

Rejected by Supervisors

Soil Survey Travels Rocky Road

Efforts by the Ida County Soil Conservation District to introduce a soil survey to the county hit a snag last Thursday when the Ida County Board of Supervisors moved not to consider the survey at this time, saying that the cost-benefit ratio would not be great enough for Ida countians.

Donald Kauffman of the Ida Soil Conservation Commission said he is disappointed in the supervisors' decision, especially since the board made an earlier commitment to fund a survey. But the commitment, Kauffman said, was in the form of a letter to the state without any monetary promises attached.

\$64,000 NEEDED

The soil survey, being advocated by the Ida County Soil Conservation District, would cost a total of \$16,000 per township or \$192,000 all told. But the county would be responsible for only one third of the cost, or \$64,000, Kauffman said, and the state and federal conservation units would pick up the rest of the costs.

If Ida County were to apply for the soil survey now, the work would not be started until 1981, and the work would take at least three years, Kauffman said. The waiting list becomes more believable, Kauffman said, when one realizes that 51 counties in Iowa have completed a soil survey, 18 presently are being mapped and 20 more have committed themselves but are on the waiting list.

Ida County, then, along with Cherokee County, is one of those counties remaining uncommitted.

HELP IN PROPERTY VALUATIONS

"It doesn't necessarily mean it's right because everyone is doing it," Kauffman said. But the savings achieved by using the maps to remove any inequities in property valuations could pay for the survey eventually, Kauffman said.

The state is moving in the direction of using soil surveys in property valuations, Kauffman said, and if a county has such a survey completed, it is now required to use it for property valuations.

In reply to farmers who say they already have maps of their soils, Kauffman is quick to point out, "The soils haven't changed, but the understanding and interpretation of the soils definitely have."

If the soil survey were introduced to Ida County, federal officials would perform the work Kauffman said, with little time needed from employees at the local assessor's office.

The soil survey would eliminate

the need for costly professional appraisers and would eliminate any blunders made by local persons not properly trained to recognize different soils, Kauffman added.

BACK TO THE ASSESSOR

Although the supervisors have refused to allot county general funds for any soil survey, hope for Kauffman and his followers still remains with the county assessor's office, the other body in the county which could finance the survey.

But Ida County Assessor J. Wait Gailey has second thoughts about such a survey funded through his office. He says he would have to hire a full-time person just to implement the survey and oversee the mapping. "It would be more difficult for the assessor to pay for it than the supervisors," he declared. Gailey said his office probably would

have to levy an emergency fund to carry the burden of the cost.

And while he admits the soil survey "would help the overall picture of reevaluating the land" Gailey says he has had very little pressure from the farmers to introduce such a soil survey.

Valuation of property is "now a matter somewhat of judgment, and farmers know their land better than anyone else," Gailey explained. His office attempts to use averages in evaluating the property and recognizes a soil survey could satisfy some persons who come into the office to complain about the valuations.

Gailey grants that interpretations of the soil have changed since Ida county farms were last mapped, but he continues to have reservations, "I'm interested in it. I sometimes wonder if it would be worth the costs. It would take a while for it to pay off."

BUENA VISTA SURVEY

The ball started rolling for a soil survey in 1967 in Buena Vista County, but the survey was not completed until July 1, 1974, and became effective Jan. 1, 1975. Buena Vista County Assessor Les Gingerich reports the county's cost was \$32,000, which means the cost today has doubled.

In Buena Vista County, the cost was shouldered by the assessor's office, to the objections of Gingerich, who still maintains the survey should have been funded by the general fund since it benefits a wide spectrum of the public.

"I think it's a must," Gingerich says of the survey now. And he says he thinks he would still say that if faced with paying \$64,000 for the survey today.

"The assessment issue is just a side issue," the assessor says. The benefit of the survey to the

farmers in helping them farm the soil should pay for the survey, Gingerich concludes.

The Buena Vista assessor's office was forced to hire some extra help for three months during the introduction of the survey to the county.

So now, the issue of whether Ida County needs a soil survey is thrown back into the laps of the Ida County Conference Board, which sets the budget for the assessor's office. The Conference Board already discussed the issue during its first 1976 meeting Jan. 7, but no decisions were reached.

Having gotten the red light from the supervisors, members of the Ida County Soil Conservation District, including Donald Kauffman, and Ramon Johnson, Ida Grove, chairman of the local district, are sure to be staging an awareness campaign to let the Ida farmers know of any benefits to be derived from a soil survey.

Chester Challman Obituary

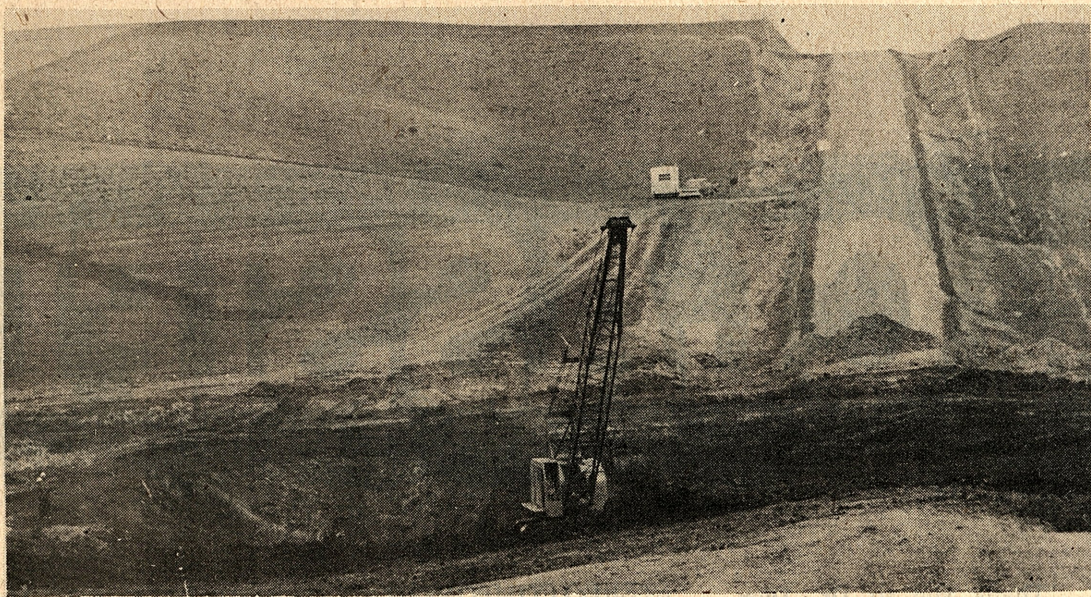
Memorial services were held in St. Petersburg, Florida for Chester C. Challman of Galva, Iowa. He is survived by his wife Mary, one son Chester, Jr., of Holstein, Iowa, a daughter JoAnna Challman of Duenweg, Missouri, his grandchildren Christopher and Rosemary Challman of Holstein, also three brothers, Glenn of St. Petersburg, Fla., Harold, Schaller, and Donald, Storm Lake., and three sisters, Hester Johnson, Alta, Violet Johnson, Schaller and Hazel Jacobson, Schaller.

He was born Nov. 23, 1906 to Sarah and Victor Challman, and was the youngest of nine children. On Dec. 26, 1927, he married Doris Bertha Bockwoldt. She passed away Nov. 22, 1954, and in May 1957 he married Mary Drumella. He passed away Jan. 26, 1976.

Chet was a great lover of the outdoors and a keen supporter of the Izaak Walton League, Ducks Unlimited, and many other organizations pertaining to Conservation and Wildlife Preservation. Several years ago he developed a wildlife habitat on his farm, this he fondly called the 'pheasant park', and it is here, in accordance with his wishes, his ashes will be brought.

A memorial fund has been established in his name for the Galva Library.

5-6-76
*Pioneer
Record*



THE BEGINNINGS OF CRAWFORD CREEK FUN---Work is continuing on the Ida County Crawford Creek Recreational Project south of Battle Creek as employees at Godbersen-Smith, who will be constructing the big dam, take advantage of good weather for work on one of the smaller creek structures.

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Box 87

Ida Grove, Iowa 51445

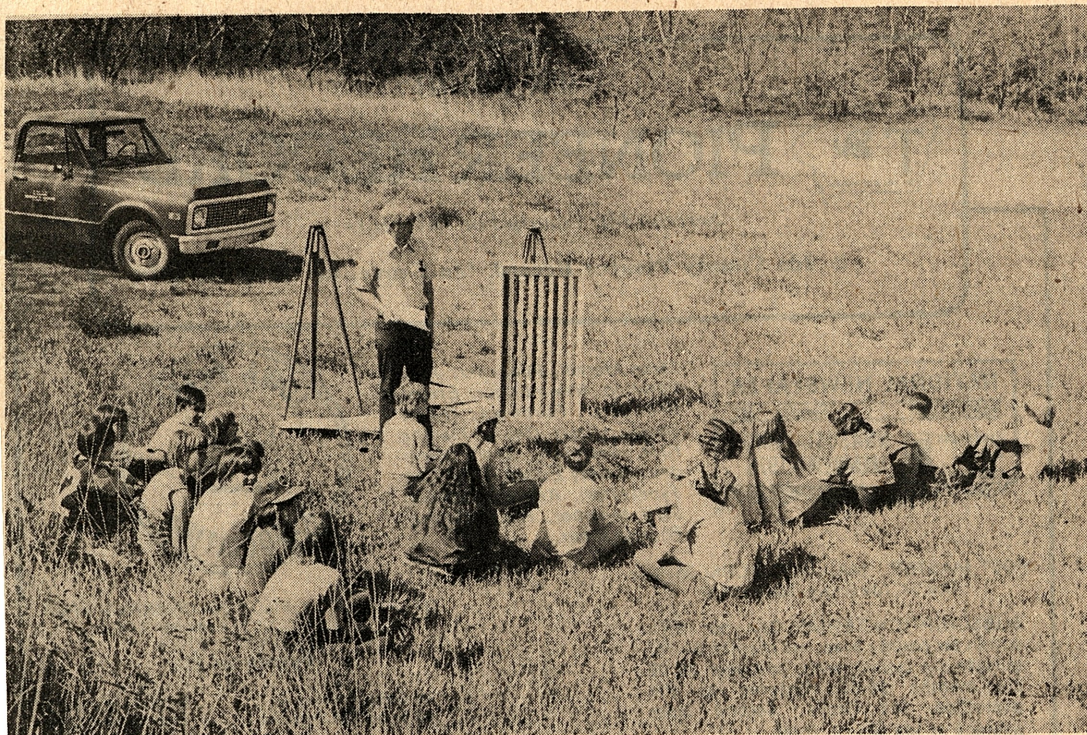
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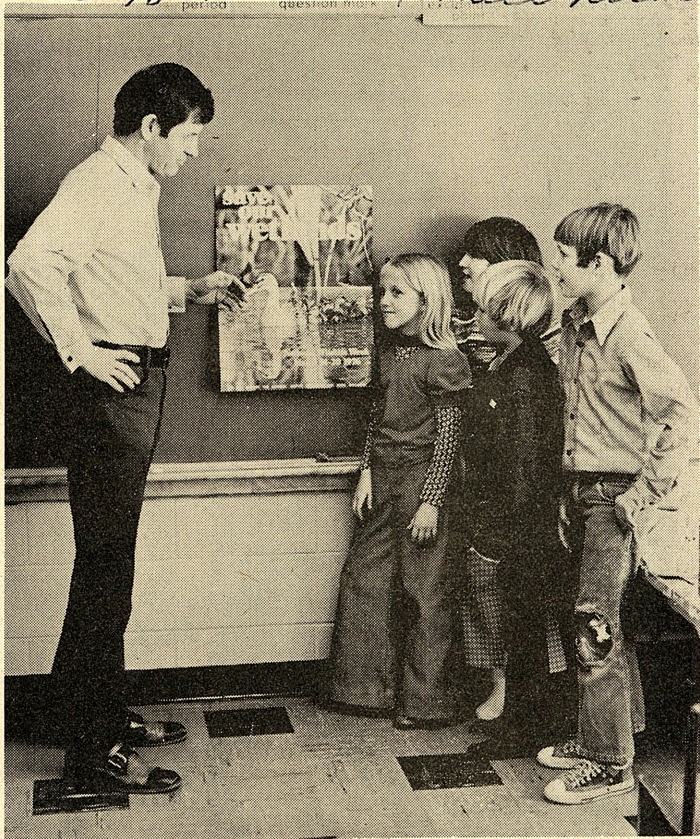
CONSERVATION STUDY---Sixth graders from Galva, Battle Creek, Holstein, and Ida Grove spent Tuesday at Moorehead Park in Ida Grove hearing lectures from conservation representatives on forestry, wildlife, wildflowers, ecology, and geology and the water cycle. Here Marlyn Schafer from the Sac County Soil Conservation Service shows students different soil samples.

3-18-76

period

question mark

Pioneer Record



SAVE THE WILDLIFE---Don Kauffman of the Soil Conservation Service was on hand Monday at the Ida Grove Elementary second grade to speak briefly about National Wildlife Week. The wildlife theme this year is "Save Our Wetlands," and Kauffman Stressed the importance of preserving marsh areas to give the children's feathered friends homes.

Organize to halt pollution

Conservation-minded farmers in Ida county have been working nearly 40 years to control the loss of topsoil and the quality of water in the county. Now there's a deadline to clean up water not only in Ida county, but throughout the nation.

The Ida Soil Conservation district officially offered its helping hand to the effort at a meeting last Wednesday night when it set up a county resource coordinating committee and elected a representative to the regional advisory.

Leonard Ernst was elected chairman of county coordinating committee, while Roland Jensen was elected secretary. Bob Mitchell, Arthur, was named as the county's representative to the regional committee.

Henry Tordoff, a district conservationist from LeMars and a representative of the Western Iowa conservancy district, explained to the county group Wednesday what is expected from counties and states to meet the 1983 clean-water deadline. In 1971 six conservancy districts were established in Iowa and Ida county among 19 counties is in the Western Iowa district.

The federal law which sets the clean-water deadline is called the Water Pollution Control act of 1972 and sets a national goal of making public waters in the country swimmable, fishable by 1983. Tordoff said the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has overall responsibility for carrying out requirements of the law.

"The EPA is committed to management of both point and nonpoint sources of pollution," Tordoff said. He explained point pollution as pollution where the specific sources can

be identified. Examples are feedlot runoff or city sewage outlets.

Nonpoints pollution, he said, is where the sources of the pollution can't be specifically pin-pointed—such as chemical runoff and sediment in the streams.

Tordoff said most of the work on point source pollution has been done by the EPA and the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). But in the case of nonpoint pollution, the government has given local areas a choice as to how to solve the problems.

Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray has set the conservancy districts in the state as the units to develop a water quality management plan for Iowa. Ray has also charged the DEQ the responsibility for the overall plan for Iowa.

A time schedule set by the federal government requires that by 1977 water quality standards be established for each state, and by Nov. 1, 1978 the Governor must submit the state's water quality management plan to the EPA.

"We're fortunate, because normally the EPA doesn't ask" about pollution control, Tordoff said. "Normally the DEQ and EPA say you will do this, or you don't do that. In other words they tell you what to do," he added. But Tordoff said that's normally only the case with point-source pollution.

"Past experience of national legislators with people in their districts has convinced them that local people know more about control of nonpoint source pollution than anyone else," Tordoff added.

Don Kauffman, Ida county SCS manager said he's pleased to see the EPA "plugging into an existing system" to get the work done. He explained the

difference between the new program and the way conservation has worked in the past is that the new law mandates action. Before, farmers had a choice of whether to participate with conservation plans.

Elvin Leonard, county supervisors from the Holstein area, told Tordoff he thought it was "almost ridiculous" to add another bureaucracy to those organization already set up to take care of the pollution problems.

Tordoff said the new regional advisory committee is an opportunity to combine the efforts of conservationists to reduce pollution. "We haven't been moving fast enough," Tordoff said. "Less than 50 percent of the farmers are doing a good job with conservation. There's still about 30 to 40 percent of the farmers farming up and down the hills, and I think this union with EPA will help these guys wake up."

"I think the water quality management plan will also help put teeth in the conservancy plan and help get after the 30 to 40 percent who ignore conservation efforts," Tordoff added.

The LeMars conservationist

said soil loss limits in Iowa have been set at about four or five tons per acre per year without hurting soil resources. "But you can afford to lose that much soil each year and still have the water quality you want," he added.

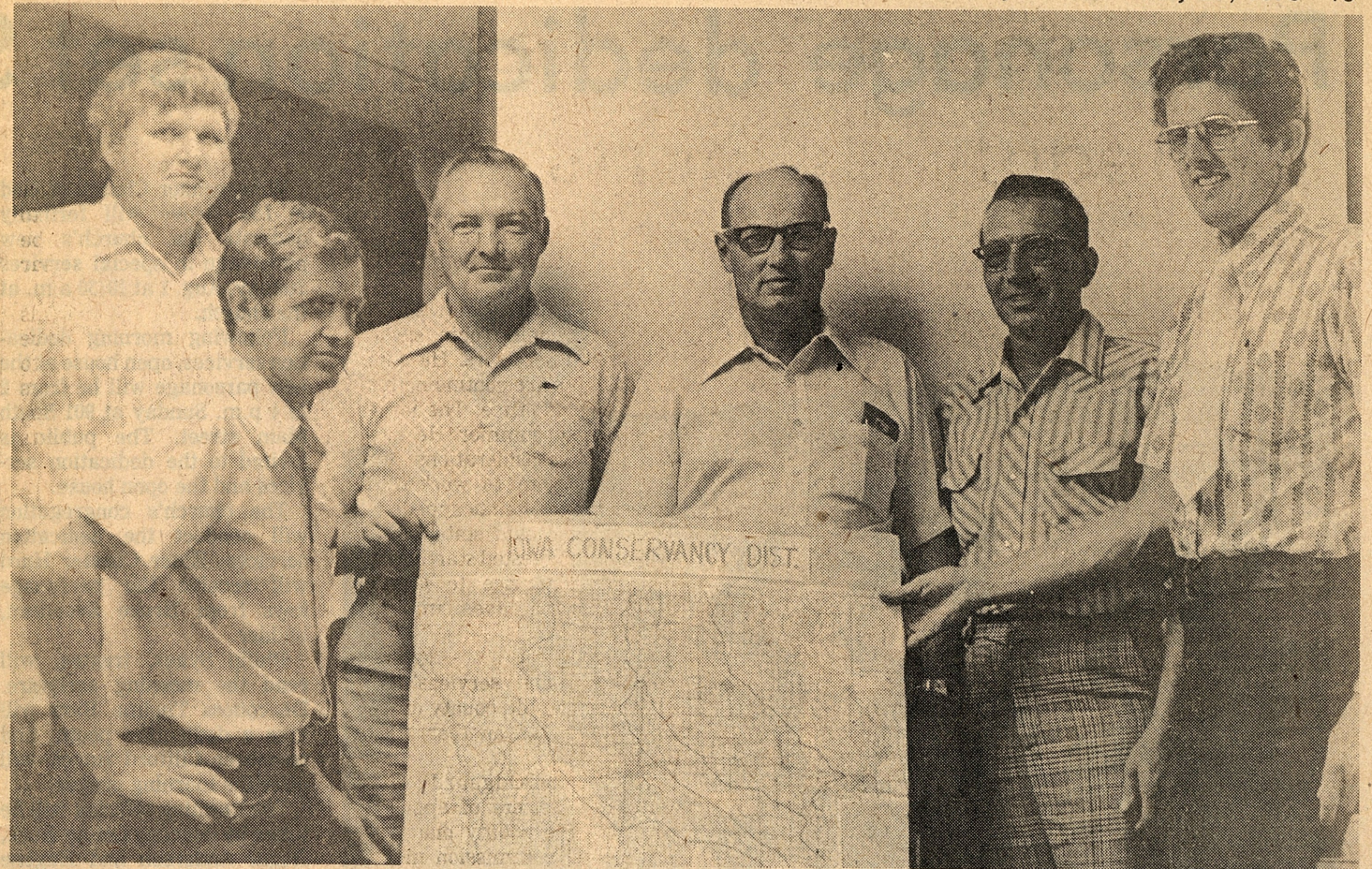
In the Governor's plan which will be sent to EPA will be statements telling what degree of quality is needed and how to get the water quality to that level.

Mitchell's job will be to represent Ida county on the conservancy district advisory committee, which will make recommendations on how to achieve the national goal in the Western Iowa district.

The local committee will in turn advise Mitchell on the needs for Ida county.

Mitchell said Wednesday night he feels terracing will be the most effective way to control the nonpoint pollution in the area.

When asked if there'd be federal funds available to help finance local projects, Tordoff said the Governor's plan must also specify how to fund the projects for his state and said Ray will probably suggest federal funding.

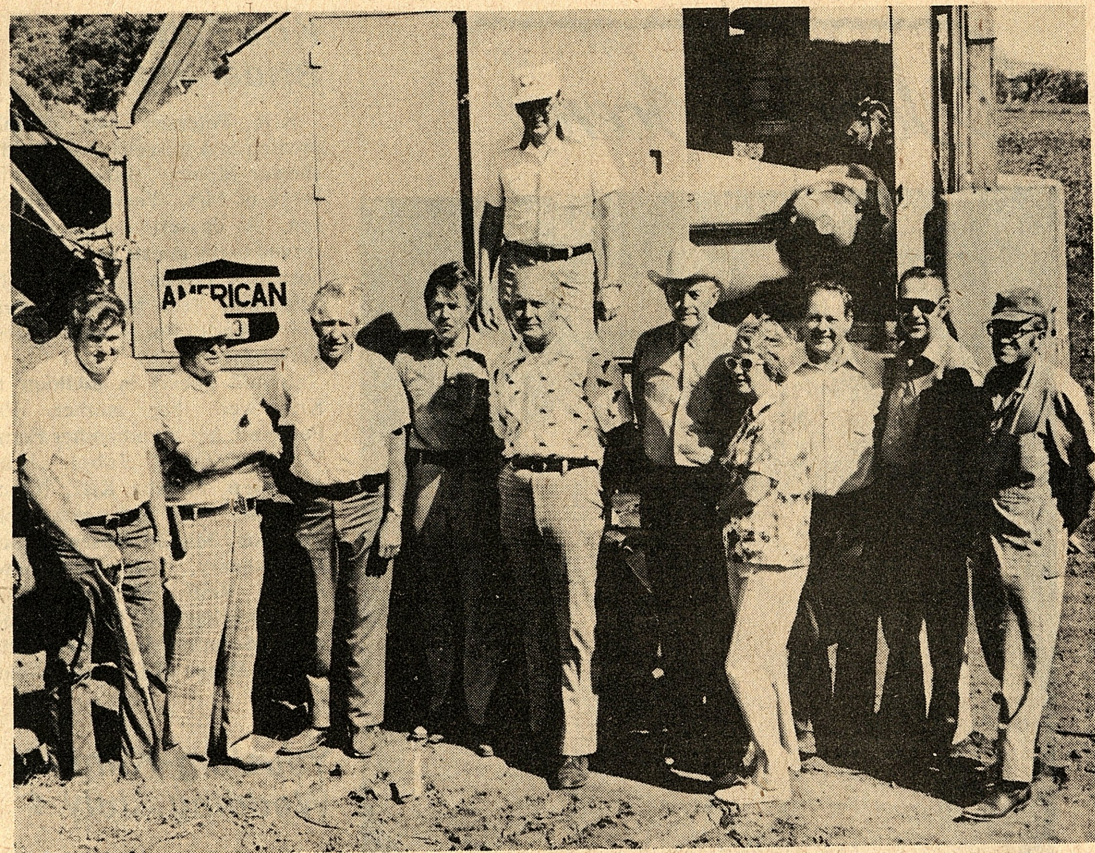


Conservationists

Members of the Ida Soil Conservation district met last Wednesday to set up a county coordinating committee to help improve water quality in the

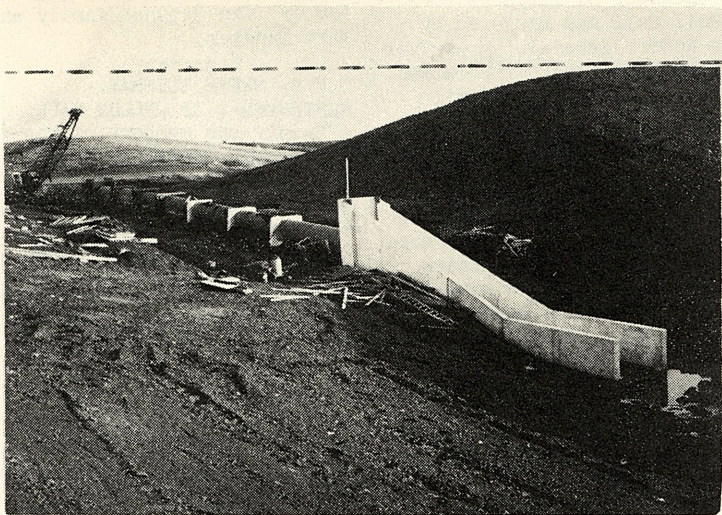
county. Bob Mitchell, second from right, was elected as county representative to the regional advisory committee. From left, are Don Kauffman, Ida county SCS manager; Burdelle Knudsen chairman of the Ida Soil Conser-

vation district; Leonard Ernst, chairman of the county coordinating committee; Roland Jensen, secretary of the coordinating committee; Mitchell; and Henry Tordoff district conservationist from LeMars. [Courier photo]

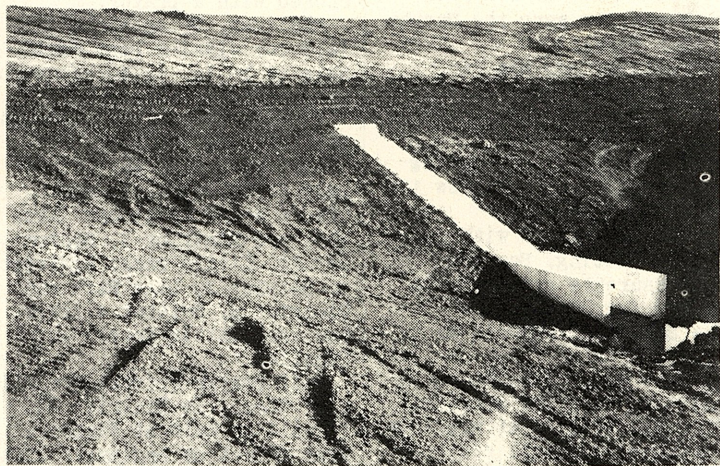


THE GROUND IS BROKEN---With the summer heat setting in, the ground breaking ceremonies which came last Friday morning at the Crawford Creek Watershed project three miles south of Battle Creek were most welcome. The ceremonies marked the beginning of the largest structure in the park project. Participating in the ground breaking are (from left) Burdelle Knudsen, H.W. Godbersen, Emmett Sahl, Elvin Leonard, Tom Odgaard, Ernest Schmidt, Vernetta Worth, George Witters, George Leonard, K.W. Gray and Jim Lipton (standing in center). Sponsors of the \$1.3 million Crawford Creek project are the Ida County Soil Conservation District, the Ida County Conservation Board and the Ida County Board of Supervisors. The 63-acre lake which the new dam will impound will be enclosed in a 252-acre park being developed by the Ida County Conservation Board.

