello, Marion and Monroe counties and was

the prime contractor for the Iowa Research Coal Project.

Star is currently mining west of Lovilia and began removing coal there in May 1978. Huyser said the company is now producing 18,000 tons per month. A new Manitowok dragline was delivered last weekend and is in the process of being assembled. With the additional dragline, production will be increased.

The company has 45 employees working on three shifts.

Plans are also in the hands of an engineering firm for a coal washing plant to be located near Lovilia. Huyser said the washing plant should be in operation by the first part of next summer. He said that one of the reasons for building the washing plant is because two of his sales contracts call for washed coal. He pointed out that washing the coal reduces the sulfur and ash content.

Iowa Coal Sales of Mystic handles the marketing for Star.



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Ray officially closes Iowa Coal Project mine

June 29, 1978

A project that started over four years ago was officially ended Tuesday in ceremonies headed by Iowa Governor Robert Ray.

Unofficially, the project continues. The Iowa Coal Project demonstration mine—the nation's first university owned research surface mine—got its start May 17, 1974, when Governor Ray approved a bill appropriating \$3 million to Iowa State University for its Energy and Mineral Resources Research Institute to conduct coal research through June 30, 1977.

Actual operations began July 16, 1975, on a 40-acre site seven miles southwest of Oskaloosa. Since that time over 110,000 tons of coal were strip mined at the site. The coal was treated at the Iowa Coal Project refining plant at Iowa State University and then marketed.

But you wouldn't know it today. The land has been reclaimed, as

state and federal regulations insist. Instead of ugly mine spoils (rugged landscaped and acidic pools), the area mined less than a year ago is now cropland.

After mining, all materials removed at the site were replaced and the mine spoils buried. The land was then terraced into cropland, or left as pasture, depending on its original features.

However, although the mine has been formally closed, researchers plan to continue environmental and agronomic studies until 1985. They will study the fertility and productivity of the land in the future. Additional funding for the mine has been acquired through June 30, 1979.

In ceremonies at the mine Tuesday, Governor Ray said that the project has shown that coal mines can be operated economically and with concern for the environment. Ray noted that coal is only one source of energy

for the future, adding commenting on the state's leadership in other forms of energy, with solar collectors planned for the statehouse grounds and the gasohol experiments now underway.

Dr. Lyle Sendlein, former assistant division chief of the project, noted that the mine had accomplished three things:

Iowa coal can be mined economically. The land mined can be reclaimed and put back to use as productive land. There is a market for Iowa coal.

Dr. Sendlein is now director of coal research at the University of Southern Illinois in Carbondale. Other speakers included: Iowa State University President W. Robert Parks;

Coal project

Continued on Page 2

Iowa Governor Robert Ray (left) looks on while Wayne Scholtes compares samples taken before and after mining operations.

New laws

Continued from page 1

Since farm assessments are only going up 2.5 percent in 1979, homeowners would have been required to pick up more of the tax burden at six percent.

The new law provides money in order to limit the home assessments to the same rate of increase as the farm assessments.

Coal project

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Robert Hansen, director of Energy and Minerals Resources Research Institute and Daniel Zaffarano, vice president of research at Iowa State.

After the ceremony, visitors got a look at soil samples from the farm before and after mining. Governor Ray participated in taking another sample.

Tours were also conducted, but limited to views from the road because of the heavy rains the night before. The weather was hot, and the governor shed sport coat and tie after the formal ceremonies.

A film showing highlights of the projects was shown while the tours were conducted.

A state guaranteed loan program was also approved for college students in the 1979-80 school year. The interest rate was set at seven percent with a maximum loan of \$2,500 for undergraduates and \$5,000 for graduates.