It's A Dam "Cavity" To Fill...



The Dam "Cavity" Has Been Filled...



Yes, the Dam 'cavity' has been filled as evident in the bottom picture as compared to the top one. The top picture was taken Saturday evening, August 14, and the bottom one was taken Friday evening, September 10, showing the Dam was near the completion stage. When completed it will be 1,000 feet in length and 18 feet in width at the top, maximum width at the base will be 348.5 feet. The height will be 48.5 feet. It will be used to fill a 63 acre lake with a maximum depth of 38 feet. The lake will be enclosed in a 252 acre recreation park to be constructed three miles south of Battle Creek by the Ida County Conservation Board. Sponsors of this \$1.3 million project are the Ida County Soil Conservation District, Ida County Conservation Board and the Ida County Board of Supervisors.

Battle Creek Times 9/16/76

Holstein Man Says Soil Survey Vote Illegal ^{3/2/77}

Pioneer Record

Ken Borchers, a Holstein hog raiser, is not happy with the way a recent county soil survey vote went at an Ida County Conference Board meeting. Borchers says the vote was not a legal vote, and he may ask for a re-vote.

The problem stems from a February meeting of the Ida County Conference Board when all members voted on whether or not to go with a

soil survey for Ida. The three Ida supervisors on the Conference Board voted against the soil survey, while school board representatives on the board voted to have the soil survey. The one mayor present voted against the survey.

Borchers contends that since Wilbur Wienert, Holstein mayor, was the only one of five mayors present

for the vote, the Conference Board should vote again. County attorney Laurel Boerner has advised Borchers that "the majority vote of the members present of each unit shall determine the vote of the unit. It is concluded that one person cannot compromise a majority since one cannot be the greater part of two numbers." The opinion stems

from an attorney general opinion entered in 1959.

The county attorney said he has discovered that Arthur Mayor Carl Hedum was present for part of the Conference Board meeting but left just before the discussion on the soil survey began. Tom Odgaard had spoken with Hedum before he left and was told Hedum intended to vote "no" to any

soil survey, according to Boerner.

Borchers said he plans to discuss the issue further with the supervisors and more than likely will demand another vote.

The soil survey, if completed at the earliest date possible, 1982, would cost Ida County \$67,830.

Soil Survey Idea Receives Ida's Vote of Confidence

If Ida County wants to move with a soil survey by 1982, it will have to come up with \$67,830, according to state conservation officials talking to a group of area residents in the court room last week.

Before the meeting was finished last week, the Ida countians in attendance had taken an informal straw vote showing that 12 persons favored moving ahead with a soil survey and three were against the idea.

The presentation on the soil survey came after an Ida County Conference Board meeting. Included in the audience were several members of that board, which sets the assessor's budget, as well as the three Ida County supervisors.

\$17,000 PER TOWNSHIP

Wally Tonsfeldt, an area conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service of Sioux City, briefed the gathering on the costs of the soil survey. Ida County contains 275,840 acres, with 11.97 townships. The cost per township for field mapping and preparing it for a soil survey would be \$17,000 a township, Tonsfeldt said, but the figure holds true only for a 1982 starting date. If the county were to wait another year, the cost likely would rise to \$18,000 by 1983, he said.

Ida County has been one of seven counties in Iowa dragging its feet on the soil survey, and now, 1982 is the earliest possible date for beginning the Ida County soil survey since a waiting list of counties exists, Tonsfeldt said.

The total cost of the project would be \$203,490, but the state, under the Department of Soil Conservation and the Soil Conservation Service, would contribute funds, so the county would pick up only \$67,830.

Ida is one of the seven counties not yet scheduled to be mapped for a soil survey, largely because of the Ida County Board of Supervisor's stand against the soil survey. The supervisors last year went on record as not favoring a survey, in view of the low cost-benefit ratio.

does nothing about securing a soil survey. "No one's going to be getting a soil survey free," Tonsfeldt replied.

He told the group of interested citizens that the \$67,830 figure will not change, provided the county commits itself to the 1982 starting date. No down payment is needed. Tonsfeldt said the Soil Conservation Service would pay for manuscript preparations, lab analysis and any other printing, but Ida County would have to purchase eight-inch mile sheets for the county at a cost of about \$700 to \$1,000.

Also on the program during the afternoon was Gil Lendtiser of the Soil Conservation Service from Des Moines. He showed the residents a sample of a soil survey. When the state legislature passed a bill allowing use of 50 per cent productivity in the value of the land, lawmakers said a survey would provide suitable data and would be "something permanent and reliable on which to base ratings." Last year the legislature appropriated \$255,000 to accelerate the soil survey program, Lendtiser said.

Hopes are to have the entire state of Iowa mapped by 1985, he continued. Presently, about 18 surveys are in progress. Ida must figure on the soil survey taking between three and four years to complete.

Lendtiser said 320 to 600 acres could be mapped each day with borings being done down to 60 inches. The end result will be "a better way to look at soil so no one will get off base on the classification," he concluded.

USES OF SOIL SURVEY

The third speaker for the afternoon, Dr. Tom Fenton, professor of agronomy at Iowa State University, explained more of the technical details of the soil survey and pointed out ways in which the survey might help both the Ida farmer and the non-farmer. "The farmer could more than recover the cost of the survey," which enables him to properly

equitable tax assessment, residential use, wildlife uses and recreational purposes. The soil survey also is convenient in helping arrive at the standard Corn Suitability Rating, the professor explained.

The survey should be good for at least 40 years, he said.

IDA COUNTIANS' OPINIONS

Ida farmer Elvie Dreeszen said he thinks Ida County had better get started with the survey, and Supervisor Wayne Swanger also offered his endorsement of the program, having become familiar with the soil survey in Woodbury County.

"It looks to me like we need this survey quicker than we're going to get it. It looks to me like it should have been done long ago,"

declared Kenneth Borchers of Holstein.

Supervisor Cliff Friedrichsen said he would like to look into the soil survey but added that from being a member of the Board of Review he knows the soil survey could be a help.

The meeting last week was the second boost for the soil survey advocated by Ida district soil conservationist Don Kauffman and others. The first boost came during a Dec. 2 County Planning and Zoning Commission meeting when Jan Andrews, a planner from Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO), went on record as favoring the inclusion of a soil survey in the county's comprehensive plan.

Ida Assessor J. Wait Gailey, whose budget is being eyed as a possible funding source for the soil

survey, remains less than enthusiastic about the project. "I know it should be a pretty good tool in valuing land, but it won't take less help (in the office). I haven't been too enthusiastic about it because of the money." Gailey said he would have to hire another person in his office during the years the soil survey is being conducted in Ida.

Buena Vista County started towards a soil survey in 1967. The survey was completed July 1, 1974 and became effective Jan. 1, 1975. The cost for the county, \$32,000, was shouldered by the assessor's office.

Members of the Ida County Conference Board were to receive pamphlets informing them of soil survey details, and the subject was to be discussed again at the next conference board meeting Feb. 10.



DOWN-TO-EARTH DETAILS---Ida County Soil Conservationist Don Kauffman [left] explains the down-to-earth details of a soil survey during a discussion of the topic last week in the courthouse. Listening to Kauffman is Wally Tonsfeldt of the Soil Conservation Service of Sioux City. Tonsfeldt also spoke during the afternoon.



VOTE OF CONFIDENCE---Members of the Ida County Conference Board and other concerned citizens gathered last week in the Ida County court room to learn more about prospects of a soil survey for Ida County. Showing their vote of confidence in the soil survey were 12 of those 15 present.

Mother and child

Mr. and Mrs. Clair Downs, Holstein, became the winners of the Courier's First Baby contest when their daughter Trisha Lynn was born at 10:15 p.m. Jan. 3. Trisha Lynn, born at Horn Memorial hospital, weighed 7-pounds, 13-ounces and is the

first baby for the Holstein couple. As winners of the contest, Mr. and Mrs. Downs are eligible for several gifts from area businesses. Grandparents of the new baby are Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Johnson, Ida Grove; and Mr. and Mrs. Ardell Downs, Holstein. [Courier photo]

Soil surveys valuable, expensive

If Ida county decides to have a soil survey done, the cost will be \$17,000 a township. But, according to three Iowa experts on the subject, the money would be well spent.

Wally Tonsfeldt, area conservationist from Sioux City, Gil Landtiser, state soil scientist and Tom Fenton, Ph.D., an Iowa State university agronomist, gave brief presentations to a group of about 20 interested county residents at the courthouse Wednesday. They explained how and why a survey is done and what the costs are.

In addition to their comments, this article is supplemented with information from a soil survey facts sheet prepared by Gerald Miller, Ph.D., and ISU extension agronomist.

A soil survey is a comprehensive inventory of the soil resources in an area. The soil properties and characteristics from the ground surface to a depth of about five feet are examined and classified according to the soil type, the slope and the degree of erosion.

The survey is different from soil testing. Testing is done to evaluate the nutrient status of the topsoil or plow layer. Planning and collecting samples for soil testing should be based on the results of a soil survey.

The survey maps are done by a soil scientist who walks across the land and observes similarities and differences in the land surface. He also uses a hand probe or auger to test the properties of the soil below the surface. The information gathered is recorded on an aerial photograph.

After the field work is completed which takes about nine man-months per

township, the information is put on maps with a scale of four inches to the mile. As soon as the mapping is done an initial report is issued with a complete report following in four to seven years. The reports are given to anyone in the county who can use them, such as farmers and engineers.

The surveys have a variety of agricultural and non-agricultural uses. Understanding the different soil types, slopes and erosion factors in given areas helps the user plan management systems.

Agricultural uses include planning and

collecting samples for soil testing, planning a soil and water conservation program, planning a herbicide management program, planning tillage management, designing tile drainage systems and irrigation systems, determining the productivity potential of a tract of land a providing equitable assessment of agricultural land.

For the farmer, comprehensive evaluations of soil types are a help in determining how to treat land and what to grow on it. The information from soil surveys can be used to determine the yield potentials of different crops and what chemicals should be used based on the soil texture, acidity and organic matter. Savings on such products as herbicides and fertilizers over a period of several years because of more precise knowledge what products are needed could soon pay for the cost of the soil survey.

With the increasing value of farm land, a soil survey's part in assessment of agricultural land grows in importance.

Iowa state law passed in 1969 states "In assessing and determining the actual value of agricultural property, 50 percent consideration should be given to each of the following factors: (a) productivity and net earning capacity determined on the basis of use for agricultural purposes and (b) the fair and reasonable market value.

"In counties or townships in which field work on a modern soil survey has been completed since January 1, 1949, the assessor and the Department of Revenue shall place emphasis on the results of such survey in determining the productive and earning capacity of such

Meeting

The annual meeting of the Ida Grove Community Ambulance service will be Tuesday, Jan. 18 at the Ida Grove Community hall. The dinner will begin at 7 p.m. and the evening's program is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m.

Awards for several volunteers in the community ambulance service will be part of the program. Also, anyone interested in joining the community ambulance service is invited to attend at 8 p.m.

agricultural property."

The county assessors use a rating called a corn suitability rating to rate the potential of the land for intensive row crop production. Each soil type is given a rating and the value of the land is based on the yield potential of the land.

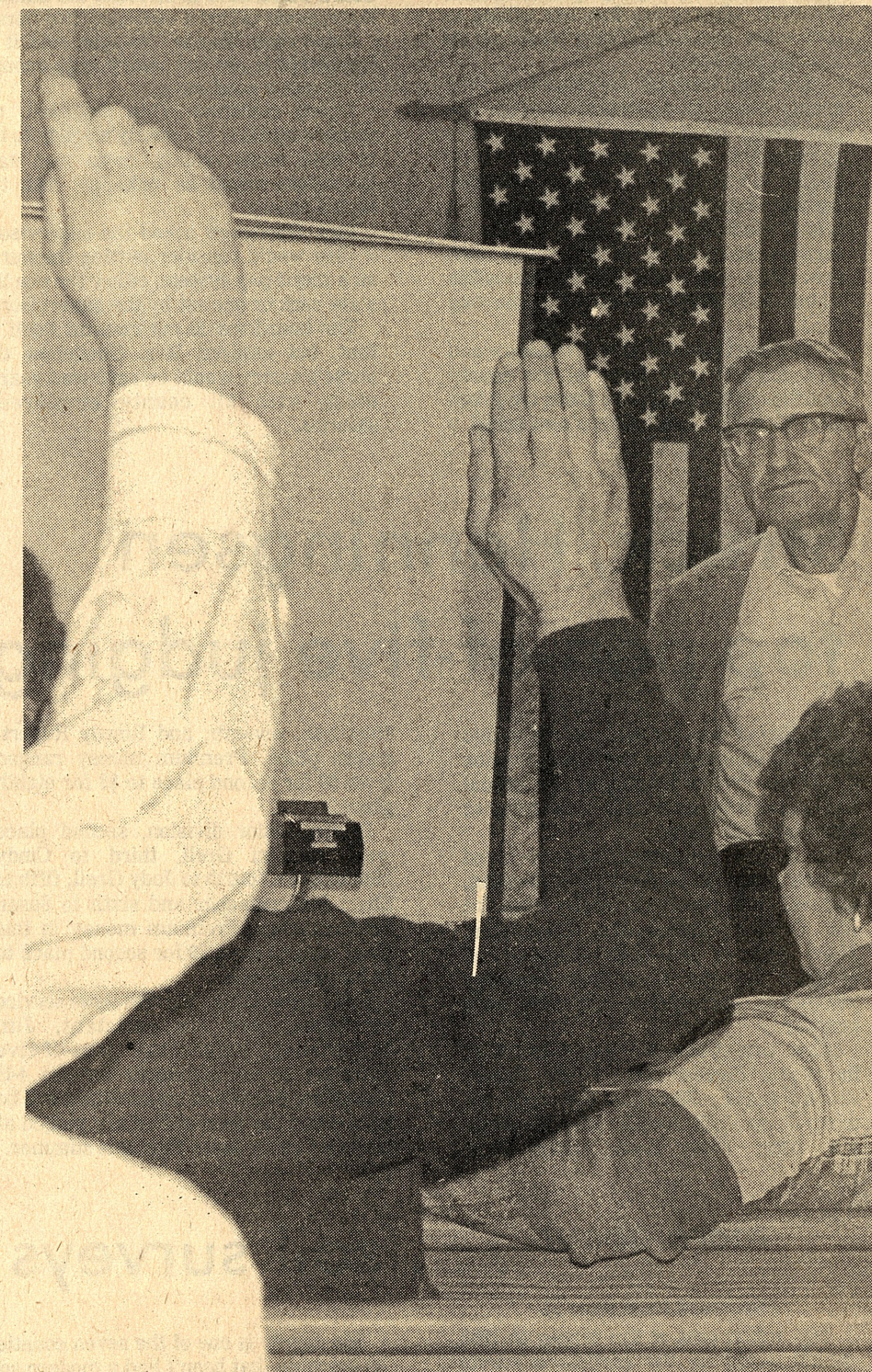
Soil surveys are also valuable for a variety of non-agricultural uses including local and area land use planning; engineering designs for homes, buildings with foundations, and septic tank lateral fields; suitability of soils for construction materials such as topsoil, sources of sand and gravel, road fill, and amount of material over bedrock or fractured bedrock; and suitability of soils for recreational uses such as golf courses, picnic area, wildlife sanctuaries and open spaces.

A rating system of slight, moderate or severe limitations is given in each soil survey mapping unit for a particular non-agricultural use. If a soil has a slight limitation a user can move ahead on a project without concern. If the soil has a moderate limitation some adjustments may have to be made in the project planning.

For example, a soil type for a septic tank lateral field may have a satisfactory percolation rate but the soil may have a moderate limitation because of a seasonal high water table. Once the problem is known it can probably be corrected.

If the soil type had a severe rating it could be costly or impossible to overcome the design problems. Knowledge of this would prevent wasted time and dollars.

(continued on page 2)



Aye

Board of Supervisors vice chairman Wayne Swanger took a poll after the presentation on soil surveys to see if folks were interested. Nearly everyone at the

Wednesday afternoon meeting favored the survey but agreed opinions should be sought from more county residents. [Courier photo] 1-11-77

By Gosh, by Gum! He's Going to Be a Farmer

By Julie Osnes

Maybe it's the spring rains which have greened the countrysides that make an 11-year-old boy want to be a farmer. Or maybe it's the excitement of planting season or the wonder of new farm animals being born. Whatever the reason, young Pat Phillips of rural Ida Grove claims he is going to be a farmer when he is old enough.

In preparation for his long range goal to be a good farmer and for his much shorter goal of getting a good grade in language arts in his fifth grade class, young Phillips with the help of his farmer father Tom Phillips, recently assembled and presented a demonstration to his classmates showing the benefits of terrace farming.

Pat's father, who utilizes terraces in his farming and is convinced of their value to conservation, assisted Pat in building two farm grounds in cardboard boxes.

The first box consisted of unterraced dirt while the second had three carefully

built terraces. After the farm grounds were carried to the front of his class, young Phillips poured equal amounts of water on each to compare the amount of water and soil run off.

While water from both boxes was draining into his glass containers, the observer could see that Phillips had no doubt in his mind that every farmer should get in tune with good conservation practices, especially terrace farming.

His box of terraces lost only a fraction of the water and rich top soil that are both so important to farming, he explains, while the unterraced land lost a large amount of water as well as top soil.

Phillips explained to this city reporter how terraces trap water and soil instead of letting them escape into creek beds. And good, rich top soil is what makes or breaks the farmer, Phillips knows from his family farm background.

Washout is less likely to occur after crops are planted in terraces, the inspired

Phillips also mentions. Corn, oats and beans are planted at his farm.

With 12 other brothers and sisters at home to help with farmwork and chores, Pat admits that he isn't kept real busy around the farm. He does his share of the pig tending and on occasion gets to drive the little H tractor to check cattle, but only if an older brother is along.

And along with summer vacation comes bean walking, he adds. Every member of the family gets up early in the morning to walk the bean fields before it gets hot and with a crew of their size the job doesn't take long.

Pat also delights in tending to new baby kittens born around the farm. He reports that he has ten at last count with more on the way. Knowing that most all kittens would need new homes, Pat tried to convince this reporter that she really needed one, even if her dog does eat them for breakfast.

At an optimistic 11 years of age, Pat finally decides why he wants to be a farmer. Because it's fun! What more is there?



PROUD TO BE A FARMER---Eleven-year-old Pat Phillips of rural Ida Grove says he hopes to be a farmer when he grows up so in the meantime spends time learning about good conservation practices. Phillips recently presented a demonstration to his fifth grade class showing the benefits of terracing.



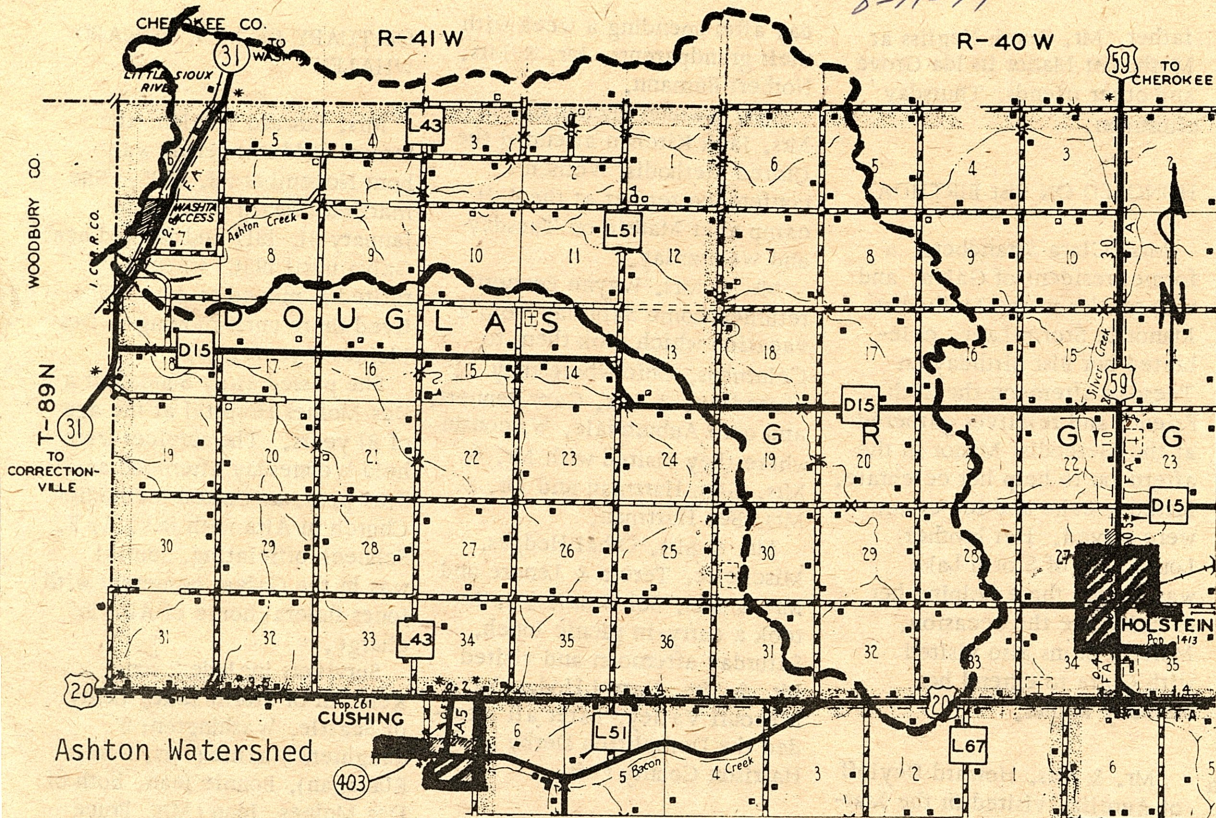
A History Lesson

Theo. Murphy, mayor of Ida Grove and a member of the Ida County Historical Society, recounts to Ida Grove sixth graders the story of Moorehead Pioneer Park during a county conservation day for sixth graders Tuesday. Murphy

says he grew up in those woods, and his mother used to live there. Students from Holstein, Galva and Odebolt-Arthur joined in the sixth grade environmental classroom. The Ida Grove depot is in the background.

5-12-77

Holstein Advance
8-11-77



Watershed Is Approved

Ashton Creek Watershed, an 18,000 acre watershed located in Ida and Cherokee counties, has been approved for planning in the Little Sioux Flood Prevention

Project according to Ramon Johnson, Chairman of the Ida Soil Conservation District.

Johnson stated the watershed was approved at a Little Sioux Works Committee meeting on July 21. The Ida Soil Conservation District Commissioners in turn approved the watershed for special cost-sharing of terraces in the area.

The purpose of the special cost-sharing of terraces in the watershed is to accelerate land

treatment in the area. Land-owners are paid up to 75 percent of actual costs of constructing the terraces.

A meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24, in the Holstein Legion Hall to explain the program. Individuals not able to attend this meeting can contact the Soil Conservation District office in either Ida Grove or Cherokee for information.



In they go

Lanny Miller, left, fisheries biologist, and Jerry Hudson, fisheries technician, put channel catfish into the new Crawford Creek lake south of Battle Creek. The two stocked the lake with

6,300 catfish last week and will put 63,000 blue gill in the lake later this fall. In the spring 6,300 largemouth bass will be added. [Courier photo] 9-6-77

New lake stocked with 6,300 catfish

The main lake at the Crawford Creek watershed recreation area south of Battle Creek got its first fish Thursday when 6,300 channel catfish were released in the water.

Heavy August rains have brought the lake to a depth of about 16 feet in some places and provided enough water to winter the fish.

Stocking the lake for the Conservation commission were Lanny Miller, fisheries biologist from Lake View and Jerry Hudson, fisheries technician.

The 6,300 catfish represent about 100 fish per acre, Miller said. It takes about 200 of the fish to make a pound. The fish were supplied by the new

hatchery at Lake Rathbun.

Miller said it will take at least two growing seasons before the catfish are big enough to catch. In a couple years, he said, they should weigh about a pound.

Later this fall the lake will be stocked with 63,000 blue gill, Miller said. Then next spring 6,300 largemouth bass fingerlings will be turned loose in the lake.

Miller said the catfish and blue gill are stocked first so they'll grow before the predator fish (bass) are added.

When the new lake is full it will be about 38 feet deep and cover 63 acres. The recreation area around the lake will also provide camping and hiking areas.

There's Water and Fish In Crawford Creek Lake

Even the fish came to the party.

The party, that is, which may or may not be the one celebrating soil conservation week Sept. 11-18.

It was a stocking party, held last Thursday when Lanny Miller of the Iowa Conservation Commission, and Dale Neville, Crawford Creek Park custodian, turned 6,300 catfish loose in the waters of the Crawford Creek lake.

Some folks may wonder what water, but that's another fitting story to tell as soil conservation week approaches. The Crawford Creek lake, located south of Battle Creek, has as much as 16 feet of water in its basin in some places. The Conservation Commission will be stocking the lake with another 63,000 blue gill yet this fall. Next spring commission officials will stock

the lake with 6,300 large mouth bass.

The 63-acre lake which is beginning to fill up is a part of the Little Sioux River watershed flood prevention project. The Crawford Creek project, which began as basically an erosion control project, has developed into a recreational facility that will include a beach, camping and picnic areas, hiking trails and fishing areas. The land was acquired from the farms of LeRoy Burton, Murl Brown, Roy Volkmann and Mrs. Arthur Bjorholm.

Brown, who sold off about 156 acres for the project, says he's pleased with the progress of the area. "It will help persons down the Maple River the most because they won't have flooding." Brown says the lake may also help draw more moisture to the Battle Creek area.

The county has spent \$62,578.51 for its share in the construction of a dam at the park, \$89,000 for acquiring about 256 acres of land, about \$42,000 for grading of roads and \$11,000 for architect fees and construction of a deep well. A county bond issue for \$175,000 in 1972 has helped finance the project. The total cost of the park project is \$1.3 million.

A ground-breaking ceremony in July of 1976 marked the beginning of the construction of the rolled earth-fill dam, about 48.5 feet high and 1,000 feet long.

Sponsors of the Crawford Creek project and cost-sharers include the Ida County Soil Conservation District, the Ida County Soil Conservation Board and the

Ida County Board of Supervisors. The local Soil Conservation Service is providing funds and technical assistance.

Officials have applied for a \$30,000 community block grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. If received, the grant would be used for constructing a restroom facility at the campground.

George "Moak" Witters of the Ida County Soil Conservation Board says the completion date of the recreational project will depend up on how fast the money comes in. For the new year \$126,992 of county money for the Ida County Conservation Board budget will go toward Crawford Creek.

Henry Brueck

Meet the King of Conservation



CONSERVING HIS WAY---For Henry Brueck of Ida Grove conservation has been a way of life. Brueck, the former operator of Brueck Construction, served as a soil conservation commissioner for Ida and now is an assistant commissioner.

If there's a conservation king in Ida, it must be Henry Brueck.

For 16 years Brueck Construction out of Battle Creek molded the county landscape into a cross-patch of terraces, dams and good conservation practices.

And Henry Brueck had good reason to wear the crown of conservation. Born in 1912 on a farm in Maple Township, Brueck doesn't find it hard to remember the bothersome ditches running up and down his father's fields. "The horses would jump the ditches and you'd fall off the cultivator," Henry fell hard enough to have some conservation sense knocked into him more than once.

Today it shows. The resident of 501 Taylor St. in Ida Grove continues to serve as an assistant commissioner on the Ida Soil Conservation District Board after working as a full-time commissioner from 1961 to 1967. Just a few weeks ago Henry was a visitor to a land use meeting in Ida. Everyone expected to find Henry there, because his heart is in the land.

But it wasn't always that way. Brueck and his brother were trucking in what he remembers as "the dirty thirties." He had tried farming for five years after marriage before entering the construction business.

About the same year Brueck began his construction business, the Ida County Soil Conservation District was formed in 1945. Henry remembers all the pioneers. Donald Dodge was the extension director at the time. In that year "it was mostly little doodle dams" being constructed on farmland, Brueck recalls. Not until the fifties did good terracing begin.

The terracing which was occurring in the 1940's was done with an elevator machine which could build a terrace for two and a half cents per foot. Today the new and better terracing is costing anywhere from 50 cents to \$2 per foot. But the terraces of the 1940's were asking a lot of farmers trying to work around them. "We had a hired man who threatened to quit" because of the terraces, "Mrs. Brueck laughs. Back then in the dawn of the Brueck terraces common practice was to follow the hills to make the terraces level on the top. Today the builder balances the terraces and varies their height.

For Henry Brueck the years from 1945 to 1960 were years of educating as well as building. People had to adjust to the new conservation practices and sometimes, they learned the hard way as Henry had while falling off the cultivator. "The time they figured out they needed the grassed waterway was when they got their corn picker stuck." By 1945 many farmers were figuring they needed the grassed waterways.

Machines and method have worked together to change all of this. In 1945 Brueck started his construction company with one bull-

dozer, a 75 horse power Allis Chalmers HD7. "It was on Christmas Day of '44 that I received a telegram from Washington D.C. that I was granted permission to buy a bulldozer." The first one cost \$9,000. Then in 1947 Brueck purchased a D8 Cat with a bulldozer for \$17,000. Now a D8 with a bulldozer will run about \$120,000, Brueck estimates. With headquarters in Battle Creek, Brueck Construction in its height was employing 40 persons. Always, the sake of the soil seemed uppermost. "I guess we didn't figure on taking jobs that weren't practical for the employee." And Henry might add "for the soil."

There was more than conservation work involved, although people today remember Henry Brueck for his contribution to the land. He and his crew also constructed Hwy. 20 from Holstein to Correctionville. Brueck Construction built the Perry Airport and the Eagle Grove Airport. There were Nebraska blizzards to confront on construction projects which had to go.

Brueck Construction also was near at hand when there was a watershed to be completed. In 1947 attention was centering on the Kirkholm Watershed east of Ida Grove. Together with Godbersen-Smith, who would do the concrete work, Henry and his men would do the dirt work for the watersheds. Henry also was around in the

fifties to help change the bed to the Maple River in the days when it was perfectly alright for a farmer to make the request.

Today Henry looks out over Crawford Creek Watershed, which used a part of his farmland, and declares "very good." But it was a struggle well worth while. "That's going to be quite an asset to Battle Creek." If Henry's visions are right Crawford Creek Recreation Project just southwest of Battle Creek will mean new opportunities for the little Ida town of Battle Creek as campers seek its cool hills.

Along with all the Brueck memories of the big days of conservation work go names of pioneers in the field. Take Rudy Bruene, who built the first terraces in the county, with horse power, in all its literal sense. The man had a patent on a cultivator equipped with little paddles that would make little dams in the cornfield. "That was before we farmed much on the contour--everything was going up and down hill." He talks about the original Ida soil district commissioners--Ed Perion, J.B. Scott and Henry Dall--as though they were in the room where he speaks.

Henry Brueck called it quits in the construction business in 1960, but his mind continues to be on the soil. Just about every day he's out checking his 900-acre farm in Maple Town-

ship which he rents out in corn and milo. There, about 21 miles of terraces and four acres of pond point to the way of life Henry Brueck has known.

As far as Brueck is concerned Ida County is way ahead of most counties when it comes to good soil conservation. Five or six years ago push-up terraces added to the progress. Terraces today have much more capacity and are more adapted to big farm machinery, Brueck explains. "We can see now where we were wrong in trying to limit the size and costs in the first terraces." Nevertheless, some of the terraces constructed in 1945 still exist, while some of the new terraces fail in two or three years, Brueck declares.

Broom grass, which became commonly used along the roadsides in the 1940's, has done its part. "Do you realize that all the roads used to be marijuana?" Henry laughs. The wells, too, are a sign of the changing scene in conservation across Ida. Today, one will find more surface wells which are no longer useful.

The former conservation commissioner has judged many new watersheds in his capacity as a member of the Little Sioux Works Committee. Henry Brueck even judged one beauty contest, he admits. And now, he's continuing to judge conservation in Ida every day. "I'm interested in soil conserva-

tion all the way. Anytime we can hold water I'm in favor of it."

Brueck also is in favor of a soil survey, a study which still hasn't come to Ida, although it exists in nearly every other Iowa county. He also welcomes the coming of county zoning, which in Henry's mind is a form of conservation. Brueck thinks the zoning and soil survey could work hand in hand. "The soil survey would be so much more accurate and easier to make farm plans and more fair in the valuation for taxes." The soil survey also could prove useful for such firms as loan companies, he says.

"Another thing we need is a little more thoroughness on watersheds we've worked on. We have skipped some of the valleys." Add to this more cooperation among county offices, and there would be a big improvement locally for good soil conservation, Henry says.

Some folks around Henry's native town of Battle Creek call him "a dreamer." Maybe that's the only kind of man qualified for the title of "conservation king."

Archeologists want to drain lake

Representatives of state and federal agencies have asked the Ida county Conservation board for permission to excavate what they call a "very

valuable" archeological find in the county. But the conservation board doesn't know whether to grant that permission.



It's under there

Representatives from state and federal agencies spent part of Thursday looking over the Crawford Creek watershed and recreation area south of Battle Creek. The agencies would like to drain the lake at the area to excavate an archeological site now underwater. From left are Jake

Hoffman of the Interagency Archeological Services of the National Park Service in Denver, Stan Riggle, an archeologist with the Iowa State Historical department; Darrell Fulmer of the SCS division of historical preservation and Bill Butler, a member of the Denver National Park Service. [Courier photo] 9-13-77

The problem is the archeological find is now underwater at the county's Crawford Creek recreation project south of Battle Creek. In order to excavate the site, the new lake would have to be drained, perhaps for as long as two years, the officials said.

The archeological site was unearthed a little more than a year ago during the final construction of the Crawford Creek watershed project. The site is believed to be a buffalo kill area between 4,000 and 8,000 years old.

The agencies have named the area the Murl Brown Archeological Site. Brown owned the land before it was purchased by the county for the watershed and recreation project.

Chuck Cobb, assistant state conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, told the county board at a meeting Thursday the site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places list.

Estimated cost to excavate the site, including the cost to drain the lake, is about \$200,000. Cobb said the National Park service has agreed to fund the project.

Cobb said it would take a maximum of two years to excavate the project. But Stan Riggle, an archeologist with the division of Historic Preservation of the Iowa State Historical department, said recovery could be done in one summer with a larger crew.

The county conservation board admits it's puzzled about whether or not to allow the excavation. Board members must decide whether the archeological find is significant enough to delay completion and use of the recreational area, and said they'd like to hear from people in the county regarding the question.

George Witters Jr. a board member, asked why the site wasn't excavated when it was found — before the lake had water in it. Witters said the board was also told at that time there was nothing significant at the site to excavate.

Riggle said it has taken this long to complete federal red tape for the project.

Cobb said the site is one of the oldest buffalo kill sites found in this area of the state. The archeological find at the Cherokee sewer site is the closest common comparative site, officials said.

Riggle told the board the Interagency Archeological Services office of the National Park service in Denver has indicated the Ida county site is its number one priority in a 17-state area.

But the Ida county group holds the key to the excavation project. "If we don't go along, then they (an excavation team) would be trespassing?" Witters asked. "I don't know the answer to that, but I assume you're right," Cobb replied. Cobb said that is a legal question which should be answered.

"I'm sympathetic to the buffalo kill

site, but we would be depriving our people of the area and it would deprive us of the summer rains for the lake," said George Leonard, chairman of the county board.

"It's pretty rough to ask you to do that, but I think it will be worth it to you, Cobb said. "It is a personal sacrifice we're asking you to make."

Riggle said the archeological site is under the lake area at the park. At one time it was thought the kill site might extend downstream so excavation wouldn't disrupt the filling of the lake. But the finds in other areas are only redeposited from the main site, he said.

Riggle said the site also includes a hearth on the extreme eastern side of the deposit. The bone deposits are eight-and-a-half feet under the bottom of the lake, he said.

County board members asked what damages they could seek from the federal government if the lake is drained for the project. Riggle said he couldn't answer the question.

Witters said the county just spent money for roads at the area and said the roads wouldn't have been built if the board had known opening of the area would be delayed.

"We also planned a \$30,000 shelter-house and planned the area to be operating in a year. I think we're entitled to damages," Witters said.

Jim Lipton Jr., a member of the county board, said much of the board's decision will depend on whether "This is something of real value or whether it is a commonplace find." Lipton also asked, "What if we say no; what happens then? Are you guys pretty hard-nosed about this thing?"

Riggle said there would be a number of benefits to the area from the site. The first would be recovery of information about the history of the valley. He said a site on the National Historical register could also be a tourism drawing card and in turn mean extra dollars for the local economy.

Anything recovered from the excavation would be the property of the federal government, but artifacts could probably be kept in Ida county in an interpretive center, Riggle said.

Cobb and Riggle said it would take a minimum of three months to start the excavation once the county board gives approval. The excavation work would be put out for bids.

Witters asked how sure the agencies were of having funds for the project and suggested putting a deadline on the work if the county allows the lake to be drained. Witters said he's worried the work will get started, then be delayed because of funding problems.

"We've been telling the people in the county we're going to have a lake out

(continued on page two)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Possible Archeological Dig Cited in Recreation Area

By Jean Wiese

Representatives from the State Soil Conservation Service in Des Moines and representatives from the Iowa Division of Historic Preservation met with the Ida County Conservation Board in a special meeting last Thursday with regard to the Crawford Creek recreational area.

Chuck Cobb of the Soil Conservation Service told the board that in sample tests taken sometime last fall in the soil where the lake now stands, buffalo bones, and charcoal from early fires were found.

In drilling after the completion of the dam, Cobb told the board that determination was made that the site known as the Murl Brown site was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of historic significance.

The National Park Service will now fund recovery of the cultural remains, according to Cobb, if the conservation board will sign a memorandum of agreement to allow archaeologists to drain the lake and dig in the area.

The memorandum of agreement must be signed by the Conservation Board and the Ida County Board of Supervisors in order for the excavation work to begin in the dam area.

If the agreement is signed, the construction of the recreation area will be at a standstill for the county.

"It would be a maximum of two (digging) seasons and a minimum of

one season," Stan Riggle of the division of Historic Preservation told the board.

The bottom part of the lake would have to be dewatered, according to Riggle, so that the digging for the cultural remnants could take place.

"In all fairness, it's pretty rough to ask," Riggle told the board referring to the situation of draining the lake.

He added that the data that comes from the site is important, and not many of these sites are found.

He went on to say that it is one of the oldest buffalo kill sites that has been found in this part of the state.

The estimate of the cost of the excavation of the Murl Brown site was put at \$200,000 for the National Park Service, and this is at no cost to the county, according to Stan Riggle.

Every bit of the land proposed for excavataion is behind the dam, according to Riggle, and the part in the valley where the deposit occurred is under the dam.

Riggle told the board that the evidence sought was right where the water is now in the dam on the east side of the valley.

He told the board that the digging would be one foot below the water level or eight and one-half feet down, as the lake now has seven and one-half feet of water.

"We know there are bones along the east side of the site," Riggle said.

"The reason excavation did not

continue last fall is because of federal guidelines," Riggle added.

George Witters referred to the memorandum of agreement, saying that the archeologists involved in the excavation would be trespassing if the board did not sign the memorandum to allow the digging.

"It's your land, it's your structure," Chuck Cobb said. "That's the state it's in, and that's the reason we've asked you to concur in this agreement."

Riggle could not give the board an age for the bones found in the sampling, and he added that there were no diagnostic artifacts found in the samples.

Riggle told the board that there is also an environmental record in the site with two old buried surface soil variations.

"We can construct the history of that valley," he said.

"One of the benefits is that local information is of the potential to enhance recreational aspects," Riggle told the board.

Witters said that the county should be entitled to some damages if the agreement was signed, and he added that the county could limit the time of the excavation.

Digging in the area, according to Riggle, would allow the site to be

ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG--

Continued on Page 2

Archeological Dig--

Continued from Page 1

nominated for the Historic Register, but he added that the goal was also to recover archeological information.

"We expect the density of artifacts to be relatively low," he added.

He told the board that the artifacts and the information obtained would become the property of the federal government, but he said that there was much room for negotiation.

In discussing the Murl Brown site, Riggle said that the clarity of the site does not even compare to the Cherokee Sewer site.

He added that it is ten times better, and he said, "this is the number one priority in seventeen states."

Chuck Cobb said that it is an untouched site, being found by accident, and he added, "it is far more valuable than a touched site."

Riggle told the board that the excavation could deprive the public of their dam for three years. He said that it was a sacrifice, but he added that there are long range benefits.

"If it wasn't a one of a kind site, I wouldn't be here," Riggles said.

In draining the lake for the

excavation, the fish which have already been stocked would be lost, and the Conservation Board will take that loss into consideration.

Water recreation in the area would also be lost in the event that digging takes place.

The County Conservation Board requests comments from the public on the fate of the Crawford Creek recreation area before their next meeting Sept. 19. At that time the board will air more questions on the proposed memorandum of agreement.

Farmers earn conservation honors

Three Ida county landowners will be honored for their farm conservation efforts.

Mrs. Alvin Bumnn, Ida Grove; Lyle Tietzort, Sr., Battle Creek and LaVerne Bruning, Holstein are Ida county's 1977 representatives in the Sioux City Permanent Agriculture Program. The three will be honored at a banquet in Sioux City in November.

The Permanent Agriculture Program is sponsored by the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce and the Sioux City Journal. The program selects regional conservation winners from the area where Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota come together. Ida county's three representatives aren't regional winners, but they will be recognized for their special efforts.

The biggest conservation project for Lyle tietzort, Sr. is the dike and farm pond built in 1974 on his farm south of Battle Creek. Tietzort said the only thing wrong with the dike and pond is there aren't enough like it in the county. The dike is part of the total Crawford Creek watershed project to prevent erosion and flooding.

The dike and pond take up about an acre of farmland and the pond contains about six acres of water when it's full. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) stocked the pond with several hundred catfish, blue

gill and bass, but Tietzort and his family complained they haven't been able to catch any of them yet because they just aren't hungry.

SCS also provided trees and shrubs for the farm, which the Tietzort family helped plant. The increased vegetation has increased the wildlife on the farm, and the Tietzorts report seeing pheasants, ducks and geese around the pond.

When asked if he's pleased with the pond, Tietzort answered, "You bet. We never had to worry about running out of water except for the house. A lot of other people hauled water the last couple years, but we didn't."

LaVerne Bruning's first conservation practice was contouring. He said, "My boys kinda talked me into it. Before that I used to farm up and down the rows."

Bruning, who farms northwest of Holstein, liked the contouring, but he was having trouble with water runoff. So about five years ago he started building terraces. He now has all but one of the terraces he wants, and he said, "I really like them. They hold the water and we don't have washes like we used to."

Bruning, who has his land in corn and soybeans, has over three miles of terracing that accommodates eight row equipment.

The contouring and terracing were working out so well that Bruning decided to try tiling some wet areas and then seeding the waterways with brome grass. The waterways are now good enough to drive through.

Bruning, who is enthusiastic about the results of his work in cooperation with SCS, said, "Everything is working just perfect."

Mrs. Alvin Bumann, Ida Grove, said her late husband was always conscious of conservation practices and improved their family farm a little every year.

On the land that could be farmed, Bumann used grassed waterways and contouring to make the most of the farmland. Mrs. Bumann commented, "He used lots of contouring. When the boys and I would go out to walk beans we were never sure where we'd end up."

The farm has several acres that can't be farmed, and Bumann saved the acres for wildlife. He left the natural vegetation undisturbed and added trees along the creek through the farm to attract pheasants, ducks and other birds.

Mrs. Bumann said, "Alvin really appreciated nature, and I think he realized that along with the appreciation went a responsibility to take care of it."



Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Tietzort Sr. and Kenny



Mrs. Alvin Bumann



LaVerne Bruning

Conservation unit won't drain lake

Ida County Courier - 9-20-77

The Ida county Conservation board voted unanimously Monday night against draining Crawford Creek lake for an archeological excavation. The board of supervisors also voted against draining the lake.

Representatives from various state and federal agencies had asked the board for permission to drain the lake to excavate what they think is a buffalo kill site.

The conservation board decided the site isn't significant enough to deprive Ida county residents use of the area. It was estimated that to drain the lake would mean it would be at least 1982 before fish would be large enough to catch at the lake.

Chuck Cobb, assistant state conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, sent the county answers to some questions about the lake. Those answers helped make up the minds of the conservation board members Monday.

Cobb said the land belongs to the conservation board and the SCS has no claim to the land unless it isn't used for its intended purpose of recreation. That means the Ida county group has the final say whether the lake will be drained.

Ida county could collect no damages if it allowed the lake to be drained, Cobb said, since the digging would be done on a voluntary basis. The conservation board has been told the buffalo kill site is significant enough that it's listed as the top priority of the Interagency Archeological Services office of the National Park service in Denver.

But the board said it doesn't know if the site is really that important. Conservation board member Jim Lipton Jr. said

he thought the county should be entitled to about \$60,000 in damages if it allowed the lake to be drained. Lipton said he feels if the site were a major archeological find the government would be willing to pay damages. "If they won't pay damages, then I'm against it," he said.

Cobb said it would be possible to use a coffer dam so excavation could go on as

the lake fills. But, he said, the lake would probably have to be drained anyway.

The conservation board called Monday night's meeting to talk over the Crawford Creek situation and get input from Ida countians about it.

There were 17 people at the meeting and all were against draining the lake. Larry Walls of Battle Creek brought a

petition signed by 102 people who were against draining the lake. George Witters Jr., a conservation board member said he had about 15 other names of people who said they are against draining the lake.

Don Vermeys of Battle Creek told the board the people in Ida county "are

(continued on page 3

more about

...lake

(continued from page one)

thinking fishing, and they (the government agencies) are thinking history."

Edwin Jensen, Battle Creek, who has collected buffalo skulls and bones over the years along the Maple river said the buffalo bones found at the lake site "are very common for around here." Archeologists have also said they found evidence of charcoal and a hearth at the site. Jensen said the charcoal might be pieces

of tree which burned rather than evidence of a campground. The Battle Creek area farmer said it's possible the area was a slough at one time and the buffalo died when they couldn't get out of the mire.

Jensen said it's easy to find buffalo bones in this area. He also said people he's talked to in the county aren't happy about the delays already encountered in completing the Crawford Creek project, and said another delay "would leave a might bad taste in their mouths."

Witters repeated his concern that after the lake was drained and excavation started, the project might be delayed longer because of funding problems.

The government agencies have named the area the Murl Brown Archeological site. Brown owned the land before it was purchased by the county for the watershed and recreation project. But Brown

isn't flattered to have the site named after him.

"If you give Ed (Jensen) a Caterpillar, a back hoe and \$500, he'll give you all the buffalo bones you want," Brown said. Jensen said he wouldn't need that much money or the sophisticated equipment.

Stan Riggle, an archeologist with the division of Historic Preservation of the Iowa State Historical society, said he was disappointed with the board's action and said the agencies will probably forget the project now. Riggle still maintains the site is one of the best of its kind in this area.

"We're dealing with a super star of sites. I'm very disappointed," he added.

First land use public hearing draws one

The Ida County Temporary Land Preservation commission has scheduled a meeting for 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19 at the Extension office in Ida Grove. This meeting will be open for comment from the public.

Extension Director Dave Hessman said, "We're going to work on some reports at this meeting, and we also want to discuss ways of improving attendance at other hearings we have scheduled." Hessman said the commission would also answer questions about the proposed state land use plan at the Oct. 19 meeting.

Hessman said, "Although the commission is disappointed at the turn out at the first hearing last week, we're looking for much better participation at the Holstein meeting, and later at the Battle Creek hearing."

The first of three public hearings scheduled by the land preservation commission drew only one person who was interested in the commission's work.

Don Baker, Ida Grove, was the only person in the nearly empty Ida Grove Community hall Tuesday evening, Oct. 4. The rest of the small group included eight of the commission's nine members, some administrative people, a couple of spectators and the press.

Baker said he attended the meeting because he wasn't sure what the land preservation commission's objectives

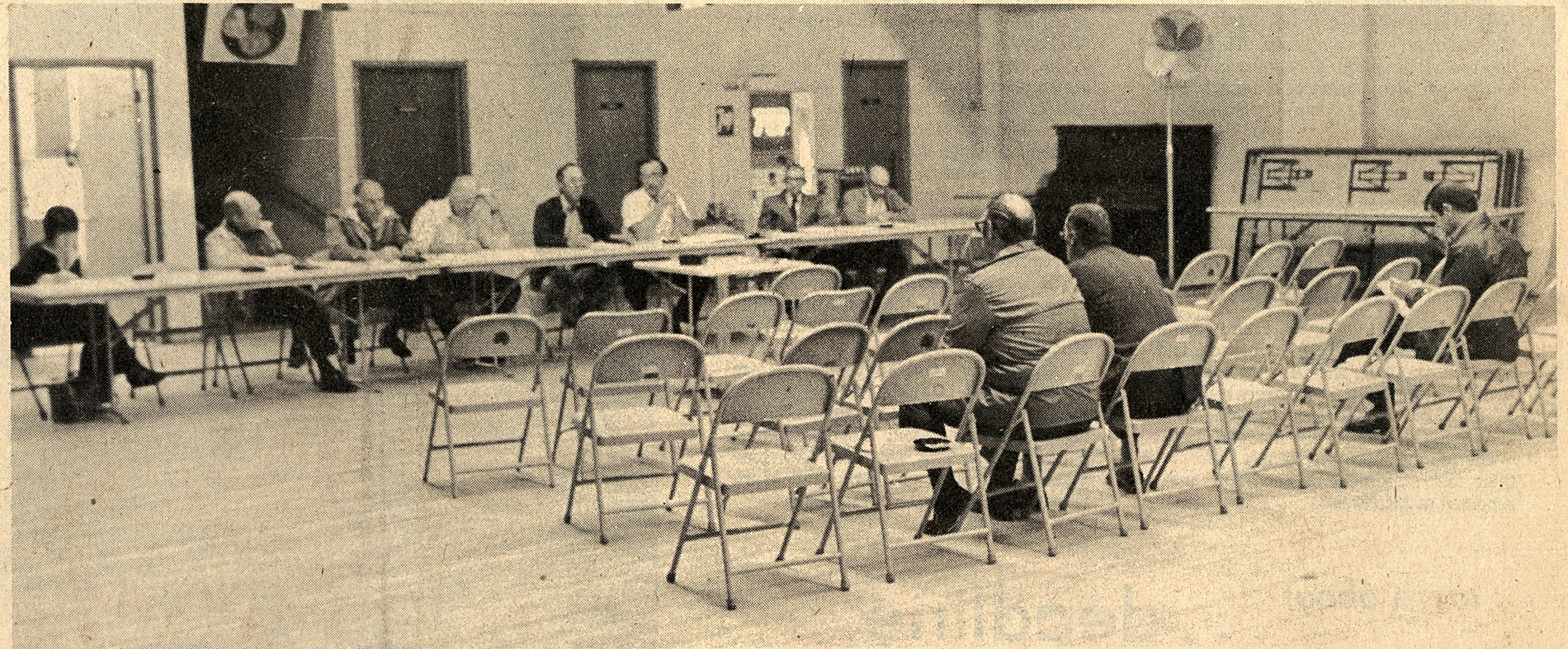
were. After a brief explanation by Hessman, Baker became the commission's first contributing witness and said he opposed land use controls centered in Des Moines.