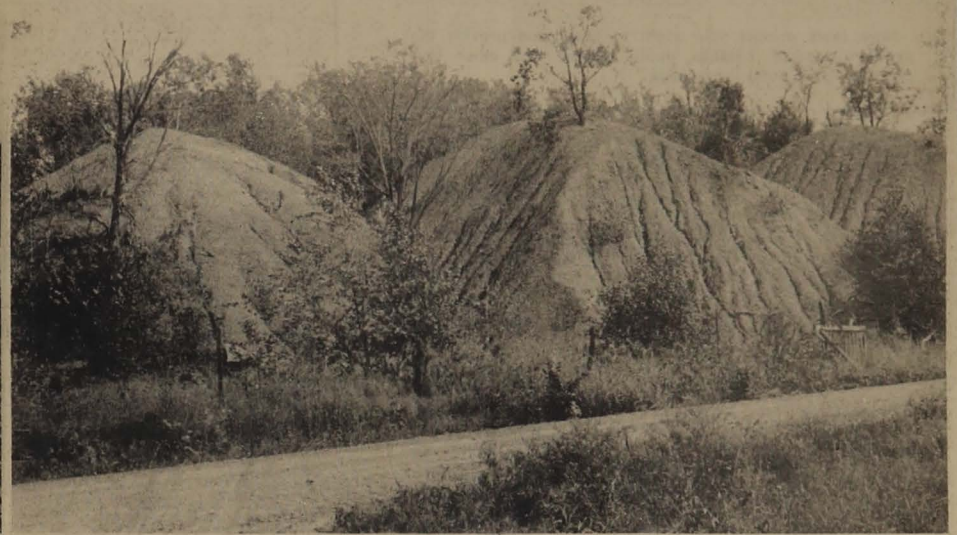
Private college students will find that the maximum amount available under the Iowa Tuition Grant program has been increased from \$1,300 to \$1,500.

Public employees retiring after July 1 and those retired before Jan. 1, 1976, will be receiving larger checks from the Iowa public Employees Retirement System (IPERS).

Those retiring prior to 1976 will receive up to \$55 per month increases. Those retiring after Saturday will receive a 10 percent increase.

If you want to celebrate New Year's Eve with a drink in a bar, a new law enables you to do so even though it falls on Sunday this year.

Under the law passed, bars will be allowed to stay open until 2 a.m. Monday, Jan. 1, 1979. Without the change in legislation, bars would have had to close at 10 p.m. Sunday.



Land reclamation

McConville Coal Corporation is reclaiming farm land as soon as the coal has been removed. Owen P. McConville III said that it takes an enormous amount of money to reclaim the land. However, he added that in

many cases the reclaimed land is in better shape than it was when mining operations were started. The area in the photo at the left was seeded last week. It stands in stark contrast to the area at the right where strip min-

ing was done in 1947. The two areas are adjacent to each other and are located near Bussey. The company has two strip pits operating near Bussey and plans to open a third one in the Tracy area.

Soil district has recreation report

The Monroe County Soil Conservation distributed a report this week entitled "An Appraisal of Potential for Outdoor Recreational Developments in Monroe County."

The report was the result of an appraisal of the potential for 12 kinds of outdoor recreational developments in the Monroe County Soil Conservation District. These included: Vacation cabins, cottages and homesites, camping, picnic and sport areas, fishing waters, golf courses, hunting areas, natural, scenic and historic areas, riding stables, shooting preserves, vacation farms, water sports areas, and winter sports areas.

Recreation developments receiving a "high potential" appraisal were: vacation cabins, cottages, and homesites, picnic and sport areas, hunting areas and golf courses.

Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District said

"This report was made possible through the cooperative efforts of many organizations and agencies including the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, State Conservation Commission, Albia Chamber of Commerce, Extension Service and the Monroe County Conservation Board."

Kaldenberg also stated that financial contributions were received from the Dues Chevrolet Co., Carriage Light Inn, and Trojan Products Inc. which helped defray the cost of publishing the report.

Rural water system 90% complete

Rathbun Regional Water Association rural water customers in the original four-county area should be served by the first of the year, if all goes according to schedule.

"Our initial goal was to give water to

everyone who wanted it in four counties—Monroe, Appanoose, Wayne and Lucas," noted Kenneth Owen, RRWA executive director.

"I'd say we're about 90 percent complete on that phase of it. We still have

some work to do, mainly in northwest Monroe County, a little in southwest Monroe, and some in Appanoose County," he added.

"We expect to have it all done shortly after January 1, 1979," Owen es-

timated. "With good weather, we'll make it—although it'll be a lot of work."