The commission is concerned about the lack of public interest in their work because most commission members feel local sentiment has to be reflected in their reports. Two more public hearings are scheduled, and one more can be scheduled, if needed.

The commission's next hearing will be at Holstein Nov. 1, and the third hearing has been set for Dec. 1 in Battle Creek. Further details of these meetings will be announced later.

Information generated at the public hearings, in the form of testimony from individuals or spokesmen for groups, will be compiled into a report next year and forwarded to a state land preservation commission. That commission will use the information from each county to make recommendations for a statewide land use policy.

The process is supposed to ensure that local needs are considered first in any land use planning that originates at the state level. Most local commission members feel they are going to get recommendations insisting on local land use controls, with administration of the program at the state level.



Wide open spaces

The first public hearing scheduled by the Ida County Land Preservation commission drew almost nobody to comment on land use policies that may apply to Ida county in the future. The commission has scheduled a

meeting Oct. 19 at the Extension office in Ida Grove to discuss ways of getting more public participation in the two remaining public hearings that are scheduled Nov. 1 in Holstein and Dec. 1 in Battle Creek. Another public

hearing after the three scheduled meetings could also be considered. Information compiled at local meetings will be the basis for a statewide land use policy that will probably be considered by the Iowa legislature during 1979 session. [Courier photo]

Only One Citizen Speaks Out At First Land Use Hearing

Only one Ida countian spoke out during the first public meeting of the newly created Ida County Temporary Land Preservation Policy Commission Tuesday night in Ida Grove.

Donald Baker, a farmer in Logan Township, said he thought the use of the agricultural land in Ida should continue as it is, and he said he would not be in favor of creating any more county parks. But Baker said he would not be opposed to

allowing the use of land adjoining the city to be used for housing developments.

"Up to this point I'm not in favor of this kind of legislation," Baker said of any land use bill which could become a reality for the state of Iowa if enough counties are in favor. Baker also said he would like to see soil conservation practices continue in Ida County. He said the county is not complete in its soil conservation measures and should continue to

work in this area.

Only four members in addition to the nine-member Commission attended the first public hearing. Ida Grove Councilman Roland Yousling, a member of the Commission, said from what he has heard most people want to keep local control of land use.

The second of three public hearings is set for 8 p.m., Nov. 1 in Holstein. The location will be announced later. 10-6-77 Pioneer Recorder

Soil conservation top rated by Scott

by John Scott
Iowa State Senator

Do your elected officials agree with what you think? With your priorities? Pick any three issues which you believe are important to our part of the state. Then compare your priorities to Governor Ray's priorities. I picked three issues I thought were important.

My first, soil conservation, can be boring, but is extremely important. Experts tell us that we have already lost half our topsoil and that the other half will disappear in a short

number of years unless action is taken.

Several states are considering the planting of trees throughout the country to stop the wind and incidentally to provide wildlife habitat.

You will look in vain for any mention of soil conservation in the governor's list of priorities given to the legislature last week. However, one of Gov. Ray's priorities is to establish an office in Washington, DC to learn of government actions there.

Surely, that city has a suf-

ficient number of offices and people to feed from our tax money. Surely, the governor can contact one or more of our congressmen and senators, or simply read the paper, to learn about happenings in Washington.

If I am wrong about that, surely soil conservation is a greater priority than adding to the number of state employees in Washington.

Do you think that energy conservation should be a state priority? The State owns thousands of cars which average an appallingly low 14 miles per gallon. The administration continues to purchase large and inefficient vehicles.

State buildings are notorious in their waste of energy. Experts tell us that we can save millions of gallons of fuel by implementing energy conservation steps.

Although Governor Ray believes we should pay expenses for Olympic competitors, there is not one fresh breath in his priorities concerning energy conservation.

School financial problems are causing many of our schools to cut back their programs. Some are closing.

Gov. Ray's list of priorities said that he would recommend giving the schools an additional \$46 million dollars to alleviate their problems. The fact is that

this amount of money is already mandated to go to the schools through a formula enacted into law several year ago.

Thus, Gov. Ray is not giving the schools anything.

Another of Ray's priorities is to ban smoking in certain public places. The idea is commendable, nevertheless, we should use the time and effort to resolve a higher priority, that of financing our schools.

I do not mean to diminish the need to finance Olympic competitors, or to ban smoking in public places, or the need for an office in Washington.

Perhaps when we hear the explanations we will agree that each of these proposals should become law. My concern is the priority of work. We should be spending our time and money on more important issues including school financing and energy and soil conservation.

There is something else. An administration which has held office for 10 years as has Gov. Ray, tends to become defensive when the suggestion is made that basic needs have not been accomplished. There need not be this defensiveness.

Energy and soil conservation are basic needs, and also are long term projects. We should remind the administration of these facts and continue to concentrate on the basics.

1978 legislative session underway

by Wayne Bennett
Iowa State Representative

The 1978 session of the Iowa legislature is now underway and I am again using a weekly column to keep the people of the 48th district informed about the actions of the legislature.

I want to thank those papers that allow me the use of their space for this column. I appreciate their cooperation.

Many issues are about to be considered this session. Some of the issues are property tax, mandatory deposit on bottles and cans, the legalization of laetrile, funding of declining enrollment schools, balancing of the state budget, additional gasoline and diesel fuel tax, increasing the weight limit for trucks and the adoption of an Iowa Equal Rights Amendment.

These are only a few of the issues. I will be commenting on these and other issues in future columns.

I also will be having a questionnaire in place of next

week's column that will include most of these issues.

Those of us in the legislature need to know the constituents' opinions if we are to vote in a way that reflects their views.

The main business of the legislature during the opening week has been receiving and analyzing the governor's message. Most of the comments have been favorable and I believe much of the program will be adopted.

One of the problems addressed was the funding of declining enrollment schools. We are going to have to be careful to be sure that even the smallest schools are helped.

I hope you will contact me at my home on the weekends, or at the capitol, and give me your comments on the issues mentioned.

My home address is Wayne Bennett, Galva, Iowa 51020 and my phone number is 282-4764. My Des Moines address is State House, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 and the phone number is 515-281-3221.

Soil survey turned down again

by Elvie Dreeszen

As if a broken record were being replayed, the Ida County Conference committee, methodically turned thumbs down on a soil survey for the umpteenth time. It seemed to make no difference that there are even more compelling reasons for a survey now than previously. The answer was the same.

As before, the reasoning behind the negative response was feeble: a reluctance to bind a future board of supervisors to a project that can't start until 1984. Such thinking rankles me; it makes me fume. I thought our leaders had a mandate to plan ahead. They ought to think less of binding a future board, three people, and more about what will be beneficial to Ida county as a whole. Since when has there been a reluctance to bind the county's taxpayer to projects that require a period of years to complete? A five-year road program does that. If a

courthouse bond issue, or any bond issue for that matter, is successful, it commits tax funds for an even longer period.

It should be pointed out that even if the decision was made now to go ahead with the project, it could not begin until 1984. The skilled personnel will not be available before then. They are busy with the work in other counties. There is a limited number of such people available.

Which brings up another point. Ida is now the only county in Iowa that has not contracted for the project. We obviously are the only county that is in step. Or we are just plain stubborn to the point of obstinance. To what would we be binding a future board? Under the terms of the proposition offered, not much. We can lock in today's price now, with the option of cancelling the agreement the day before it goes into effect at no cost to the county. Even "Arrid" isn't that safe.

In fairness to certain members of the conference board, it should be pointed out that representatives of the school boards generally favored the project, while mayors were unanimous and the supervisors split two to one in opposition. Supervisor Tom Odgaard has stated that he would favor the project if it could start tomorrow, but not if we have to wait any length of time. Knowing that there is no possible way to contract for the project under those terms, this appears to be a convenient way to straddle the issue.

With land being assessed entirely on its productivity now, it becomes more compelling to have access to a scientific method of measuring productivity. A modern, up to date, survey would provide it, and, of course, much more. It would tell us just about all there is to know about our soil resource; its engineering qualities, water holding capacity, expansion and shrink characteristics, and erosion hazards, to

name some of the more important facts a comprehensive survey would reveal.

If it is true that soil is basic to the economy of Ida county, it would seem entirely in order that it be inventoried and classified so it can be put to its best use. In fact, it would seem that any effort at zoning the county, an activity for which the groundwork is being laid now, would depend considerably on a good soil inventory, if it is to be done properly. It is already too late for that.

It should be pointed out that this proposition has been before the county for at least 10 years already. If it had been contracted for when first proposed, it would have been completed, at half of today's cost, and probably at one-fourth of the cost five years from now.

It's too bad that an issue so obviously beneficial to the county has been so difficult to sell to county leaders. Many less worthy projects have zipped through with scarcely a ripple. (E.D.)

5-17-78
Courier

Ida County Courier - January 31, 1978 - A15

George Hartley is soil district head

George Hartley, Battle Creek was elected chairman of the Ida County Soil Conservation district board of commissioners at the board's regular meeting Jan. 24.

Burdelle Knudsen, Ida Grove will serve as vice chairman of the soil district board for the coming year.

Other commissioners are Ramon Johnson, Holstein; Lester Vohs, Galva; Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek; and J.

Henry Brueck was appointed assistant commissioner for the coming year.

Mrs. Lou Collins was appointed district secretary and treasurer for 1978.

The Ida county district has regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Soil Conservation service office, 608 W. Second street in Ida Grove. The meetings are open to the public.

Holstein Advance

Hartley Is Chairman

The regular monthly meeting of the Ida County Soil Conservation District Commissioners was held in the District Office, Tuesday, Jan. 24. January is the month for election of officers and the following were elected: Chairman, George N. Hartley, Battle Creek; Vice Chairman, Burdelle Knudsen, Ida Grove.

Other commissioners are: Ramon Johnson, Holstein; Lester A. Vohs, Galva; Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek and J. Henry Brueck was appointed assistant-commissioner for the coming year.

Appointed District Secretary-Treasurer for the coming year was Mrs. Lou Collins.

The Ida District has its monthly meetings in the District Office on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Anyone is welcome to attend their meetings.

2-2-78

Windbreak Award Winner Recalls Father's Toil

Hazel Goodenow of Battle Creek is certain the Izaak Walton League of America knew what business it was about when it presented its first annual windbreak award to her son Bruce. And both mother and son are certain that the real credit of that award rests with the late Russell Goodenow, the husband and father who "could not break away from that windbreak," she says.

Announcement of the windbreak award came from the Ida Soil Conservation District last week when district chairman George Hartley made the presentation to Bruce Goodenow. The award is "in recognition of an exemplary windbreak planting program that is helping to conserve America's natural resources."

The windbreak which drew the attention of the Izaak Walton League began about 14 years ago when the late Russell Goodenow was retired and wanted to be

about his hobby of tree planting. Today, as a tribute to Mr. Goodenow there are two rows of honeysuckle, two rows of Green Ash and four rows of Austrian Pine on the Bruce Goodenow farm one mile east of Battle Creek. The two-acre windbreak, containing 3,400 trees, not only is a fitting memorial to Russell Goodenow but also adds its glory to the century farm which began when Bruce Goodenow's great-grandfather, Smith B. Goodenow, came from Massachusetts to Grinnell, Ia. and then to Battle Creek to carve out a living in the land. Mrs. Hazel Goodenow knows, too, that great-grandfather Goodenow often substituted as a preacher in the Battle Creek Presbyterian Church.

The century farm is where Bruce Goodenow was born and lived until 12 years ago when he and his family moved to town. "We had four boys and it was either I commute or they commute."

Goodenow brought some of his beloved trees with him to his home at the southwest edge of Battle Creek, where there are seven acres boasting of plenty of windbreaks.

Goodenow commutes daily to his century farm where he has 1,400 acres of corn and pasture and feeds out about 2,500 head of cattle each year. His farrow-to-finish hog operation produces about 500 head of hogs each year. Doug Dausel lives in the home on the century farm.

The windbreak which Russell Goodenow planted couldn't have found a better spot. The whole farm slopes to the northwest; the windbreak is intended to ease the wind chill that hangs around the farm buildings during an Iowa winter as well as stop the blowing snow. "It's kind of pretty" says Goodenow of the value of the windbreak. The trees were purchased by the Soil Conservation Service 14 years ago, and the windbreak was designed by the Conservation Service and is built on a graded terrace.

For Goodenow the windbreak means a more comfortable working situation, but even more important to him, it means a better world for pheasants in the area. "It's quite a haven for pheasants. We've got some of the most beautiful pheasants I've ever seen." The wild life often eats from the trench silos around the Goodenow farm.

The Goodenow farms are located in both the Crawford Creek and Pleasant Valley watersheds and include five farm ponds, all well stocked with fish and ducks. Although the haven for the wildlife is there, Bruce Goodenow himself doesn't fish or hunt. As far as the fowl go, "I just enjoy the sight of a pretty pheasant. I'd hate to shoot a pheasant for myself. I'd rather eat a

chicken." He'd rather watch the beauty of the beasts from the top of his tractor seat, he admits.

Bruce Goodenow remembers well the birth of the windbreak at his homeplace.

Hartley Elected Soil Leader

George Hartley of Battle Creek was elected chairman of the Ida County Soil Conservation District Commission during a meeting last week in the district office.

Burdelle Knudsen of Ida Grove was named vice chairman. Other commissioners are: Ramon Johnson, Holstein; Lester Vohs, Galva; Harlen Dausel, Battle Creek. J. Henry Brueck, Ida Grove, was appointed assistant commissioner for the coming year. Mrs. Lou Collins was appointed secretary-treasurer for the coming year.

The Ida district has its regular monthly meeting in the district office at 608 W. Second St. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The public is welcome to attend the meeting.

"If dad hadn't done a lot of hoeing when it first started it would not have been the windbreak it is." Russell Goodenow planted all the trees with a tree planter and "practically replanted every tree" in an attempt to have a perfect windbreak, his son recalls.

Russell Goodenow undertook the windbreak as a sort of hobby. This was the same man who had helped to promote the Pleasant Valley Watershed, the headstart of the Crawford Creek Watershed and a project which "really opened up the eyes of a lot of people," Bruce Goodenow says. In 1966 Russell Goodenow and his family received the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Award for being the 1966 Sweepstakes winner chosen by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the Iowa Farm and Home Register. To this day, Bruce Goodenow insists that the Izaak Walton award really belongs to his mother, who stood behind his father during the birth of the windbreak 14 years ago.

Hazel Goodenow, an 83-year-old who is still driving a car and still appreciating the trees all around her, recalls the days of the tree planting when her husband was late



TWO CONSERVATIONISTS--Bruce Goodenow and his mother Hazel, recall the days Hazel's husband Russell Goodenow planted a windbreak. Just this week the Izaak Walton League recognized the Goodenows for the outstanding windbreak.

for supper every day as he attempted to get each tree situated just right in the soil. "He was ever so proud of that windbreak." And today Hazel Goodenow is ever so proud of the quilts and needlepoint which her own hands continue to turn out.

Mike Goodenow, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Goodenow's oldest son, got in on his grandfather Russell's project when he was in about sixth or seventh grade, his father recalls. Conservationist Jim Wallace also helped with the project, and for his efforts he

received a Christmas tree from the windbreak each year until the trees had surpassed the Christmas tree stage.

Windbreaks aren't the only means of conservation practice Bruce Goodenow knows. The graduate of the University of Iowa with a degree in business administration and history also has about 25 miles of terraces on his Battle Creek farms. There are waterways and plenty of evidence of minimum tillage. There are over 20 acres of water in Goode-

now's farm ponds.

Goodenow is a past president of the Ida County Farm Bureau, a former member of the Battle Creek School Board, which he served for over 10 years, and now a member of the Battle Creek Lions Club. In addition to Mike Goodenow, 27, there are three other sons in the Bruce Goodenow family. Mark, 23, is a law student at Drake University. Mason, 19, is a student at Morning-side College, and Mitch is a senior at Battle Creek High School.



AWARD PRESENTATION--George Hartley, left, chairman of the Ida Soil Conservation District, presents Bruce Goodenow of Battle Creek with the Izaak Walton Windbreak award. Bruce Goodenow's son, Mike, who helped plant the trees in 1964, shares in the moment.

Bruce Goodenow

Wins "Ike" Award

Bruce Goodenow, Battle Creek farmer, has been named winner of the first annual windbreak award presented by the Izaak Walton League of America. The award is 'in recognition of an exemplary windbreak planting program that is helping to conserve America's natural resources.'

Individual county winners are selected by the local soil conservation district.

George Hartley, Chairman of the Ida Soil Conservation District, presented the award.

The two acre windbreak is located one mile east of Battle Creek. It consists of two rows honeysuckle, two rows green ash and four rows Austrian pine. It was planted 14 years ago with the assistance of Bruce's father, Russell.

Battle Creek Times

2-2-78

Terrace Construction Is Up

Construction of terraces for soil and water conservation increased in Ida County during 1977, according to Don Kauffman, district conservationist. Despite increased costs, Ida County farmers built 28.8 miles, the most they have built since 1972.

Twenty eight miles of those terraces were the grassed backslope variety. "We've come along way since we started building grassed backslope terraces," commented George Hartley, Soil Conservation district chairman. "The first ones were built in 1966, and now almost all are that design. Also about this time, the cut and fill method was started so terraces would be parallel. Now in the last few years, we have built terraces large enough to accommodate 8 and 12 row equipment." All these factors, in addition to inflation, have increased terrace costs steadily.

A total of \$238,947 was spent on the terrace construction during the year. This is an average of \$1.58 per foot. "Terrace costs ranged from 0.67 cents to \$4.11 per foot, but 80 per cent fell between \$1 and \$2.25. Most farmers received 50 per cent government cost-share. Cost share funds come from three sources, ASCS, State Department of Conservation and Little Sioux funds. If we didn't have all three funds avail-

able, not as many terraces could have been built," says Kauffman.

While most cost-share payments are at the 50 per cent rate, a special Little Sioux program pays up to 75 per cent in designated areas. Farmers should check with the Soil Conservation Office

to see if they are in these watershed areas.

"Terraces are a 'pay me now or pay me later' proposition" according to Hartley, "either way you pay the cost. Either you build and pay for terraces now, or you don't, in which case you pay the cost through soil losses and lowered yields later."

Soil survey to start in 1984

Ida County Courier - April 4, 1978

A county wide soil survey took a big step closer to reality last week when the Ida county conference board voted unanimously in favor of it. Although that decision can still be changed any time before the project's scheduled starting date of 1984, this is the first time the three member board has supported the project. The conference board is made up of the board of supervisors, the school boards and the city mayors of Ida county.

Three major factors have lead to the county's reversal from opposing the survey to mild support for the project. First, a new state law asks for property tax assessment on the basis of the expected productivity of the soil. If the soil survey is not used to show a soil's potential productivity, some members of the conference board feel that local tax assessments would not stand up in court. These board members feel that the state is almost forcing them to apply for the survey.

A second reason for supporting the survey at this time is that the county, if they eventually went ahead with the project, would pay today's price and escape any increase in survey expenditures. A soil survey currently goes for \$216,000 and the price is rising by about \$1,000 per township each year, according to local soil conservation director Don Kauffman. The county would pay one third of the cost for the project.

A final argument now in favor of the survey is that, when the Ida county temporary land commission recently mailed a questionnaire asking residents how they felt about this kind of project, most who sent letters back said they liked the idea. But only 32 of the 200 residents who were mailed questionnaires had any response to this question.

Even though the survey was given a qualified go-ahead, some members of the conference board were still skeptical of its value. Supervisor

Cliff Friedrichsen said he was supporting the plan only because it would keep the options open for any future board—they could refuse the project, or they could have it done at today's price. "That's why I've done an about-face here," Friedrichsen said, referring to his previous opposition to the project. "I personally don't think it's going to help my farm one iota," he added.

Battle Creek mayor Dave Johnson also questioned the value of the survey. "How accurate is it?" he asked. Johnson added he knew of a farmer who sent in two identical samples of soil to a private analyzer and got back two very different readings of what the soil contained.

Tom Fenton, professor of

agronomy at Iowa State University and one of the project's advocates at last week's conference board meeting, said that this survey would be different from the lime and nitrogen readings Johnson was talking about. Fenton said the state run soil survey Ida county would have would be "as good as the soil scientist is." Fenton added that the soil scientists taking samples out in the fields were often checked by other scientists in state laboratories.

Supervisor Wayne Swanger also showed some reluctance to wholly advocate the survey. "It really isn't our decision," Swanger said when some conference board members criticized the plan. "The state has done this to us," he explained, referring to the new

state legislation supporting the survey.

The soil survey involves a team of experts gathering information on the soil types, the slopes and the erosion in Ida county and making a soil map of the county. The samples would be taken up to five feet deep on every acre of county land.

There are two advantages to having a soil survey, according to Don Kauffman, soil conservation director in Ida county. It gives government a more fair method of property tax assessment and it can help local farmers, by letting them better know their soil, to get full potential from it.

Ida county is the last county in the state to apply for a soil survey.

Soil Survey's A Go in Ida

Ida County last week became the last county in Iowa to agree to a soil survey. The county will spend about \$72,000 for its share in the project.

After two years of talking and voting, the Ida County Conference Board met last Thursday and quickly decided to go with the survey. All three segments of the board, the mayors, the supervisors and the school board representatives, supported the soil survey. In the past the

supervisors have been opposed to the soil survey for different reasons and some of the mayors.

Assessor J. Wait Gailey, whose office probably will be levying a special tax to pay for the survey, said, "If they're going to stick with 100 per cent productivity (on farm valuations) it's almost a must to have a soil survey because I think at present your townships are too far apart as far as prices go..."

Wally Tonsfeldt, an area conservationist from Sioux City, was present to answer questions Thursday. He said once a soil survey is done an update would not be needed for another 20 to 30 years.

Presently, several counties in the state who have had soil surveys done earlier are being remapped. Supervisor Tom Odgaard said his main gripe was that the updates in the other counties were being made before Ida

County's initial mapping. As it now stand Ida's soil survey will not be started until 1984 and the actual mapping will take several years.

The officials on hand to explain the soil survey Thursday said if a farmer does not want a soil survey done on his land he can not be forced to comply. "We really have never wanted to force that issue and we never have had to," the conservation officials said.

Supervisor Cliff Friedrichsen said he did not know how a soil survey was going to help improve his farming one bit but he said he agreed with the assessor that a survey would be needed if productivity was to be the standard on which the land was evaluated. But Battle Creek Mayor Dave Johnson saw nothing good about the survey Thursday and went on record as opposed: "It just seems that it's a very

inaccurate way to judge a person's productivity of his ground."

The cost of the project, which will amount to about \$18,000 per township, will be shared by the state and federal government as well as the county, which will have to pay one-third of the costs.

The conference board did not discuss the ways in which it will finance the soil survey, but it is expected to draw upon the assessor's budget.

The supervisors also met in a regular session Monday as required by law. The board visited with Tom Boughn, a member of the courthouse compromise board. The board approved the sheriff's quarterly report of fees and read a letter from Dennis Tobin, director Ida County's Social Services. Tobin is requesting a janitor for his office space.

Kiwanis Serve

Pancakes Sat.

The Ida Grove Kiwanis Club will be serving pancakes and the trimmings this Saturday at the community hall. Serving will start at 6 a.m. and will run throughout the day till 6 p.m.

Ida County

Pioneer Record

Serving Ida County for 106 Years

IDA GROVE, IOWA

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1978

Two Sections

THIS ISSUE

NUMBER TWO



Nature study

The next best thing to recess must be having class outside and, last Tuesday, Ida Grove sixth graders took their schoolroom to Moorehead park where they listened to speakers on several topics relating to the outdoors. In this photo, the youngsters gather

under a tree to listen to Ida Grove mayor Theo Murphy talk on pioneer days in Ida county. Murphy grew up in the Moorehead park area and has been interested in its history and wildlife ever since. (Courier photo)

5-16-78



One of many

Ida Grove's Jim Elias was one of several winners in the soil conservation district's poster contest. Elias was named first place winner for the high school

division at Ida Grove. With Elias and his winning entry is Don Kaufmann, soil conservationist for the Ida county district. (Courier photo) 5-16-78



THE MAKING OF A LAKE---Crawford Creek Subwatershed's recreational lake south of Battle Creek is continuing to fill with water. The proposed 63-acre facility has about 42 acres underwater.

Crawford Creek: Slow But Sure

Camping should be in full swing at Crawford Creek Subwatershed Recreational part by next summer.

The park, located in Grant Township three miles south of Battle Creek, has approximately 42 acres underwater this week. When completely full the lake will be about 38 feet deep in the middle and cover 63 acres.

Due to be started anytime now is the construction of a bath house which will contain showers, toilet facilities, and also a sewage disposal plant and a well house.

A boat ramp, a beach area and 25 trailer pads already have been completed, and a network of roads is graveled. "Mokey" Witters of the ASCS said it appears there may even be a possibility of some fall camping at the recreational park. This fall

tree planting is planned. Last week the lake was stocked with fish.

Ground breaking ceremonies for the Crawford Creek Subwatershed occurred July 9, 1976. The Crawford Creek project began in 1965 with the purpose of reducing flooding and erosion in an 8,322 acre area.

In 1970 the sponsors decided that the project should include recreational facilities. The sponsors of the \$1.3 million project are the Ida County Soil Conservation District, the Ida County Conservation Board and the Ida County Board of Supervisors. The Soil Conservation Service is providing technical and financial assistance.

The Ida County Conservation Board is in charge of developing the 63-acre lake and the 252-acre park.

Throughout the project conservation is always the goal. Terraces, conservation tillage, grassed waterways, contouring and strip cropping have been installed to protect the land and insure that the ponds and recreation lake do not fill with sediment.

The large dam at the 63-acre lake is a rolled earthfill structure 48.5 feet high and 1,000 feet long. It is 18 feet wide at the top and 340 feet at the widest point at the base. The dam contains 110,500 cubic yards of earth fill.

When completed, the watershed project will include 12 smaller detention ponds for gully stabilization, three full-flow stabilization structures and the multi-purpose recreational structure.



A New Home For The Fish

Jerry Hudson of the County Conservation Commission of Buena Vista County holds some of the 6,300 large mouth bass that were added to the Crawford Creek Lake last Thursday afternoon. The bass, which now measure about an inch and a half, should be about eight inches long by fall.

Award winning farmers tour Ida county sites

Area award-winning farmers and farm leaders from four states spent Wednesday morning touring Ida county.

The tour, called the Conservation Caravan was for the conservation award winners in 12 conservation districts in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota.

This year's tour emphasized community development as well as conservation and ecology.

Tour members stopped at the

Crawford Creek watershed project south of Battle Creek Wednesday morning and found the new lake full after Tuesday's rains in the area.

From Crawford Creek the group toured Midwest Industries in Ida Grove and other Midwest facilities at Lake LaJune. From there the group met at Moorehead park for lunch.

The tour was sponsored by the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce and the Sioux City Journal.



Conservation tour

Conservation award winning farmers from 12 conservation districts in four states toured parts of Ida county Wednesday. Included on the tour in the county

were Crawford Creek watershed, Midwest Industries and Midwest facilities at Lake LaJune. The tour group had lunch at Moorehead park before going back to Sioux City. (Courier photo)

County builds 30 miles of terraces

Conservation is a big job in Ida county as last year nearly 30 miles of terraces were constructed in the conservation district.

Terracing and continuing work on watershed projects are the priorities for the county. The two go hand in hand as terraces are used to treat the land above control structures in the watersheds, said Don Kauffman, district conservationist.

Another conservation technique used in the county is the grass waterway and last year there were 57.4 acres of new grass waterway constructed in the county.

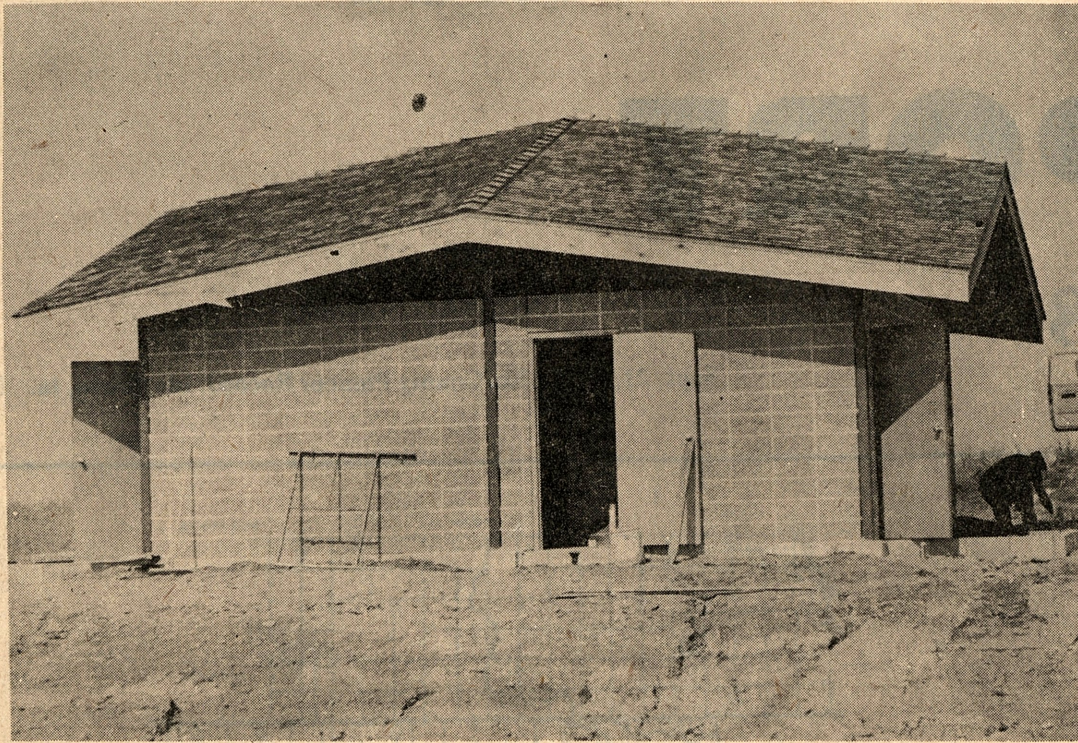
The district conservation office is also involved in planning other erosion control structures such as dams for gully stabilization or for detention of water.

The soil district also recorded 15.6 acres of new windbreaks last year. Trees in some of the older windbreaks in the county have died and the breaks have been cleared and replaced with new trees.

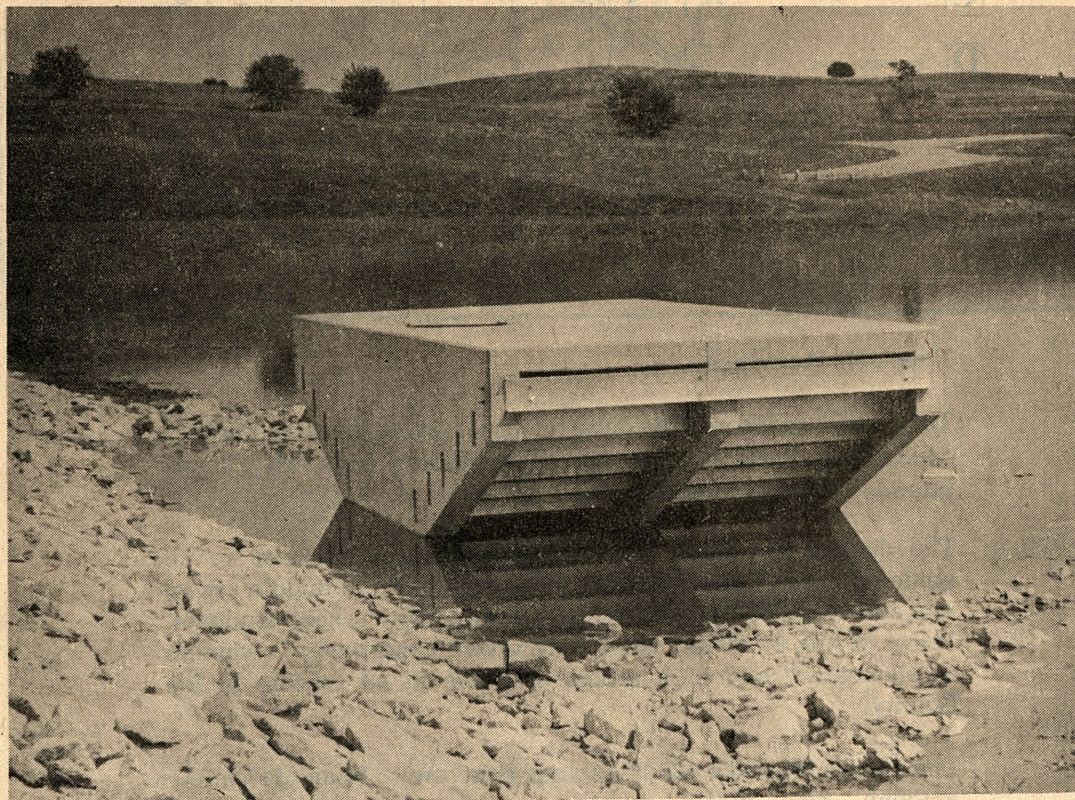
Another conservation measure in the county is drainage tile and last year there were about 12.5 miles of new tile installed. Kauffman said the amount of tiling done depends upon how wet the year is.

In dry years, he said, wet areas disappear and the farmers put tiling to the back of their mind. But in wet years, such as this one, the wet areas come and farmers again consider ways to tile away the moisture.

It Rained at Crawford Creek!



BATH FACILITIES---Work is just about completed for restroom and shower facilities at the Crawford Creek recreational area south of Battle Creek. Fick Construction of Ida Grove is building the facility. Eugene Fick says the building should be completed within a couple of weeks.



NEARING THE INLET---After the rainfall of last week, the water level at the Crawford Creek watershed is nearing the point of going over the inlet near the dam portion of the project. Don Kauffman, Ida County Soil Conservationist, estimates the water level came up nearly seven feet last week with approximately 120 million gallons of water draining into the lake area within a 48 hour period on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Conservation Week couldn't be more fittingly celebrated at Crawford Creek Lake than it was this year when six inches of hard rain pushed the water level of the lake up about eight feet.

The 63-acre lake, located in Section 10 of Garfield Township south of Battle Creek, is now boasting of about 25-foot depths near the dam, and the rest of the lake is running between 10 to 15 feet in depth.

Don Kauffman, district soil conservationist, was pleased with the rains but also added that erosion must be monitored under such a driving rain. There are emergency spillways in the Crawford Creek watershed project and built-in protection in case of big rains. "They're actually built for 100 year of 12-inch rains. It's called a high hazard dam. It would take 12 inches of rain in 24 hours" before there could be overrun, Kauffman said.

The soil conservationist has every reason to be pleased. "They had programmed the lake so it would be full in four years. It did it in half the time."

The filled lake now means swimmers and other visitors may wish to begin using the facility next summer. A structure to house toilets and showers is just about finished at the park. Also completed is the network of graveled roads which even-

tually will be blacktopped for campers' convenience. Twenty-four trailer pads are finished to accomodate campers. Electrical hookups will be provided in the future.

A beach area has been constructed, along with a boat dock, ramp and fishing jetties. Last fall 6,300 channel cat and 63,000 blue gill were put into the lake, and last spring the lake was stocked with 6,300 large mouth bass.

Moke Witters, a member of the Ida County Conservation Board, said the next step is to take bids for the planting of trees. There is also a bath house to construct when the funds are available, Witters said. There will be three picnic shelters for campers and other visitors to the recreational area.

The Crawford Creek Lake is a part of the Little Sioux

River watershed flood prevention project. The Crawford Creek project began as basically an erosion control project before developing into a recreational facility.

A county bond issue for \$175,000 in 1972 has helped finance the project, whose

total cost is \$1.3 million.

A ground-breaking ceremony in July of 1976 marked the beginning of the construction of the rolled earth-fill dam, which is about 48.5 feet high and 1,000 feet long.

Sponsors of the Crawford Creek project and cost

sharers include the Ida County Soil Conservation District, the Ida County Soil Conservation Board and the Ida County Board of Supervisors. The local Soil Conservation Service is providing funds and technical assistance.



Against the wind

Raymond Lohff, Logan township, won this year's Izaak Walton league award for the best natural windbreak. Lohff, shown here with his dog Patrick, keeps scotch pines, Austrian pines, blue spruce and other trees in the

windbreak, seen in the background. Some of the trees date back to before the turn of the century and the most recent were transplanted around 1960. This is the first year the Izaak Walton league has issued the award. (Courier photo).

Windbreak Award Goes To Raymond Lohff

Raymond Lohff, a Holstein farmer, has been named recipient of the 1978 Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award, according to George N. Hartley, chairman of the Ida Soil Conservation District.

Lohff's windbreak, located adjacent to Highway 59 south of Holstein, is a good example of planning, Hartley said. The windbreak contains Austrian, Scotch, Jack Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce and Multiflora Rose, in four rows. In addition, other varieties have established themselves through natural reseeding since it was planted in 1953. It doubles as excellent wildlife habitat, Hartley added.

Hartley said this award is particularly appropriate due to the concern for energy conservation. "A windbreak such as Lohff's is an excellent way to reduce energy needs for heating farm homes and livestock buildings. Now is the time to start planning a windbreak for your farm if you don't already have a good one."

Supervisors View SCS Matters

Soil Conservation watershed projects in Ida County and ways to hasten the progress of the watershed work claimed the attention of the county supervisors Tuesday morning in a joint meeting with the Soil Conservation Commissioners.

Don Kauffman, district conservationist, outlined the watershed program for the supervisors and said he felt it important to coordinate the conservation work with the county's road work. He also explained to the board that it is now possible for the county supervisors to authorize funding so that the SCS might hire additional personnel and accelerate the progress of their programs.

By the end of the meeting, Kauffman was estimating the SCS would need about \$6,000 from the county in order to employ a technician to assist the present personnel.

But first, Kauffman outlined the Little Sioux Watershed program, which began in 1945 and is due to expire in 1992. There are six watersheds completed in the Little Sioux Program or about 13 per cent of the entire county. Sixty percent of the county remains in the watershed planning stages.

Kauffman concluded, "We have by far the larger percentage of work to do. It either isn't going to get done or we're going to have to do it at a faster rate."

WATERSHED PROGRESS

The role of the supervisors is to co-sponsor watersheds, as the county board has the Crawford Creek Sub-watershed. Kauffman said the district now is working in Bitter Creek Watershed in Douglas Township and is moving to the Bacon Creek area to the south, which is known as the Westside Watershed. The third area the district is working to complete is the West Aldridge.

Kauffman said there remains "a tremendous potential for work, structure-wise." The funds are largely available through cost-sharing programs, but lack of personnel is the stumbling

block. Kauffman explained that in calendar year 1978 the cost sharing for the Ida watershed projects included \$69,000 from the ASC, \$78,000 from the state and \$94,000 from the Little Sioux Program, for a total of about \$180,000 in cost-sharing.

Kauffman said the thing to remember is that whenever a road structure may be combined with an erosion control structure the result is beneficial. But he said that is not the way it is with the Badger Creek area where the people of the area haven't yet decided there is much need for land treatment. "Here's a situation where you're ready to do a road but we're not ready to do a watershed structure."

The district conservationist was referring to the county's plans to grade a road south of Ida Grove from old Hwy. 59 to the new Hwy. 59. On hand at the meeting to listen to the discussion of this very topic was Rex Williams, representing land owned by Floyd Hughes in the area of the Badger Creek. Kauffman said it would be helpful to get some control on the Badger Creek. County engineer Don Shaw was present and said plans now call for construction of a 12 by 12 reinforced concrete box.

In other discussion during the morning, Kauffman told the supervisors there are funds known as "county assistance funds" coming to the county from the state which are supposed to be used for agricultural purposes. Kauffman said conservation currently is low priority with the federal government and can use the boost from the state. Wally Tonsfeldt, area conservationist from Sioux City, said that the federal government may be cutting back even more.

REQUEST TO COUNTY

Kauffman asked the supervisors to allocate funds for additional SCS personnel in order that the present techniques may be better utilized. He estimated an employee would cost about \$6,000 for the work needed

to be done. The employee would be used primarily as a rod man, Kauffman said, and would not need prior training. He said the extra help would enable the SCS to accomplish as much as possible in as short a time as possible.

Supervisor chairman Cliff Friedrichsen asked Kauffman whether the SCS would choose to hire someone even in the event that the workload did not require extra help. Kauffman said the workload would have to be considered from year to year, and he assured the supervisors that the SCS would not hire an extra person in the event that the workload did not demand.

The supervisors made no decisions concerning the request. Next Thursday, Feb. 1, the board will be hearing requests from the public for ways to spend the county's revenue sharing funds. Kauffman said he and his SCS commissioners would be discussing whether to appear at that meeting.

Law also permits county general funds from tax revenues to be used for hiring SCS personnel, according to correspondence Kauffman received from the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation and distributed to the supervisors Tuesday morning.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

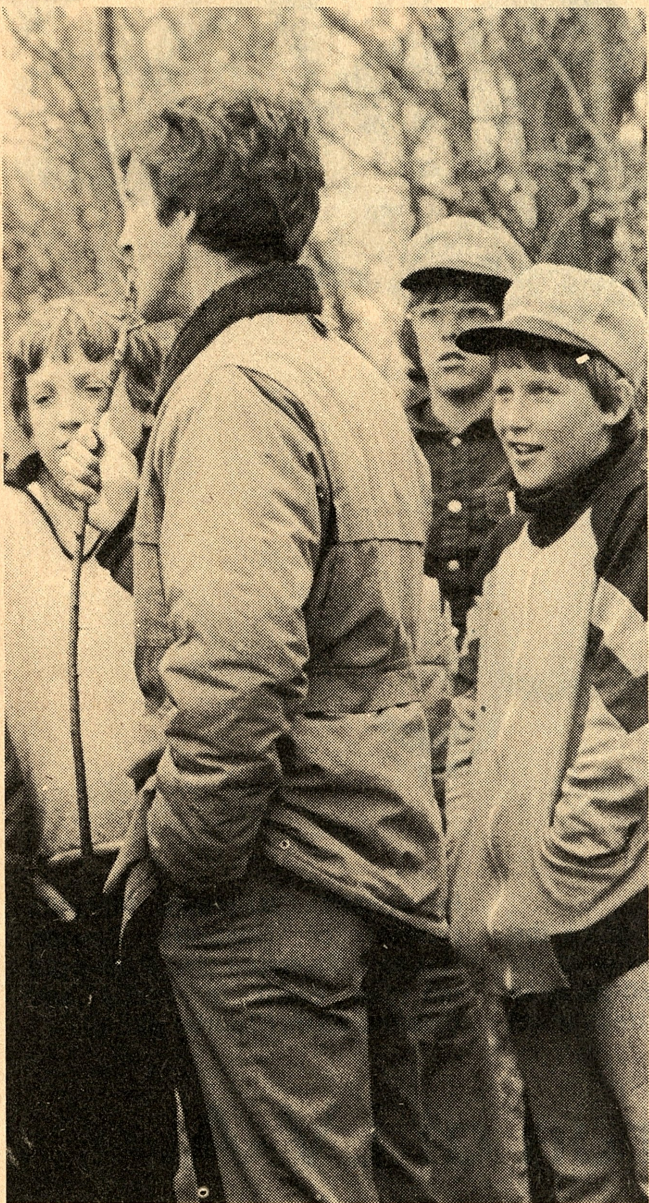
INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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5-9-79



Outside class

Ida county sixth graders took to Moorehead park Tuesday for the annual conservation day. The event gives the students a chance to learn about the land and conservation practices. One of the guest instructors was Duane Bedford, district forester for the Iowa Conservation commission. (Courier photo)



Hawk Talk

Darcy Lindstrom, left, and Brad Wolterman, both sixth graders in the Ida Grove schools, got a close-up look at what a red-tailed hawk is all about during the sixth grade conservation day at Moorehead Pioneer Park last week. Steve Duecker, life science instructor from Maple Valley schools, brought the Hawk to the conservation day.

Soil conservation

Iowa's Supreme Court has put teeth into the state's soil conservation law by upholding the law in a unanimous decision last week. And with that precedent now set, those teeth may reach out and grab other property owners in the state.

District Court Judge James P. Kelly had ruled the law unconstitutional in January, 1978, and the Supreme Court's decision overturned that decision.

The job of protecting and conserving the soil should be as important to farmers and other landowners as planting and harvesting crops. Let's face it, without taking soil conservation measures, it's just a matter of time until the precious resource is gone. Then it's too late, because there's no replacing topsoil.

Iowa has been losing topsoil at an average rate of about 13 tons per acre every year for the last several years. It's estimated that 60 percent of the land in Ida county is losing 15 tons per acre of topsoil and more every year. And at that rate it won't take long for the soil to leave Iowa.

What puzzles us a little is why landowners haven't taken more initiative along the lines of soil conservation. Cost-sharing programs for various ways to save the soil pay up to 75 percent of the cost. And there's plenty of planning help available through the conservation service and the ASCS office.

Conserving the soil may involve methods such as starting a

conservation tillage program for the farm (not a bad idea anyway in view of the farm fuel supply situation) or planting a few trees to help knock down the wind which contributes to the erosion. Or, it might mean something as major as a terracing project.

However, terraces nowadays are constructed in most instances so they can be farmed with modern machinery, which means the landowner doesn't have to take as much land out of production as he once did to have terraces.

To be sure, many other states were keeping their eyes on how the Iowa court handled the challenge to the conservation law. And just as the state was the first to pass a soil conservation law, Iowa should take the lead in soil conservation practices.

It seems ironic that in a state where so much of the economy relies on agriculture, farmers and landowners have to be forced into taking care of the land. We've taken our land for granted and it's time we stopped.

Conservation doesn't come easily to Americans. Few have made the commitment to conserve gasoline and other petroleum products regardless of the warnings of shortages. Likewise, the commitment toward soil conservation has been limited.

We're happy with the Supreme Court's decision concerning the conservation law. We'd like to think the ruling will get Iowans to focus on soil conservation efforts so we can save our valuable soil. (J.J.)

Crawford creek

It's been almost seven years ago since the people in Ida county approved the \$175,000 bond issue to buy and develop land for a recreational area south of Battle Creek.

Known as Crawford Creek lake because it's part of the overall Crawford Creek subwatershed project, the new lake is something everyone in the county can be proud of. The lake is full now, ahead of schedule, and much of the construction work around it has been completed.

We had a chance to spend some time at the lake over the weekend, and we'd encourage everyone in the county to take the short trip to the lake to see the fruits of their tax money. The lake area is attractive, and there are signs it will be even more so in the future.

The thing to remember about the Crawford Creek lake is that it's part of a major conservation project and has a larger purpose than only recreation. To date there have been contracts totaling more than \$1 million for the construction work involved in the Crawford Creek project, which also includes several structures above the recreation area.

The lake at Crawford Creek, 63 acres big with several fingers which tend to make the lake even more attractive, has survived some tough times. Shortly after it

began to fill, there was some interest in draining the lake so an excavation could take place.

It was estimated the excavation could have taken up to a couple years or more to complete, which would have deprived the county of its newest recreation area. The county conservation board voted against the excavation project.

Heavy autumn rains and runoff in the spring have filled the lake. The fill was so ahead of schedule there are still some bales of hay which are partially submerged, surprise victims of the quick fill.

With the lake filled, other work is starting to take on meaning. Visitors to the park can see by the trees which have been planted that the now-unshaded area will be covered with trees in the future. The sand swimming beach is completed. It's possible to travel the winding roads up to the site of the camping area, which has a tremendous view of the lake.

In addition, the Iowa Conservation commission has been stocking fish in the lake to make it even a better recreation feature in the future.

The recreation area is one that will be enjoyed for years to come. For those of us who weren't in Ida county in 1972 when the vote for the recreation area was taken, we'd like to thank those who made the new park area possible. (J.J.)

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Editor-Jim Jenkins
Advertising-Roger Rector, Cheryl O'Connor
News Editors-Brooks Taylor, Carol Burton,
Tom Raithel
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Krsnak—soil work keeps him moving

Dave Krsnak is a busy individual—sometimes he meets himself coming and going. Part of the reason for Krsnak's demanding schedule is that he is wearing two hats. Not only is he a conservation officer associated with the Little Sioux flood-control program, but he also assists Don Kauffman, district soil conservation officer from Ida Grove.

"Don and I try to split up the work (Little Sioux and other conservation duties) about 50-50 and it works out well," said Krsnak.

Krsnak, a 1978 graduate in agronomy (soil sciences) from Iowa State university says he enjoys his work. "I sure like working with the Little Sioux. It is one program which offers a lot of extra help for an area which needs a lot of work (terracing). It is good for Ida county as it brings in a lot of money for terracing. It also enhances the district program...Working for a specific goal in an area involves a lot of participation of the people that live in the sub-watershed areas and there has been a lot of participation from those people."

The Little Sioux program involves conservation practices such as terracing and watershed construction and covers Woodbury, Ida, Plymouth, the west end of Cherokee and Monona counties. It is a

federally funded program which is to be completed in 1992. Originally, the program was supposed to have been finished 10 years earlier but work completion fell behind.

"A lot of work being done right now on the program is concentrated in Monona county. They are kind of working their way up stream and the further up the stream, the less critical the work," assessed Krsnak.

He said a schedule has been drawn up defining the more critical areas and the program is almost right on schedule. "We are fairly much on schedule now as we have put the critical areas on a schedule. Some areas are ahead of schedule and some are behind. But we aren't waiting for anybody. There are four critical areas of work left to be done in Ida county and those people have to get organized...There are plenty of areas of work and we don't have time to push the watersheds," commented the conservationist.

Originally from Centerville, Krsnak did not decide to enter conservation work until his second year of school. However, before that he was in fisheries and wildlife biology which is closely related to conservation work.

During the summers following his sophomore and

junior year of college, he worked in conservation work in Davis and Poweshiek counties in Iowa, and found he enjoyed the work.

Upon graduation, he landed a job with the service and started working for the Little Sioux project in Woodbury county which lasted eight months before his transfer in February to Ida county.

Being in conservation work does not afford Krsnak and his wife a chance to settle down—at least now. "It would be nice to settle down. We go to a place and know we won't be staying long so we really can't settle in a community as much as we would like to if we knew we would be staying for a time period...I really don't have any idea how long I will be here. When you have just been in the service a while, they like to move you around and they don't send you back to a place where you have been before...They like to keep you in limbo."

But Krsnak feels the moving also has a beneficial side to it. "At first, I wasn't sure I wanted to move around as much as I have. But now I feel fortunate I have moved around a lot because I have been given a lot of different theories on conservation and the way things are done."

He also has had the chance of seeing different types of soil and says soil varies greatly in the state and even Ida county. "The land in this part of the state is much different than in southern Iowa. Most of the land there is flat and soil conservation work is done in pasture management. In Ida county, the soil is much more permeable by water. But Ida county also has two different types of soil as there is more tile in the northern part of the county which isn't as permeable."

Eventually, he would like to supervise his own conservation district ("I think everyone in conservation work would like to do that"). But until then he is gaining all the experience he can.

He defines his duties as a conservation planner and compiling layout work. "In conservation planning, I help anyone wanting to get in the program. I help them decide what soil losses are and what solutions are to get them to the limits...I also like to do the work, but I am not

able to do as much as I would like because the technicians handle a lot of that. But if I don't do some, I'll get rusty."

Krsnak also said he tries to meet with the watershed people at least once a year and help

with research in the department and getting conservation material ready.

"I also assist Don with conservation radio programs once a month and try to get things into the news media. We

try to use the news media as much as possible," explained the conservationist.