What started out in 1972 as a four-county venture has expanded into six counties—with Davis and Marion joining the list.

In December of 1976, the RRWA and the Davis County Water Association agreed to merge. "We still have about 90 percent of the work to do in Davis County," Owen said.

Also, the town of Maryville has been added to the long list of towns serviced by the RRWA, as water lines are being installed there.

There was once a possibility of expansion into Missouri, but Owen said that "We have no plans at the present time to serve Missouri residents, and it appears we won't be serving western Van Buren County, either."

Still, the RRWA serves 22 towns and has 17 water storage tanks in the area (four in Davis County are under construction). That adds up to over 35,000 people served by the massive water system.

Late last year the water treatment plant at Rathbun began operation. "We're still putting in some control panels," Owen noted. "The main control has yet to be put in—the heart of the water distribution network."

Rural water

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When the "heart" is installed, it will be possible to monitor and record the levels at all 17 RRWA water storage tanks. A radio signal from the plant to the towers will accomplish this feat.

Right now, the RRWA has a difficult time locating problems in the large area it serves. But with all the controls installed, that job will be made much easier.

"At the present time, all water is processed here at the plant," Owen said. Earlier in the project, water was purchased by the RRWA from five towns (including Albia) for distribution to its customers.

Water is taken from the lake and processed in the plant, then stored in the two high-service storage tanks at Moravia and Mystic.

From those two tanks, water is pumped to the other tanks in the five-county area as needed.

The RRWA is a non-profit organization, so it cannot accumulate funds, but as Owen sadly noted, "We're losing money every day right now."

That means an increase in water rates in the near future. It will be the first increase since the rates were set four years ago.

"We set the rates in 1973, and at that time they met our costs. But there's been an awful lot of inflation since then," he added. "Our costs of operating and providing service are constantly increasing."

"We hate to contribute to it (inflation), but we feel our customers want us to continue serving them."

The rates will be left at their current level until the RRWA completes an extensive study to determine what the increase will be. "In a couple of months we'll come up with what we think is a reasonable charge. But the longer we wait, the higher the increase will be," Owen said.

Another problem awaits RRWA attention also.

A recent Wayne County District Court ruling ordered the RRWA to relocate portions of its water systems in that county.

The Wayne County Board of Supervisors filed the lawsuit contending that the RRWA did not follow contract specifications calling for laying pipe 75 feet from the center of the roadway. The RRWA installed the pipe in 1975.

The RRWA was fined \$1,388.75 and ordered to remove or relocate the pipes within 30 days.

"It's impossible to comply with the judge's order," Owen stated. "We have no money or time to buy the materials to replace the lines. Even if we did have the materials on hand, we still couldn't finish it in the 30 days."

Owen said he expects the RRWA to ask for a new trial and if that plan fails, an appeal will be made.

"I suppose they could tear up the pipelines after the 30 days are up," Owen said. "If that happens, it could leave a lot of people without water for a good many years."

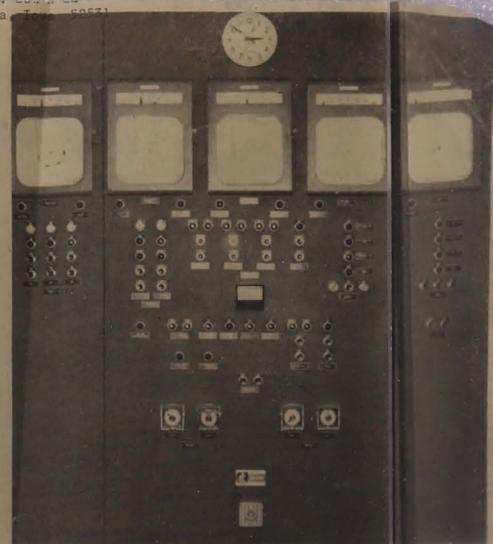
The area around the towns of Bethelheim, Humeston and Garden Grove, as well as some Rathbun Lake developments are serviced by the lines in question.

A formal dedication hasn't been set for the water treatment building, as Owen feels "it's more important to get the construction done properly. We'd like to get the entire system done first."

June 19, 1978



Water treatment plant at Rathbun.



Control panel monitors activities