But until Krsnak receives his own district, he is just gathering all the experience he can.



Helping out

Dave Krsnak, a native of Centerville, is assisting soil conservation district director Don Kauffman in the Ida Grove office.

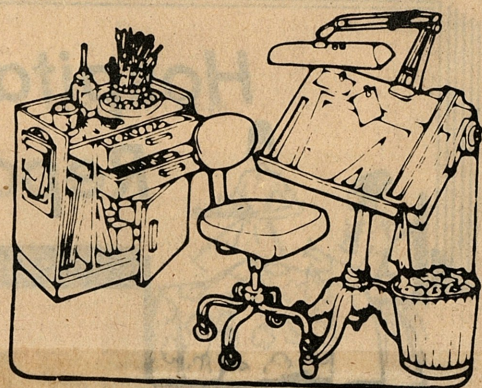
Krsnak has worked in the office since February and is primarily working with the Little Sioux project. (Courier photo)

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A4 - Ida County Courier - November 14, 1979



views and comment

My side of the fence

These farmers deserve award

by Elvie Dreeszen

I have watched the transformation of a farm. I pass it each time I go to Cushing. Over the past three or four years push-up terraces have been constructed to the extent that erosion is as completely under control as is practical.

It is an example of the high standard of achievement that is possible when the people involved are truly dedicated to preserving the land.

Its present owner will pass that farm on in better shape than he found it. No higher tribute can be paid to a landowner.

This has not gone unnoticed by others. On Thursday of this week, the Marc Cox awards banquet, sponsored by the agriculture committee of the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce, will be the forum where such achievement is formally recognized. Recipients of this well-deserved award are Arnold and Lucille

Grell, owners, and Lundt Bros., Marc and Bruce, tenants. Significant about this award is that it represents a cooperative effort between landlord and tenant, a matchup. Not always easy to attain.

I have been familiar with the Grell farm since I was a kid. I watched its top soil erode and go down the Creek for 35 years. Its decline predates even that period.

At the time Grell bought it in about the middle fifties, some areas of the farm were completely devoid of topsoil. Under improved management and soil conserving techniques, especially in the last few years, its return to a higher state of productivity has been dramatic. No, it's not comparable to virgin prairie yet, but that level of fertility is again possible and even probable. It is headed in that direction and that's what's important.

I can remember when that farm was considered to be well managed. The

emphasis, however, was on farmstead, fences and livestock. It had excellent buildings, cement fence posts, iron entry gates and massive gate posts (still there) and its operators bred purebred Shorthorn cattle. But other than crop rotation, which was standard practice for that time, nothing positive was done to conserve soil and water.

It's only fair to remind ourselves that farmers of that particular period, the first quarter of this century and going as far back as the last quarter of the previous century, utilized cultural practices that presented a less severe threat to soil erosion than those of a later period.

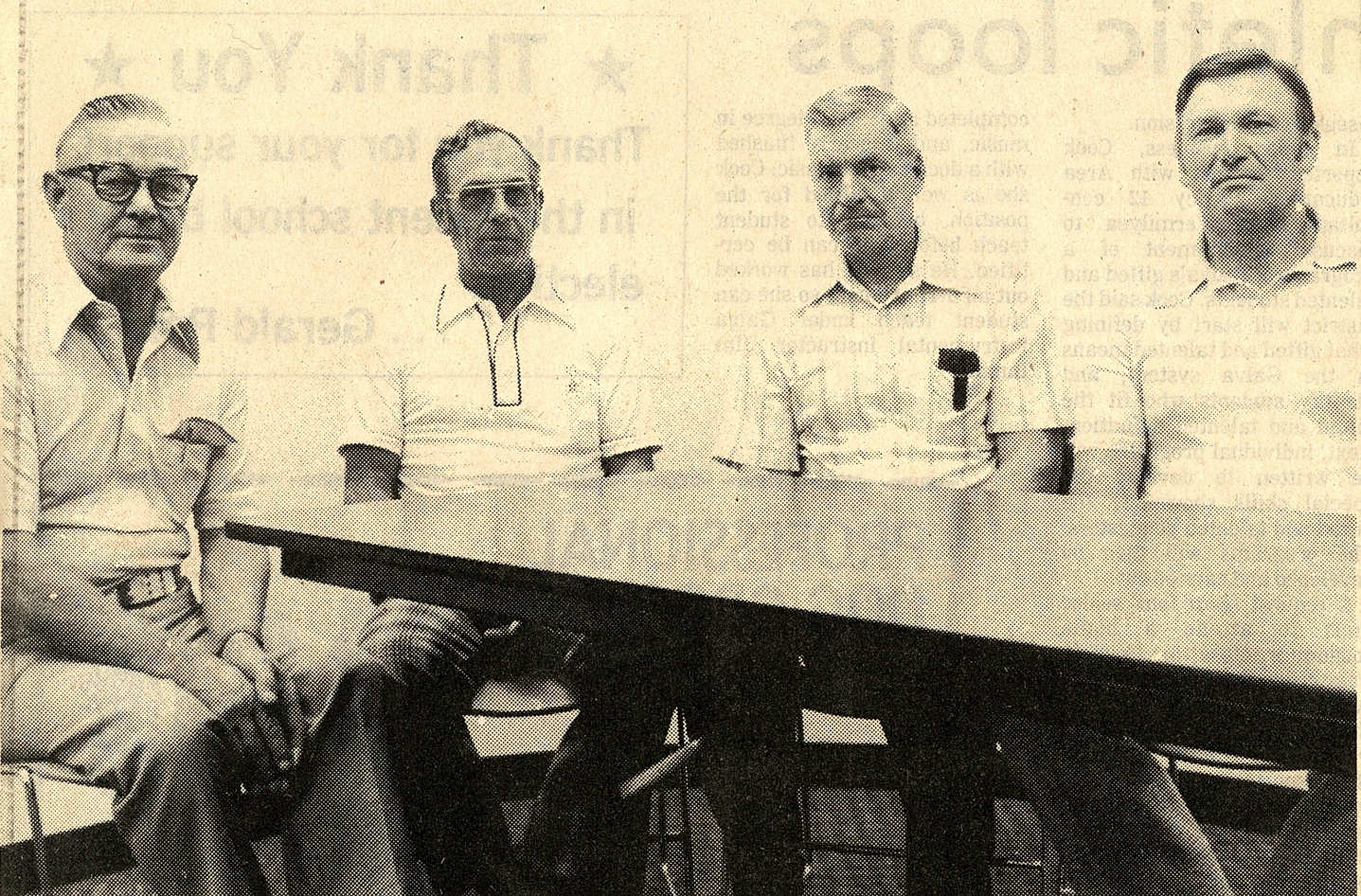
First of all, horsepower was used. Land was not plowed as deep, nor were wheel tracks as prominent, even though most crop rows were run straight up and down hill. Hoof marks actually made good receptacles for trapping rain water where it fell. In short, tillage practices of

that period did not produce the potential for erosion that came with the advent of tractor power. Yet, it took its toll of topsoil just the same.

A further thought is that the technology for controlling erosion simply did not exist until the late thirties. Even then it was somewhat primitive. Machines were not on the drawing boards then that move dirt with the ease of modern earth movers.

Even now, with more dirt contractors in the business than ever before, booked weeks ahead, we are decades away from getting adequate erosion control measures put into place. This is not a pleasing prospect.

That's why it's so important to recognize those who have done their part. The public is indebted to the Grells, the Lundts and all others dedicated to resource preservation, and to the Sioux City Chamber for sponsoring a recognition program.



New commissioners

The new district soil commissioners for Ida county are, from left: Harlan Dausel of Battle Creek, Lester Vohs of Galva, George Hartley of Battle Creek and Ramon Johnson of Ida Grove. Burdelle Knudsen of Ida Grove,

another commissioner, is not pictured here. The commissioners had a public hearing Monday night on what kinds of long range soil conservation plans the district should make. (Courier photo)

Conservationists meet

Terrace construction, contour farming, conservation tillage, the building of grass waterways and strip cropping were the preferred ways of conserving Ida county soil at a public hearing called by the district soil commissioners Monday night.

A group of about 20 watershed board members and others attended the meeting and recommended that these conservation methods be given top priority in the county's soil conservation program.

The recommendations were made to the soil commissioners and district soil conservationist Don Kauffman.

The group also recommended that the district soil conservation program be geared toward farm landowners and renters; that district officials use personal contacts, watershed meetings and watershed tours to publicize conservation practices; and that reduced soil losses, operating costs and fertilizer and chemical losses be emphasized in promoting soil conservation.

The purpose of the hearing was explained by Kauffman at the outset. Kauffman said that a large amount of the money available for soil conservation projects in Ida county would run out in 1992.

"We've got a lot of watersheds to do and were down to an awfully strict schedule," Kauffman said.

Right now, only 8 watersheds covering just 13 percent of the county are complete—that is,

have their top soil loss down to less than 5 tons per acre per year.

Nine watersheds covering about half of the county were partially developed, Kauffman said. Four watersheds covering about 20 percent were in critical need of development, Kauffman said, while soil in the rest of the county could be protected by simple contouring and minimum tillage.

Kauffman said that the district soil conservation commissioners wanted to get information from the public on what practices they should emphasize, and how they should promote them.

Kauffman's assistant, Dave Krsnak, briefly explained the kinds of soils found in the county and the types of programs available for soil conservation projects.

Krsnak and Kauffman then handed out three questionnaires. The first listed 16 conservation practices and asked people how important each one of these was.

The second questionnaire asked what things should be emphasized in promoting soil conservation and what were the most serious obstacles in getting people to practice soil conservation.

The third questionnaire asked who the soil conservation programs should be directed at, and how soil conservation should be promoted.

The results of the questionnaires showed that terrace building, contouring, conservation tillage, the building of

grass waterways and strip-cropping were considered the most important soil conservation practices.

According to Krsnak, the soil conservation officers emphasize all of these practices now with the exception of strip-cropping.

Seeding critical areas, such as the backslopes, was also considered important, Krsnak said.

The points that should be emphasized most when promoting soil conservation, according to people at the meeting were that reduced soil losses help maintain fertility, that some practices reduce operating costs, that fertilizer and chemical losses can be eliminated and that farmers have a stewardship responsibility to prevent soil losses.

The obstacles to promoting soil conservation practices were that larger farm operations and machinery make some conservation

practices impossible, and that critical areas are too hard to re-establish and make productive again.

People at the meeting said that farm owners and renters, as opposed to town residents and acreage owners, should be given top priority for service in Ida county.

People at the meeting also recommended that, in order to promote conservation practices in Ida county, conservation officials should make personal contacts with farm owners and renters, have watershed meetings and watershed tours, and offer county conservation tours.

Seeking funds for recreational area of Crawford Creek project

The county conservation board got permission from the county board of supervisors to put the county's name on an application for a federal community block grant for \$165,500. The funds would be used to further develop the Crawford Creek watershed project as a recreational area.

About \$150,000 of the grant would be used to build roads to the different camping, fishing and other recreational areas in the project and \$45,000 would go toward purchasing more land to increase access into the area.

If the money comes through work would run from May 1977 through the following May.

Mrs. Kawamoto, a private consultant in community planning from Omaha, helped the conservation commission with the grant application and met with the supervisors Thursday along with conservation board chairman George Witters.

Kawamoto told the supervisors the county has about a 10 percent chance of getting the funds. He said the project is worthy of federal consideration because it is a flood prevention project, a conservation project and a recreational project.

Another factor Kawamoto said will enhance the county's chances of getting funds is 16 percent of the families in the county are in the low to moderate income bracket and seven percent are below the national poverty level according to SIMPOCO. He said this fact will be stressed in the application with the goal of

getting recreational facilities for low income families.

In other business, the two new supervisors got their first taste of the courthouse issue as county officials.

Mrs. Jerry Davenport, Ida Grove, came to the board meeting to ask the supervisors why the people in the county can't vote on whether to restore the current structure and build a small office building next to the courthouse to provide additional office space.

She said she thinks people are interested in saving the structure and aren't as worried about the cost of renovation and the only way to determine the will of the people is by giving them the choice in an election.

Board chairman Tom Odgaard explained the county can't have an election allowing people to choose between such options as renovations, a new building or no change. State law requires the people be given one option, such as new building, and a chance to vote yes or no. Odgaard said an election with several different options would be possible if a group such as the League of Women Voters would be willing to run an unofficial ballot.

Odgaard also said he thinks people are concerned about the cost of renovation and said the county would have quite a bill if the current structure were improved to meet standards for fire safety and handicapped codes in addition to making the building structurally sound again.

Mrs. Davenport urged the board to determine the cost of renovation and to get an opinion from another architect on the feasibility of renovation. She said she doesn't think James Duffy, who has been the architect for the project since it was started, is interested in renovation.

Supervisor Wayne Swanger said he thought the county should bring in a structural engineer or another architect.

Odgaard said the county has had others in who said the building was not structurally sound but the county people refuse to accept it.

Also, he said Duffy has said it's fine with him to call in another architect for another opinion.

Mrs. Davenport tried to pin the board down to saying they will run another election, but Odgaard pointed out the new board will need to study the situation and promised only to give the problem more consideration.

Arthur mayor Carl Hedum and Duane Simonsen, Arthur, met with the board to discuss the possibility of moving the county shop in Arthur from its current location in the residential section of Arthur to some land on the west side of Arthur Lumber Co. on highway 175.

Hedum and Simonsen said the town wanted to build more housing in the residential area. The board said it's fine to move the shop, which is used to house county equipment such as maintainers, but said the area west of the lumber yard, seemed too small.

Hedum and Simonsen agreed to get the exact size of the site and to double check for other possible sites and report back to the board.

The supervisors read and filed written notice of a tort claim against the county from Ida Grove attorney Morris Hurd.

In the claim Hurd charges his client, Craig Muston, was "deprived of his privilege to be protected from coercion intended to secure a confession." Hurd said attorneys Laurel Boerner and Tom Treinen, who are employed by the county, attempted to secure a confession by forcing Muston to come to the courthouse and go through an oral examination while Muston was being charged with a felony.

Hurd said the action was against Muston's federally guaranteed constitutional right to be free from coercion intended to secure a confession and his privilege against self-incrimination.

No dollar figure will be attached to the action until a suit is actually filed.

The board reappointed Helen Nielsen, Battle Creek, Harold Parker, Holstein, and G. Kent Renegar, Ida Grove, to one year terms on the county board of social welfare.

Thursday was bill approving day for the supervisors and they noticed the compensation board's secretary is paid an hourly wage of \$3.65. The board said it found the wage ironic because most members of the compensation board have said the supervisors pay the county's clerical help too much and the highest paid clerical worker in the county offices receives only \$3.00 per hour. The board stressed the comments were no reflection on Joyce Schafer, the compensation board secretary, because the supervisors consider her very capable.

Recommendations for salaries from the county conservation board were read and accepted by the supervisors.

Dale Neville, caretaker for the county parks, will receive \$13,000 plus a \$200 clothing allowance effective Jan. 1, 1977. Conservation board secretary Vernet Worth will be paid \$60 per month effective Jan. 1, 1977.

The board signed a resolution agreeing to a joint application by the county and the city of Ida Grove for federal funds to aid the two in funding of their planning and zoning work.



Pow!

Jim Woodin fends off a punch during practice for Odebolt-Arthur's high school's production of the one act play "An Apple for Teacher." The students are preparing the play for the district

speech contest in Fort Dodge Jan. 22. There are 14 students in the play which has a theme much like that of the television show "Welcome Back, Kotter." [Courier photo]

Holstein's city council approves salary raises

Wages for Holstein city employees were reviewed and a salary schedule for the coming year was set at the city council meeting Jan. 3.

The salaries of Robert Nicklaus, city clerk, and Robert Belsion, city attorney, went into effect Jan. 1. Nicklaus will receive \$610 a month, and Belsion will receive \$150 a year for regular council meetings plus \$25 an hour for special work.

Other Holstein city salaries are scheduled to be increased July 1. Dave Ehler, street and water superintendent, will receive \$4.70 an hour. Dan Ehler, street superintendent, will be paid \$4.20 an hour and Mario Schoer, assistant to the city

clerk, will receive \$2.70 an hour.

Jan. 17 has been set for a pre-adoption of the budget hearing for the city of Holstein. Under new government regulations, the city is not only forced to have a pre-adoption hearing, but is required to notify all senior citizens of the hearing.

Plans were again discussed on Holstein's sewer system evaluation. Contracts were discussed with an engineering firm but the matter was tabled for the present time.

Under section 8 housing, home owners may rent to senior citizens and the government will subsidize payments between the amount that the citizen is able to pay and the

amount of the rent charged. At the present time, the council deferred any action on the matter.

Two applications have been received for the management of the swimming pool. This matter was tabled.

A class C beer permit was issued to Tom's Super Valu. Easements from Albert Kastner and Ken Mentzer for water mains were secured.

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Soil Survey Idea Receives Ida's Vote of Confidence

If Ida County wants to move forward with a soil survey by 1982, it will have to come up with \$67,830, according to state conservation officials talking to a group of area residents in the court room last week.

Before the meeting was finished, the Ida County Board of Supervisors took an informal straw vote showing that 12 persons favoring ahead with a soil survey and three were against the idea.

The presentation on the soil survey came after an Ida County Conference Board meeting. Included in the audience were several members of the board, which sets the three budget, as well as the three Ida County supervisors.

does nothing about securing a soil survey. "No one's going to be getting a soil survey free," Tonsfeldt replied.

He told the group of interested citizens that the \$67,830 figure will not change, provided the county commits itself to the 1982 starting date. No down payment is needed. Tonsfeldt said the Soil Conservation Service would pay for manuscript preparations, lab analysis and any other printing, but Ida County would have to purchase eight-inch mile sheets for the county at a cost of about \$700 to \$1,000.

Also on the program during the afternoon was Gil Lendiser of the Soil Conservation Service from Des Moines. He showed the residents a sample of a soil survey. When the state legislature passed a bill allowing use of 50 per cent productivity in the value of the land, lawmakers said a survey would provide suitable data and would be "something permanent and reliable on which to base ratings." Last year the legislature appropriated \$255,000 to accelerate the soil survey program, Lendiser said.

Hopes are to have the entire state of Iowa mapped by 1985, he continued. Presently, about 18 surveys are in progress. Ida must figure on the soil survey taking between three and four years to complete. Lendiser said 320 to 600 acres could be mapped each day with borings being done down to 60 inches. The end result will be "a better way to look at soil so no one will get off base on the classification," he concluded.

USES OF SOIL SURVEY

The third speaker for the afternoon, Dr. Tom Fenton, professor of agronomy at Iowa State University, explained more of the technical details of the soil survey and pointed out ways in which the survey might help both the Ida farmer and the non-farmer. "The farmer could more than recover the cost of the survey," which enables him to properly identify his soils.

Non-farming uses include land use planning, engineering, land valuation and

equitable tax assessment, residential use, wildlife uses and recreational purposes. The soil survey also is convenient in helping arrive at the standard Corn Suitability Rating, the professor explained.

The survey should be good for at least 40 years, he said.

IDA COUNTIANS' OPINIONS

Ida farmer Elvie Dreeszen said he thinks Ida County had better get started with the survey, and Supervisor Wayne Swanger also offered his endorsement of the program, having become familiar with the soil survey in Woodbury County.

"It looks to me like we need this survey quicker than we're going to get it. It looks to me like it should have been done long ago,"

declared Kenneth Borchers of Holstein.

Supervisor Cliff Friedrichsen said he would like to look into the soil survey but added that from being a member of the Board of Review he knows the soil survey could be a help.

The meeting last week was the second boost for the soil survey advocated by Ida district soil conservationist Don Kauffman and others. The first boost came during a Dec. 2 County Planning and Zoning Commission meeting when Jan Andrews, a planner from Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO), went on record as favoring the inclusion of a soil survey in the county's comprehensive plan.

Ida Assessor J. Walt Gailey, whose budget is being eyed as a possible funding source for the soil

survey, remains less than enthusiastic about the project. "I know it should be a pretty good tool in valuing land, but it won't take less help (in the office). I haven't been too enthusiastic about it because of the money," Gailey said he would have to hire another person in his office during the years the soil survey is being conducted in Ida.

Buena Vista County started towards a soil survey in 1967. The survey was completed July 1, 1974 and became effective Jan. 1, 1975. The cost for the county, \$32,000, was shouldered by the assessor's office.

Members of the Ida County Conference Board were to receive pamphlets informing them of soil survey details, and the subject was to be discussed again at the next conference board meeting Feb. 10.



DOWN-TO-EARTH DETAILS--Ida County Soil Conservationist Don Kauffman (left) explains the down-to-earth details of a soil survey during a discussion of the topic last week in the courthouse. Listening to Kauffman is Wally Tonsfeldt of the Soil Conservation Service of Sioux City. Tonsfeldt also spoke during the afternoon.

IPS Seeks Rate Increase

Iowa Public Service (IPS) Company has applied to the Iowa State Commerce Commission for an 8 per cent increase in electric revenues.

Steadily increasing demands for electric energy by IPS customers - plus continually increasing costs for equipment, construction and pollution control - prompted the need for additional revenues, according to J.W.

Brehm, area manager at Ida Grove.

IPS must plan and build to meet the increasing energy demands of our customers, said Brehm.

The Neal 4 electric generating station, now under construction near Sioux City, is costing \$276 million. IPS, owner of 43 per cent of the unit, will pay \$119 million of this. Air quality control

equipment on the Neal 4 unit will cost more than \$40 million.

Other reasons for the requested increase include the rising cost of electric meters, now 25 per cent more expensive, and the increasing cost of line trucks, which last year cost \$15,000. In the application IPS also pointed out that the federal government imposes strict and expensive environmental restrictions on the company, which means more dollars must be spent to comply with the regulations.

The application, which seeks an overall increase of \$7,515,000, is proposed to become effective with usage after Feb. 3, 1977. The requested increase will mean that the average customer, using approximately 600 kilowatt-hours a month, will pay about \$2 a month more for electricity.

REC Increase

Ida County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) customers will pay an average \$3.47 more each month in electric bills as a result of a rate increase by the service.

The Iowa Commerce Commission approved a 7.92 per cent increase in rates, effective Jan. 1, 1977. The decision by the Commission will affect 1,195 Ida Grove area residents who are customers of REC. The increased rates for the total system amount to \$49,860 for the year.

By increasing the rates, the REC will be able to earn slightly more than 11 per cent return on equity and an overall rate of return slightly less than five per cent,

according to the Commerce Commission.

During the REC's waiting period, after the initial application for an increase was filed with the Commerce Commission, one letter of complaint did go to the Commission. The writer of the letter was an REC customer citing the difficulty persons have in coping with inflation. The Commission acknowledged it is aware of the affect of inflation on all persons, especially those persons with fixed income.

The last rate hike for REC came one year ago. Ray Hargens, manager of the service, was not available for comment this week.



VOTE OF CONFIDENCE--Members of the Ida County Conference Board and other concerned citizens gathered last week in the Ida County court room to learn more about prospects of a soil survey for Ida County. Showing their vote of confidence in the soil survey were 12 of those 15 present.



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1976 MACHINES

	List Price	Our December Special Price	Now Our Close-Out Price
440 Liquifire (1)	\$2295 ⁰⁰	\$1975 ⁰⁰	\$1935 ⁰⁰
440 Cyclone (1)	\$1995 ⁰⁰	\$1635 ⁰⁰	\$1560 ⁰⁰
340 Liquifire (1)	\$2195 ⁰⁰	\$1795 ⁰⁰	\$1710 ⁰⁰

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Polaris \$450⁰⁰

Rupp 440 Nitro (like New) \$750⁰⁰

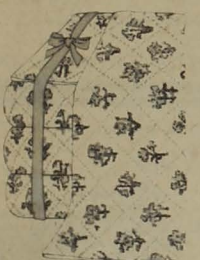
Airens Snowmobile \$200⁰⁰

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Pillowcases, pkg. of 2, reg. 3.99. Sale 2.99



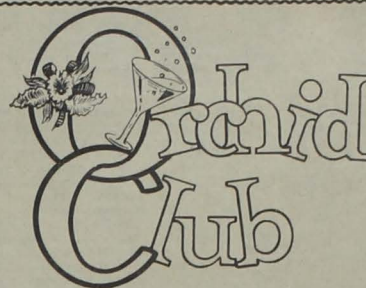
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Rain, rain, go away

Many Ida county residents experienced the biggest soaking they have ever received when over five inches of rain fell in the county. This was the scene Tuesday night as over 4 1/2 inches

of rain fell in Ida Grove during the afternoon and evening. Just over another half-inch was received in Ida Grove from a quick-moving storm Wednesday evening. (Courier photo)

County land preservation committee lists objectives

Passage of the land preservation policy act, house file 210, is in motion a process that could affect the future quality of life for all Iowans, reports Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

The intent of the law is "to provide for the development of land preservation policy, recommendations through a process that emphasizes participation and recommendation of citizens and local governments."

During the past year, 90 temporary county land preservation policy committees have been organized. Each had three public hearings and other meetings to develop recommendations for the temporary state land preservation policy commission.

Major concerns to be addressed during the commission's two-year existence include: ever increasing competition for urban, agricultural and natural environment land uses. The temporary state commission will also examine the changing roles of the participants in land preservation and development decisions.

Don Kaufman, district soil conservationist from Ida Grove, said that county land preservation committees were set up to secure "grass-roots information for the state legislature to draft a state law to guide its use."

Kaufman went on to say, "The state has been kicking the land preservation issue around for a number of years. The house and senate couldn't get together to pass a bill so they sent it back to the counties for their guidelines."

The conservationist said that the main purpose of a land preservation state law is to "establish policy for counties on how to handle land and avoid use of farm land for non-agricultural purposes. They needed some sort of uniform policy and it was the overriding concern of the state that the climate decision be left to the counties. The state government is attempting to make a decision in the best interests of the people. They want the state law to be used as a guideline and leave the major decisions to the individual counties and their inhabitants."

Nine county residents served on the Ida county committee, including: Don Naylor, Battle Creek; Rand Youelling, Ida Grove; Lyle Vols (chairman), Gals; Burdell Knudsen, Ida Grove; Harlan Dausel, Battle Creek; Tom Odgaard, Ida Grove; Clifford Friedrichs, Holstein; Wayne Swanger, Battle Creek; and Milford Bauer, Arthur.

The county land preservation committee's 10 points and recommendations each were as follows:
Underground pipelines—According to many people on

the survey, and at hearings, there is a concern about the depth of underground pipelines, the inspection schedule and the safety connected with these problems. The Ida county commission feels there may be a need for very close inspection of pipelines and especially the depth of some of the older lines that have been in for a while. The commission would like to recommend at least a five foot depth for all pipelines. They also recommend that all locations of new pipelines be approved by the county planning and zoning commission prior to construction and right of way purchase."

Telephone and electrical (utility transmission lines)—"A written report has been received from the Ida county REC stating their interest in continuation of allowing newly constructed transmission lines. The commission feels that the transmission lines are permissible if they follow section lines and a normal pattern regulated by the county planning and zoning commission. The commission is recommending that all utility companies have a map of their transmission lines approved by the county planning and zoning commission prior to right-of-way purchase and construction."

Recreational needs—"The Ida county Temporary Land Preservation commission would like to complement the Ida county conservation board for their many activities and recreational plans in Ida county. They also would like to complement the towns for doing a lot of local recreational development in the last few years. Ida county is blessed with two excellent nine hole golf course and two conservation parks. They fully understand that one park is not yet completed, but will be in the near future. Also, the towns have done a good job in providing tennis courts, ball diamonds, and indoor recreation. There seems to be plenty of indoor recreation for winter time including bowling alleys, theaters and school activities. There could possibly be some more work toward ice rinks for winter activities. As the commission looks ahead, they would see the need for consideration of trails for bike riders, hikers, nature hikes and snowmobiles."

Water quality and quantity—"There is a great deal of concern about the amount of water available for irrigation. The commission would like to see some local control on the amount of irrigation wells permitted. They also would like to see more work in the improvement of the water quality. According to a recent sampling survey of 180 farm wells, over 80 percent were high in bacteria and 20 percent high in nitrates. These problems should be faced and

corrected. It looks as though the county might need to update the survey on the needs of a county water system. The commission isn't necessarily recommending a county water system, but they might take a look at what one would cost to have in case the need arises."

Transportation—"The commission feels there is a great deal of need for improved transportation. The railroads should be improved rather than more railroads being deleted each year. It is much cheaper to transport agricultural products in and out of Ida county by rail than by any other method available. Rail seems to be the largest concern of everyone reporting to the commission. There is also some concern about transportation of the elderly through the county and area."

The land preservation commission is very concerned about railroad transportation. They feel the federal and state government should provide some of the public highways. They feel this would help decrease heavy traffic on public highways and make more feasible. They also discussed air transportation, and feel that Ida county is adequately prepared for air transportation. They do not want any new airport construction in Ida county. The only increase in air transportation would be the possibility of developing a runway across the Odebolt creek or maybe across highway 59 if expansion is needed. They felt this would be cheaper than construction of a new facility and probably would serve the necessary purpose of air transportation."

Soil conservation—"There seems to be a great interest in more soil conservation and maybe more requirements on soil conservation. According to a survey of Ida county citizens, which was returned to the commission, 22 of the 32 reports returned, indicated a serious concern to get the soil survey completed. Also, there was a great deal of concern about the survey on having more conservation, in the soil resources and erosion control. The county just recently applied for the soil survey to be completed. Work will begin in 1982.

The commission is recommending a promotion of more established windbreaks and shelter belts to control wind erosion. They took a look at the present conservation activities in Ida county and note that 57 percent of the farms now have a conservation plan. Also, only 25 percent of the land is adequately treated for soil erosion control. The commission then would like to recommend mandatory land conservation treatment. Along with this they would suggest that the treatment cost be 75 percent of the costs shared by federal and state government.

Also, that the remaining 25 percent be paid by the farmers and that they be allowed federal or state investment credit relief on real estate tax. The commission would like to see the recommendation of five tons of soil loss per acre per year on established conservation practices. The commission would also like to commend the Iowa legislature for providing financial assistance on soil conservation practices and hope they continue the effort.

The commission would like to require all land treatment to remain intact following land sales, if it were built by tax funds."

County zoning and building—"A high amount of people reporting on the survey, 22 of the 32, thought the county should have building standards and they should be set by the county planning and zoning commission. The Ida county temporary land preservation commission would like to go on record as supporting the county zoning ordinances, as it is being developed at the present time. But, the surveys, show the great need for building standards and this is maybe something that should be studied further. There is some concern about the location of livestock feeding facilities as well as industrial and utility facilities that come

under new construction. The commission feels there is some need for possible regulation on control of livestock feeding facilities."

Cities and towns—"The only city to provide any report to the commission was the city of Ida Grove. They asked for local control within a two mile boundary of the city limits. According to the survey, there was only moderate concern for city zoning, city sub-division ordinance and population growth. There seems to be more concern for population decreasing."

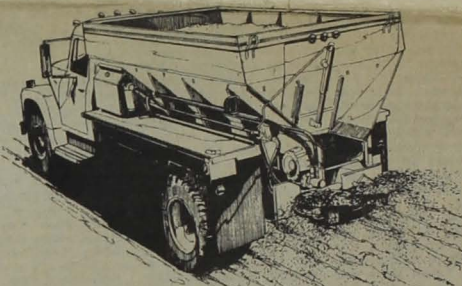
Controls or rights and standards—"Definitely, through all three public hearings, the community survey and commission members felt a strong sentiment to have local control of all land preservation policy issues developed. They want no control from state or federal. The local planning and zoning commission wants more jurisdiction over local problems and less dictation from state officials."

Pollution control—"The commission feels there should be educational efforts provided in the location of all facilities having to do with pollution control. They are concerned with the possibility of air pollution, water pollution, waste control and run-off."

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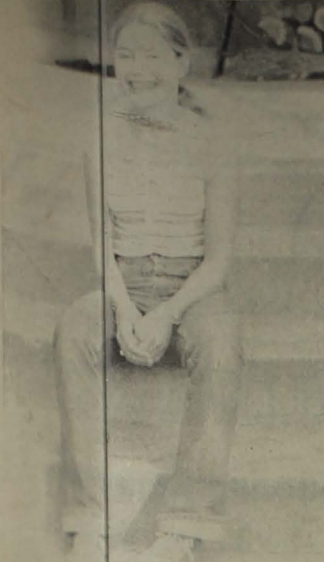
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Relaxing

Jill Harskamp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Harskamp of Ida Grove, takes time to relax after returning from her new venture, teaching dance lessons in Early. The Ida Grove high school junior said she hopes to experience will help her decide whether she wants to make a career of dancing or go into a different area of study when she goes to college (Courier photo)

A big step forward in dancing world

A 16-year-old Ida Grove girl has gone into business for herself and along with the financial rewards, she hopes to decide what she wants to do after she graduates from high school.

For the last few weeks Jill Harskamp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Harskamp, has been giving dancing lessons in Early. "I'm not sure how I got started," she laughed. "I think someone called Francie Kee (an Ida Grove dance instructor) looking for a teacher and I got the job."

Having started dancing 11 years ago at the age of five, Miss Harskamp has been on the performing side of dance many times but this is her first try at teaching.

"I figure after teaching this year I'll know if I want to study dancing at college or try something completely different," she said. "I like teaching so far, it's fun, and I think I'll learn a lot from working with the kids."

Classes meet every Saturday in the basement of the Early Community hall. She has 16 students altogether, two in private lessons and 14 children make up two classes. They range from kindergarten age to sixth grade, beginners to dancers who have had six years of lessons, 15 girls and a boy.

Miss Harskamp said she will be concentrating on the basics, sticking mostly to ballet and tap. She also plans to introduce some acrobatics toward the end of the year.

"We start each class with bar work and there aren't any bars in the hall," she said. "I asked if I could hook some to the wall, but the answer was no so I've been using chairs. That doesn't work the best but it will have to do until I can come up with something else."

The junior at Ida Grove high school has performed in Ida Grove and surrounding communities. She was in the "Nutcracker Suite" a few years ago in Sioux City and Ida Grove. And she was one of three girls selected to dance in a Sioux City production last year, but because she was too young to drive she couldn't get back and forth for rehearsals and had to pass that up. At school she is involved in golf, chorus and girls glee. She is also an avid horseback rider.

For Jill Harskamp the next year will be one of new experiences in the world of dance, and just may be the turning point toward a career.



Strange classmates

It was freshman orientation day at Holstein Friday. And these were some of the masquerades the seniors thought up for the freshmen to wear. Upper classmen also used wooden paddles

to welcome freshmen to their new home and help inspire them to adopt Holstein traditions. Here the freshmen stand in the gym at the end of the school day. (Courier photo)

New school board takes over, superintendent lists objectives

Raymond Drey was elected the new president of the Ida Grove school board and Shirley Bauer was elected vice president at the new 19-79 school board meeting for the first time Monday.

Drey, who was elected this year last week, was sworn in with new board member John Blomquist at the meeting. Blomquist replaced Dr. D. A. Schaefer who did not run for the fourth year.

Other members of the new school board are Ray Taporn and Marian Holthe.

This will also be the first full year of administration for new Ida Grove superintendent Ed Cable. Larson, who presented a list of his first year objectives at the first board meeting, said the objectives discussed at the meeting were changing the hot lunch menu, changing the school's accounting system and establishing a building and maintenance program.

Speaking at the hot lunch program, Larson said a new menu could do much for student morale. "Our participation is low, very low," Larson said of the program. "I think we have to make some changes."

Larson said he would seek a committee to look into a new menu. That committee would be made up of some student council members, teachers, cooks and administrators.

Another one of Larson's objectives is to change the school's accounting system. The change has already been started. Larson and school secretary Marilyn Young have translated some of the accounts from July of this year into the new system. The new system uses four sets of numbers—an account number, a number identifying the

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have to move to Battle Creek or pay the tuition payments himself for that school district to be able to accept her.

The board approved the tuition payments after emphasizing that it was not setting a precedent but would review each similar case on its separate merits. Ida Grove will include Corinna in their student count and will receive state and federal funds that will repay them for the tuition money next school year.

In other action last week, the school board heard a proposal by music teacher Denny Miller for a one week trip to Texas for the high school marching band. The trip would be "a reward for the hard work" according to Miller.

The trip would be between April 23 and 26. The band would visit a high school in Arlington, Texas, where they would perform, and the University of Texas at Austin. There would probably be at least one other concert along the way.

It would cost about \$130 per

student for such a trip, Miller estimated, and band members would be required to raise most of that themselves through work projects. The trip would be by chartered bus with an overnight stay at some point along the way.

The board approved Miller's proposal and asked that Miller present more detailed plans later in the year.

The board also approved money for six new cheerleader uniforms. The money would come from concession stand profits. The uniforms would cost about \$300 and would replace the present ones which are seven years old. High school principal Bob Bassett recommended the change after discovering one of the cheerleaders' sweaters was missing early this fall.

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Conservation tillage reduces losses

Conservation tillage reduces the loss of soil or water compared to unridged, clean tillage, according to Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University (ISU), Ames.

Effectiveness of conservation tillage systems depends on the amount and distribution of crop residues, surface roughness and surface soil configuration. Such conditions are enhanced by loss moldboard plowing and unnecessary secondary tillage prior to planting.

Amemiya said the adoption of conservation tillage makes it possible for farmers to have efficient and profitable crop production, to conserve soil and water resources and to improve environmental quality.

Conservation tillage can lower crop production costs by reducing time, labor and fuel requirements, although some of these reductions may be partially offset by increased costs for pest control.

Crop yields are usually comparable to those from conventional tillage systems, Amemiya said, but conservation tillage requires more management. As with conventional tillage, good stands, effective pest control and adequate soil fertility are necessary for maximum yields.

Conservation tillage is adapted to a broad range of soils and slopes. Amemiya said it could be the single most effective and least costly

means of reducing soil erosion. He also noted that by controlling erosion, conservation tillage can contribute to the maintenance or improvement of water quality.

Iowa is involved in a national program to maintain and improve the integrity of water, he said, and surface runoff from agricultural land carries pollutants into Iowa's waters.

Pollutants occur as sediment caused by soil erosion, plant nutrients, agricultural chemicals and organic matter. Of these, the major pollutant is sediment eroded from land and transported to streams and lakes by runoff waters. Thus, sediment control through soil erosion control measures can prevent or reduce the generation of sediment and related pollutants.

Conservation tillage systems control erosion on level to

gently sloping land, which makes up more than half the land in Iowa.

"This does not imply that terraces and erosion control measures should not be used," Amemiya said. "But in many instances, adoption of such practices is costly or short-run economic return is low."

On sloping land, soil and water losses can be reduced by providing a mulch of plant residues or a rough soil surface. If fall tillage is necessary, Amemiya said, a chisel plow can be used on hilly contour or across the slope. A once-over system such as a till planter or a slot planter may prove promising on sloping land.

On level to nearly level land on the uplands, operations that provide surface residue and cloddy overwintering surfaces promote surface drying and protect against wind erosion.

By reducing the number of trips, soil compaction and soil crusting are minimized. These soils are often slow to dry in the spring, so some fall tillage with a chisel plow and till planting are desirable.

"The better drained the soil, the less tillage needed," Amemiya said. "Crop residue reduces evaporation of soil water on sandy soils, which makes slot planting or till planting advantageous."

Using the proper tillage equipment at the right time of year and on certain soil conditions can also help soil and water conservation.

Till planting provides good stands except on poorly drained, heavy textured soils, when planting on top of ridges is more successful. Ridges should be made across the slope for best erosion control.

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9:30 A.M.	 Farm Bulletin Board
11:55 A.M.	 Omaha, Iowa livestock markets, Chicago gains.
12:00	 Hygrade Report
12:45 P.M.	 Market Summary
1:00 P.M.	 Stock Market Report

KAYL 990 RADIO

Dwarf soybean will increase yields

A new soybean variety that promises to narrow rows needed for planting to the average yield per acre can be adapted to the southern three tiers of Iowa counties, according to Iowa State University agronomist Walter Fehr.

When there is good moisture in the early growing season, Elf will be at least 20 inches tall at harvest. The bean is called a 'determinant variety' - one that produces only a few

additional nodes on the main stem and increases in height only slightly after flowering begins. Later development occurs by branching.

Indeterminant varieties, such as Williams, double in height after flowering begins by producing more nodes on the main stem.

The seed quality, size, protein and oil composition and disease resistance of Elf plants are similar to Williams plants, according to Fehr.

The recommended seeding rate for Elf is 210,000 seeds per acre. The seeding rate for Williams is only 157,000. Elf will be available to Iowa farmers next year. The variety has been tested in Iowa for three years by ISU in cooperation with the Iowa Soybean Promotion Board. Farmers wanting more information on the Elf soybean variety should contact their county extension office and ask for ISU pamphlet #41.

Cooperation solves drainage problems

Improving drainage systems can increase crop yields, according to Stewal Melvin, extension agricultural engineer at Iowa State University. Drainage problems are especially obvious in areas where the water table is high and the soil is heavy. The effects of poor drainage on agricultural land, he said,

stalled in the past have more land draining into them than was initially intended. This leads to poorly drained land, especially in the lower part of the watershed where main outlet lines run full and are under pressure during wet periods. Ironically, land farthest from the outlet of an overloaded system is usually the best drained, Melvin added.

Improving large drainage systems is costly, perhaps \$100 or more for each acre of wet land in the watershed. Getting agreements from all landowners to cooperate in these kinds of projects is hard. Landowners with good drainage in the upper part of the watershed are usually reluctant to help pay for projects that won't necessarily improve drainage on their land.

Many people in legal drainage districts are attempting to get cooperation from neighbors to improve local drainage systems. But, according to Melvin, it will take time, effort and money to obtain good drainage for all landowners in a watershed.

Conservation speech contest

Junior and senior high school students (grades 7 through 12) are eligible to compete in the Soil Conservation Speech contest this year.

You can enter the Ida county district office at 2-2124, or by talking to your principal or speech teacher.

The topic for the contest this year is "Soil and water - key to our future."

The local conservation office will provide prizes for the winners on the district level, said Don Kauffman, district conservationist. Awards on the regional level include \$30 for the winner, \$20 for second

place, \$15 for third and \$10 for fourth.

Prizes available on the state level for those who advance from the regional contest include a \$300 scholarship and \$110 in cash for first place, \$85 for second place and \$60 for third.

The state winner last year was Steve Becker of LeMars.

Art and poster contest

Ida county's conservation district will host an art and poster contest again this spring, said Don Kauffman, district conservationist.

There are two divisions, high school for grades 7-12 and grade school for grades 1-6, in the contest. Each of the schools in the district will be judged separately.

Prizes for each division include \$10 for first prize, \$7.50 for second and \$5 for third. Ribbons will also be awarded.

The deadline for entering the contest is May 1. Judging will be done by members of the conservation district staff.

The winning entries will be exhibited at the 1979 Ida county fair next summer.



O-A singers

Odebolt-Arthur's 40-voice high school chorus is directed by Nadine Johnson. Their first

concert performance is scheduled for Dec. 14, but the vocal music department is also

busy preparing for the fall musical, "Lil Abner," to be presented Nov. 10 and 11. (Courier photo)

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Need a good windbreak? Plant some pine trees

Windbreaks can reduce soil erosion. When properly designed, a single row of trees can cut wind speed by 50 percent.

Unfortunately, many farmers are reluctant to plant trees on flatland where wind erosion is the worst because they do not want to lose crop production," said Bill Walker, biologist for the soil conservation service. "What they do not consider is that in addition to reducing soil loss, field windbreaks can reduce damage to young crops caused by hot, dry winds."

Chester Burton, rural Battle Creek is a firm believer in the value of trees. "Trees are conservation at its best," Burton proudly says. "Not only do they help in breaking the wind, but they prevent water runoff. When the rain came last week, I don't have a drop of water runoff where there were trees."

Burton is into trees more than most people because his first, pines and spruces are recognized through the Midwest as some of the best Christmas trees, and trees are like a hobby to the farmer.

He started planting trees in 1969, but mainly for decoration. "I've always wanted trees, but in 1959, I planted some ornamentals by the pond on my land and I just started planting more all the time in places where I could farm."

Now, Burton has some 17 acres of trees encompassing between 8,000-10,000 trees. He also has a large number of small trees planted on the farm and will plant them out in the fields later.

Burton's variety of trees include Scotch, Austrian, Ponderosa and White pines, Douglas and Concolor (silver) firs, Black Hills, Colorado, White and Norway spruces and Red Cedar. He constantly replaces his stock, planting between 1,000 and 2,000 new trees each spring.

The tree man said that the best trees to begin a windbreak with are quick-growing trees such as Ponderosa, Austrian or White pines. He also said that spruces and Douglas firs are good, but don't grow as quickly. Burton said that more farmers are building windbreaks but there are still many farmers that are reluctant to do so. "They want the land for crops especially the better land, but I am selling more trees each year for windbreaks."

He also said that for an immediate windbreak aid, trees should be planted close together, but for a future break, trees should be planted 15-20 feet apart. Burton also said that many farmers plant a row of lilacs or honeysuckle in with the trees to stop the wind.

Besides breaking the wind and giving natural habitat a place to roost, trees also cut down the cold. "In the winter, I have cows and calves out among the trees and they provide shelter and a windbreak—just like a barn. I bet that in the winter, it is 10-15 degrees warmer in the trees and there is no wind."

The Iowa Conservation Service said that a single row of trees planted in a prepared seedbed only six feet wide is an

adequate field windbreak. Although protection decreases as you get farther from the trees, there is some protection up to 15 to 20 times the tree height. "You get maximum protection in large fields if a series of single-row trees are planted 100 to 200 yards apart," Welker said. Multi-row windbreaks, or shelterbelts, are used extensively in the plains states west of Iowa.

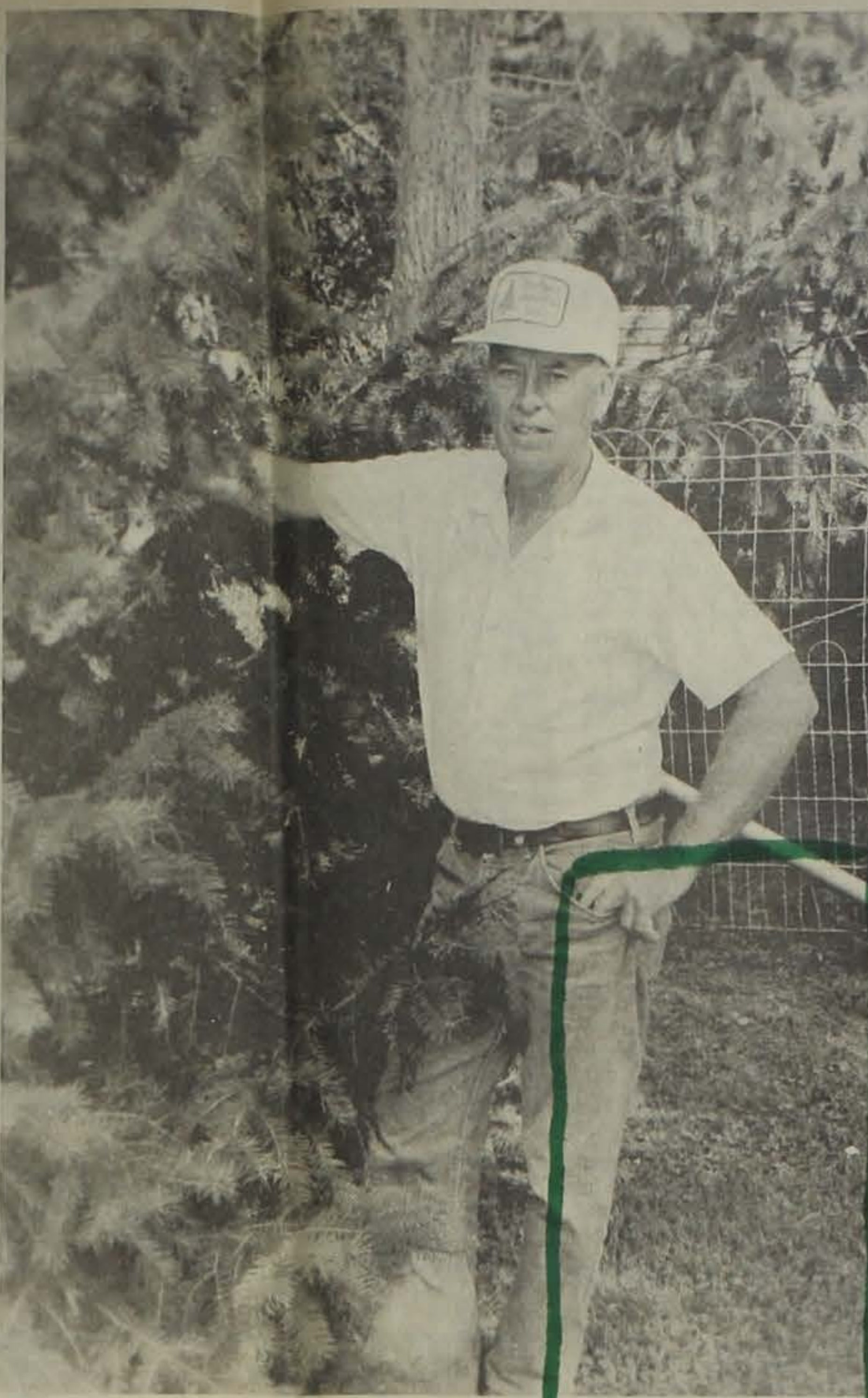
With a single-row windbreak, spacing between trees should be 4-8 feet while shrubs can be planted 3-4 feet apart. When using only coniferous trees, make sure they will not be too close together when full grown. A good shelterbelt should not be too dense and block too much wind.

Combinations of trees and shrubs in a single row add diversity and general beauty to the landscape. This can be accomplished by planting one or two shrubs between every two large trees.

Windbreaks can be planted on an east-west or north-south axis, or by following a contour as long as the field will be protected from prevailing wind, Welker said.

Another important aspect of trees is their increasing demand for firewood. Burton said that trees are increasing in popularity for the purpose. "More and more trees are being used for fuelwood. You hardly see a house being built any more that doesn't have a fireplace. Most trees make good fireplace wood."

Trees have served a purpose for a long time, but man is just beginning to realize their potential.



Conservation at its best

Battle Creek's Chester Burton stands beside one of his Douglas fir trees of which he has many. Burton has some 8,000-10,000 trees covering 17 acres and said that he feels that using trees for conservation is "conservation at its best". (Courier photo)

Prepare in fall for frost seeding

Preparation for frost seeding of legumes in pasture should begin in the fall before spring seeding, according to Frank Schaller, extension agronomist at Iowa State university. Frost seeding simply means broadcasting seeds in early spring while the ground is still frozen.

Frost seeding is a low cost way to improve pastures. Erosion is controlled because there is no tillage. Since the grass cover already established in the pasture is kept, frost seeding is especially useful on sloping land.

Schaller said frost seeding is a simple practice, but key steps must be followed to avoid poor results.

Plan a year ahead for frost seeding so weeds can be sprayed with 2,4-D. Weeds reduce stand establishment and once legumes are established weeds can only be controlled by clipping.

Apply needed lime and fertilizer to improve legume stand and increase yields. Phosphorus and potassium are needed for legume growth, but nitrogen fertilizer is not needed.

Graze closely the fall before seeding to reduce grass competition and aid legume establishment. Disking lightly the fall before seeding may also help legume establishment.

Success with frost seeding will be greater on thin grass stands than on thick, vigorous

stands. It is also possible to establish grasses by frost seeding but success is lessened by their lower seedling vigor.

Frost seeding involves no tillage. The legumes are broadcast in late February or March. Freezing and thawing, plus early spring rains provide the only seed coverage. Avoid seeding on heavy snow as fast melting may wash seeds away.

All commonly grown legumes can be established by frost seeding. Red clover is especially successful, followed closely by ladino clover, alsike clover and alfalfa. Seedings of birdsfoot trefoil and crown-vetch are also successful, but are slower to establish.

Legume establishment with frost seeding may be less productive than seeding on a well worked seedbed, so increasing the seeding rate by one-third to one-half will usually improve stands.

A favorite seeding mixture on rough pasture is five pounds for each acre of birdsfoot trefoil and three pounds for each acre of red clover. The red clover establishes quickly, but the trefoil will eventually dominate.

Because of effective tillage equipment available today, frost seeding may seem questionable to some people. But Schaller said it is nature's way of vegetating the landscape and a good way to conserve agricultural soil and water.

Antique Furniture Reduction Sale

Thursday and Friday, September 21 and 22, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. We're getting ready to go on a big buying trip so many items are being reduced. Such as furniture, miscellaneous and rummages.

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Ida Grove, Iowa

Co-op reports profits, elects new officers

Sales are up but net profits down, Co-op Inc. manager Bob Friesse told nearly 400 members at last Tuesday's annual Co-op meeting. Sales hit a record high of \$13.8 million this year, over one million dollars more than last year's previous high.

But because of problems getting fertilizer, government delays in electing programs this spring and some mistakes made in the grain merchandizing department, Co-op's net profits are down. Savings this year came to \$187,232. Last year Co-op netted \$432,507.

Despite last year's mixed result, Friesse was optimistic about this year's program. "I'm happy to say it looks like we're going to have a good corn crop and a good bean crop this fall," Friesse added that the new grain facility should help the company in the coming year. "You cooperative is in sound financial condition."

From the net savings, over \$40,000 will be awarded Co-op's members in refunds this year. Chief revenue makers for Co-op last year were grain \$5,867,261, petroleum, \$3,556,684, fertilizer, \$1,546,616, and lumber, \$32,367.

The major expense was salaries amounting to \$940,762

for Co-op's over 70 employees. Also at the annual Co-op, Inc. meeting, the board elected four new directors. They are Keith Goodwin, Correctionville, Duane Schubert, Galva, Jim Gustafson, Kiron, and Wayne Swenson, Kiron. All will be serving three year terms except Swenson who will finish the one year term on Charles Buchanan's left. Buchanan has resigned.

Other Co-op directors are

Chuck Peterson, Bob Butcher, Ray Bumann, Jr., George Leonard and Bob Lorenzen.

Peterson was elected president of the board of directors after the annual meeting. Bumann was picked vice president and Gustafson, secretary.

R.L. Morgan, former president of the board of directors is retiring from the board.

Exams for assessors scheduled in October

Statewide examinations for city or county assessor and deputy assessor have been scheduled.

The test for deputy assessor will be at 8:30 a.m., Oct. 7 in the sixth floor cafeteria of the Lucas State Office building in Des Moines. The examination for city or county assessor will be at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 14 at the same place.

Anyone who wants to become eligible for appointment as city or county assessor or deputy

assessor must pass the exam and be certified by the director of revenue.

Applications for the exams are available at the county assessor's office, the county auditor or at the department of Revenue's Property Tax division.

Applications must be received at least three days before the test. The exams will be given again in about six months.

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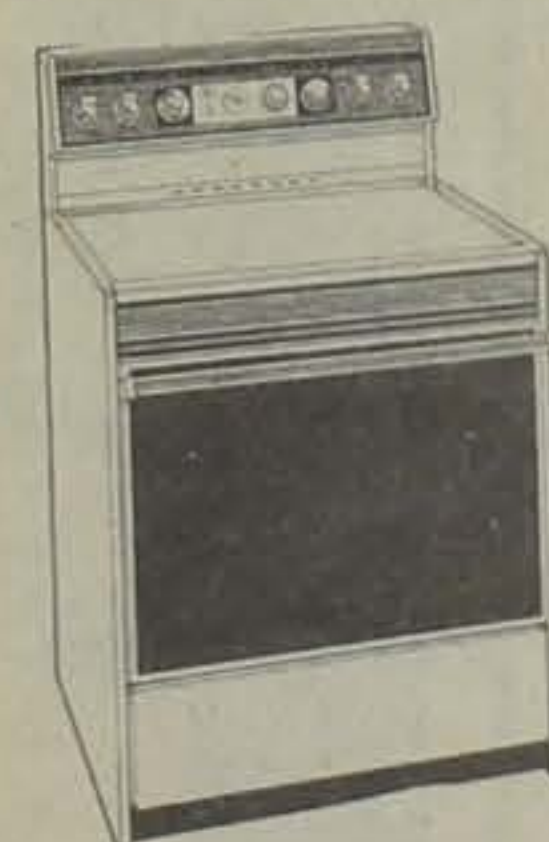
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Odebolt,
Iowa

A big step forward in dancing world

A 16-year-old Ida Grove girl has gone into business for herself and along with the financial rewards, she hopes to decide what she wants to do after she graduates from high school.

For the last few weeks Jill Harskamp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Harskamp, has been giving dancing lessons in Early. "I'm not sure how I got started," she laughed. "I think someone called Francie Kee (an Ida Grove dance instructor) looking for a teacher and I got the job."

Having started dancing 11 years ago at the age of five, Miss Harskamp has been on the performing side of dance many times but this is her first try at teaching.

"I figure after teaching this year I'll know if I want to study dancing at college or try something completely different," she said. "I like teaching so far, it's fun, and I think I'll learn a lot from working with the kids."

Classes meet every Saturday in the basement of the Early Community hall. She has 16 students altogether, two in private lessons and 14 children make up two classes. They range from kindergarten age to sixth grade, beginners to

dancers who have had six years of lessons, 15 girls and a boy.

Miss Harskamp said she will be concentrating on the basics, sticking mostly to ballet and tap. She also plans to introduce some acrobatics toward the end of the year.

"We start each class with bar work and there aren't any bars in the hall," she said. "I asked if I could look some to the wall, but the answer was no so I've been using chairs. That doesn't work the best but it will have to do until I can come up with something else."

The junior at Ida Grove high school has performed in Ida Grove and surrounding communities. She was in the "Nutcracker Suite" a few years ago in Sioux City and Ida Grove. And she was one of three girls selected to dance in a Sioux City production last year, but because she was too young to drive she couldn't get back and forth for rehearsals and had to pass that up. At school she is involved in golf, chorus and girls glee. She is also an avid horseback rider.

For Jill Harskamp the next year will be one of new experiences in the world of dance, and just may be the turning point toward a career.



It was freshman orientation day at Holstein Friday. And these were some of the masquerades the seniors thought up for the freshmen to wear. Upper classmen also used wooden paddles

to welcome freshmen to their new home and help inspire them to adopt Holstein traditions. Here the freshmen stand in the gym at the end of the school day. (Courier photo)

Relaxing

Jill Harskamp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Harskamp of Ida Grove, takes time to relax after returning from her new venture, teaching dance lessons in Early. The Ida Grove high school junior says she hopes the experience will help her decide whether she wants to make a career of dancing or go into a different area of study when she goes to college. (Courier photo)

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New school board takes over, superintendent lists objectives

Raymond Drey was elected the new president of the Ida Grove school board and Shirley Huser was elected vice president at the new 1978-79 school board meeting for the first time Monday.

Drey, who was elected to his third term last week, was sworn in with new board member Jim Hancock at the meeting. Hancock replaces Dr. D. A. Schulze who did not run for the board this year.

Other members of the new school board are Ray Taphorn and Martin Rude. This will also be the first full year of administration for new Ida Grove superintendent Dick Larson, who presented a list of his first year objectives to the board. Among the objectives discussed at the meeting were changes in the lunch menu, changing the system, and establishing a building and maintenance program.

Speaking on the hot lunch program, Larson said a new menu could be much for students. "Our participation is very low," Larson said of the program. "I think we have to make some changes."

Larson said he would select a committee to look into a new menu. That committee would be made up of some student council members, teachers, cooks and administrators.

Another one of Larson's objectives is to change the school's accounting system. The change has already been started. Larson and school secretary Marilyn Yousling have translated some of the accounts from this year into the new system. The new system uses four sets of numbers: account number, a number identifying the

building the money is spent in, a program number and a number identifying the object. The new accounting system will be required by state law next year and is designed to make school budgeting uniform across the state.

Larson also recommended the school board plan a maintenance and repair program on their buildings. That program would be designed to make buildings more safe and more energy efficient. Among the things that could be done, according to Larson, are reducing air openings in some ducts leading into the schoolrooms, changing the voltage of some electrical outlets from 220 to 110, repairing roofs on both the elementary and middle school buildings and putting thicker, more energy efficient glass in school windows.

Some of these things could be begun immediately, Larson said. He also suggested a consultant be brought in to look into a long term plan. Larson recommended Edward Cable, an architect from Sioux City. His services would cost about \$4,000. Larson said he would arrange a free meeting so that Cable could speak to the board on the kind of planning he would do. "My purpose is just to give you some preliminary thoughts," Larson said of his recommendation.

In other action last week, the board approved approximately \$1,400 in tuition payments for Corinna Fetzette, Jim Brehm's foster child. The payments will allow Corinna to attend Battle Creek school as she has for the last three years.

Brehm asked that Ida Grove pay her tuition because Battle Creek, by state law, could not. Brehm said he would either

have to move to Battle Creek or pay the tuition payments himself for that school district to be able to accept her.

The board approved the tuition payments after emphasizing that it was not setting a precedent but would review each similar case on its separate merits. Ida Grove will include Corinna in their student count and will receive state and federal funds that will repay them for the tuition money next school year.

In other action last week, the school board heard a proposal by music teacher Denny Miller for a one week trip to Texas for the high school marching band. The trip would be "a reward for the hard work" according to Miller.

The trip would be between April 23 and 26. The band would visit a high school in Arlington, Texas, where they would perform, and the University of Texas at Austin. There would probably be at least one other concert along the way.

It would cost about \$130 per

student for such a trip, Miller estimated, and band members would be required to raise most of that themselves through work projects. The trip would be by chartered bus with an overnight stay at some point along the way.

The board approved Miller's proposal and asked that Miller present more detailed plans later in the year.

The board also approved money for six new cheerleader uniforms. The money would come from concession stand profits. The uniforms would cost about \$300 and would replace the present ones which are seven years old. High school principal Bob Bassett recommended the change after discovering one of the cheerleaders sweaters was missing early this fall.

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On sloping land, soil and water losses can be reduced by providing a mulch of plant residues or a rough soil surface. If fall tillage is necessary, Amemiya said a chisel plow can be used on hilly contour or across the slope. A once-over system such as a till planter or a slot planter may prove promising on sloping land.

On level to nearly level land on the uplands, operations that provide surface residue and slowly overwintering surfaces promote surface drying and protect against wind erosion.

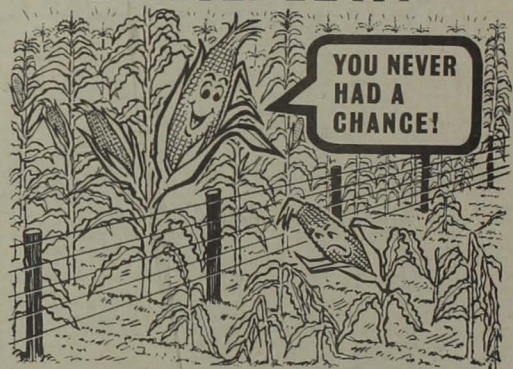
By reducing the number of trips, soil compaction and soil crusting are minimized. These soils are often slow to dry in the spring, so some fall tillage with a chisel plow and till planting are desirable.

"The better drained the soil, the less tillage needed," Amemiya said. "Crop residue reduces evaporation of soil water on sandy soils, which makes slot planting or till planting advantageous."

Using the proper tillage equipment at the right time of year and on certain soil conditions can also help soil and water conservation.

Till planting provides good stands except on poorly drained, heavy textured soils, when planting on top of ridges is more successful. Ridges should be made across the slope for best erosion control.

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- 11:55 A.M. Sioux City, Omaha, Iowa livestock markets Chicago grains.
- 12:00 Hygrade Report
- 12:45 P.M. Market Summary
- 1:00 P.M. Stock Market Report

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Dwarf soybean will increase yields

A new soybean variety that promises to narrow the rows needed for planting so the average yield per acre can be increased has been developed by the University of Illinois and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The dwarf soybean is called Elf. It is what is called a semi-dwarf variety. Elf consistently outyields such as Williams by 20 bushels per acre when plants are 20 inches or

less and when growing conditions favor excess lodging. The bean has a maturity similar to Williams and is best adapted to the southern three tiers of Iowa counties, according to Iowa State University agronomist Walter Fehr.

When there is good moisture in the early growing season, Elf will be at least 20 inches tall at harvest. The bean is called a 'determinant variety'—one that produces only a few

additional nodes on the main stem and increases in height only slightly after flowering begins. Later development occurs by branching.

Indeterminant varieties, such as Williams, double in height after flowering begins by producing more nodes on the main stem.

The seed quality, size, protein and oil composition and disease resistance of Elf plants are similar to Williams plants, according to Fehr.

The recommended seeding rate for Elf is 210,000 seeds per acre. The seeding rate for Williams is only 157,000. Elf will be available to Iowa farmers next year. The variety has been tested in Iowa for three years by ISU in cooperation with the Iowa Soybean Promotion Board. Farmers wanting more information on the Elf soybean variety should contact their county extension office and ask for ISU pamphlet 841.

Cooperation solves drainage problems

Improving drainage systems can increase crop yields, according to Stewart Melvin, extension agricultural engineer at Iowa State University. Drainage problems are especially obvious this year as wet areas where blank spots and wet yielding crops provide a dramatic picture of the effects of poor drainage on agriculture, he said.

Surface as well as subsurface drainage systems need maintenance and improving to reduce crop losses. Melvin says surface drains should be inspected each year and fixed.

Ditches filled with silt from erosion should be cleaned and in some cases lowered to provide good outlets, he said. Outlets would not have erosion where a ditch empties into a stream. Earthen structures may be needed to stabilize the outlet. Below surface drainage problems often are because of a lack of capacity in the main outlet, Melvin says. Several large drainage systems in-

stalled in the past have more land draining into them than was initially intended. This leads to poorly drained land, especially in the lower part of the watershed where main outlet lines run full and are under pressure during wet periods. Ironically, land farthest from the outlet of an overloaded system is usually the best drained, Melvin added.

Improving large drainage systems is costly, perhaps \$100 or more for each acre of wet land in the watershed. Getting agreements from all landowners to cooperate in these kinds of projects is hard. Landowners with good drainage in the upper part of the watershed are usually reluctant to help pay for projects that won't necessarily improve drainage on their land.

Many people in legal drainage districts are attempting to get cooperation from neighbors to improve local drainage systems. But, according to Melvin, it will take time, effort and money to obtain good drainage for all landowners in a watershed.

Art and poster contest

Ida county's conservation district will host an art and poster contest again this spring, said Don Kauffman, district conservationist.

There are two divisions, high school for grades 7-12 and grade school for grades 1-6, in the contest. Each of the schools in the district will be judged separately.

Prizes for each division include \$10 for first prize, \$7.50 for second and \$5 for third. Ribbons will also be awarded. The deadline for entering the contest is May 1. Judging will be done by members of the conservation district staff.

The winning entries will be exhibited at the 1979 Ida county fair next summer.



O-A singers

Odebolt-Arthur's 40-voice high school chorus is directed by Nadine Johnson. Their first

concert performance is scheduled for Dec. 14, but the vocal music department is also

busy preparing for the fall musical, "Lil Abner," to be presented Nov. 10 and 11. (Courier photo)

Conservation speech contest

Junior and senior high school students (grades 7 through 12) are eligible to compete in the Soil Conservation Speech Contest this year.

You can enter by contacting the Ida county conservation district office at 364-2124, or by talking to your principal or speech teacher.

The topic for the contest this year is "Soil and water—key to our future."

The local conservation office will provide prizes for the winners on the district level, said Don Kauffman, district conservationist. Awards on the regional level include \$30 for the winner, \$20 for second

place, \$15 for third and \$10 for fourth.

Prizes available on the state level for those who advance from the regional contest include a \$300 scholarship and \$110 in cash for first place, \$85 for second place and \$60 for third.

The state winner last year was Steve Becker of LeMars.

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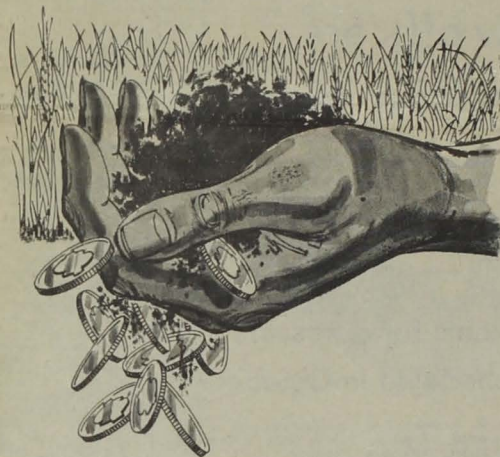
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Need a good windbreak? plant some pine trees

Windbreaks can reduce soil erosion. When properly designed, a single row of trees can cut wind speed by 50 percent.

Unfortunately, many farmers are reluctant to plant trees on flat farmland where soil erosion is the worst because they do not want to lose crop production," said Bill Weer, biologist for the soil conservation service. "What I do not consider is that in addition to reducing soil loss, windbreaks can reduce damage to young crops caused by hot, dry winds."

Chester Burton, rural Battle Creek is a firm believer in the value of trees. "Trees are conservation at its best," Burton proudly says. "Not only do they help in breaking the wind, but they prevent water runoff. When all the rain came last week, I didn't have a drop of water run off where there were trees."

Burton is into trees more than most people because his fir, spruce and pine are prized through the Midwest as some of the best Christmas trees, and trees are like a hobby to the farmer.

Burton started planting trees in 1948, but mainly for decoration. "I always planted trees, but in 1949, I planted some ornamentals by the pond on my place and I just started planting them all the time in places where I couldn't farm."

Now, Burton has some 17 acres of trees encompassing between 8,000-10,000 trees. He also has a large number of small trees potted on the farm and will place them out in the field later.

Burton's variety of trees include Scotch, Austrian, Ponderosa and White pines, Douglas and Concolor (silver) firs, Black Hills, Colorado, White and Norway spruces and Red Cedar. He constantly replaces his stock, planting between 1,000 and 2,000 new trees each spring.

The tree man said that the best trees to begin a windbreak with are quick-growing trees such as Ponderosa, Austrian or White pines. He also said that spruces and Douglas firs are good, but don't grow as quickly. Burton said that more farmers are building windbreaks but there are still many farmers that are reluctant to do so. "They want the land for crops, especially the better land, but I am selling more trees each year for windbreaks."

He also said that for an immediate windbreak aid, trees should be planted close together, but for a future break, trees should be planted 15-20 feet apart. Burton also said that many farmers plant a row of lilacs or honeysuckle in with the trees to stop the wind. Besides breaking the wind and giving natural habitat a place to roost, trees also cut down the cold. "In the winter, I have cows and calves out among the trees and they provide shelter and a windbreak—just like a barn. I bet that in the winter, it is 10-15 degrees warmer in the trees and there is no wind."

The Iowa Conservation Service said that a single row of trees planted in a prepared seedbed only six feet wide is an

adequate field windbreak. Although protection decreases as you get farther from the trees, there is some protection up to 15 to 20 times the tree height. "You get maximum protection in large fields if a series of single-row trees are planted 100 to 200 yards apart," Welker said. Multi-row windbreaks, or shelterbelts, are used extensively in the plains states west of Iowa.

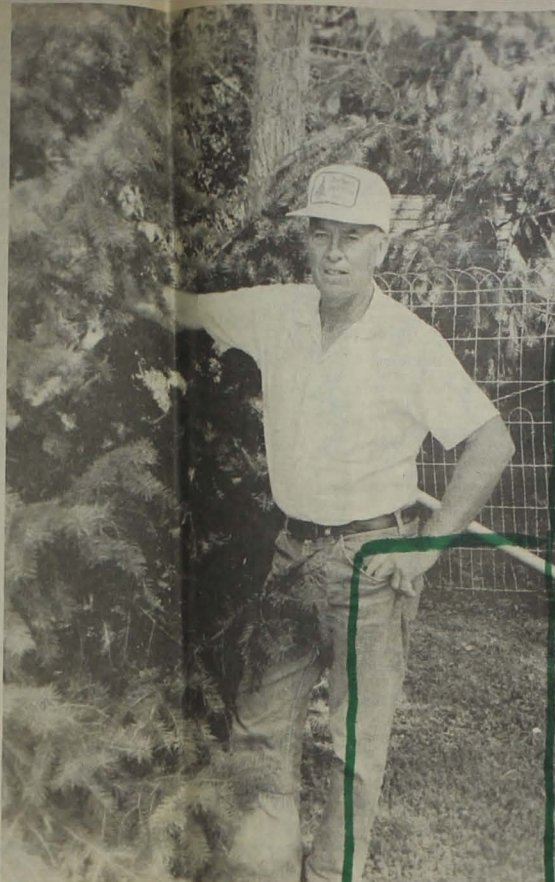
With a single-row windbreak, spacing between trees should be 4-8 feet while shrubs can be planted 3-4 feet apart. When using only coniferous trees, make sure they will not be too close together when full grown. A good shelterbelt should not be too dense and block too much wind.

Combinations of trees and shrubs in a single row add diversity and general beauty to the landscape. This can be accomplished by planting one or two shrubs between every two large trees.

Windbreaks can be planted on an east-west or north-south axis, or by following a contour as long as the field will be protected from prevailing wind, Welker said.

Another important aspect of trees is their increasing demand for firewood. Burton said that trees are increasing in popularity for the purpose. "More and more trees are being used for fuelwood. You hardly see a house being built any more that doesn't have a fireplace. Most trees make good fireplace wood."

Trees have served a purpose for a long time, but man is just beginning to realize their potential.



Battle Creek's Chester Burton stands beside one of his Douglas fir trees of which he has many. Burton has some 8,000-10,000 trees covering 17 acres and said that he feels that using trees for conservation is "conservation at its best". (Courier photo)

Conservation at its best

Co-op reports profits, elects new officers

Profits are up but net profits down, Co-op, Inc. manager Ed Freese told nearly 400 members at last Tuesday's annual Co-op meeting. Sales hit a record high of \$13.8 million this year, over one million dollars more than last year's previous high.

Because of problems getting fertilizer, government delays in enacting programs thimble and some mistakes made in the grain merchandising department, Co-op's net profits are down. Savings this year came to \$187,232. Last year Co-op netted \$432,507.

Despite last year's mixed results, Freese was optimistic about this year's program. "I'm happy to say it looks like we're going to have a good corn crop and a good bean crop this fall. Freese added that the new grain facility should help the company in the coming year. "Your cooperative is in solid financial condition."

From the net savings, over \$400,000 will be awarded Co-op's members in refunds this year. Co-op revenue makers for Co-op last year were grain \$5,377,267, petroleum \$2,154,694, fertilizer \$1,546,616, and other \$932,367.

The major expense was salaries amounting to \$940,762

for Co-op's over 70 employees.

Also at the annual Co-op, Inc. meeting, the board elected four new directors. They are Keith Goodwin, Correctionville, Duane Schubert, Galva, Jim Gustafson, Kiron, and Dwayne Swenson, Kiron. All will be serving three year terms except Buchanan who will finish the one year left on Charles Buchanan's term. Buchanan has resigned.

Other Co-op directors are

Chuck Peterson, Bob Butcher, Ray Bumann, Jr., George Leonard and Bob Lorenzen.

Peterson was elected president of the board of directors after the annual meeting. Bumann was picked vice president and Gustafson, secretary.

R.L. Morgan, former president of the board of directors is retiring from the board.

Exams for assessors scheduled in October

Statewide examinations for city or county assessor and deputy assessor have been scheduled.

The test for deputy assessor will be at 8:30 a.m., Oct. 7 in the sixth floor cafeteria of the Lucas State Office building in Des Moines. The examination for city or county assessor will be at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 14 at the same place.

Anyone who wants to become eligible for appointment as city or county assessor or deputy

assessor must pass the exam and be certified by the director of revenue.

Applications for the exams are available at the county assessor's office, the county auditor or at the department of Revenue's Property Tax division.

Applications must be received at least three days before the test. The exams will be given again in about six months.

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Prepare in fall for frost seeding

Preparation for frost seeding of legumes in pasture should begin in the fall before spring seeding, according to Frank Schaller, extension agronomist at Iowa State university. Frost seeding simply means broadcasting seeds in early spring while the ground is still frozen.

Frost seeding is a low cost way to improve pastures. Frost is controlled because there is no tillage. Since the grass cover already established in the pasture is kept, frost seeding is especially useful on sloping land. Schaller said frost seeding is a simple practice, but key steps must be followed to avoid poor results.

Plan a year ahead for frost seeding so weeds can be sprayed with 2,4-D. Weeds reduce stand establishment and once legumes are established weeds can only be controlled by clipping.

Apply needed lime and fertilizer to improve legume stand and increase yields. Phosphorus and potassium are needed for legume growth, but nitrogen fertilizer is not needed.

Graze closely the fall before seeding to reduce grass competition and aid legume establishment. Disking lightly the fall before seeding may also help legume establishment.

Success with frost seeding will be greater on thin grass stands than on thick, vigorous

stands. It is also possible to establish grasses by frost seeding but success is lessened by their lower seeding vigor.

Frost seeding involves no tillage. The legumes are broadcast in late February or March. Freezing and thawing, plus early spring rains provide the only seed coverage. Avoid seeding on heavy snow as fast melting may wash seeds away.

All commonly grown legumes can be established by frost seeding. Red clover, is especially successful, followed closely by ladino clover, alsike clover and alfalfa. Seedings of birdsfoot trefoil and crownvetch are also successful, but are slower to establish.

Legume establishment with frost seeding may be less productive than seeding on a well worked seedbed, so increasing the seeding rate by one-third to one-half will usually improve stands.

A favorite seeding mixture on rough pasture is five pounds for each acre of birdsfoot trefoil and three pounds for each acre of red clover. The red clover establishes quickly, but the trefoil will eventually dominate.

Because of effective tillage equipment available today, frost seeding may seem questionable to some people. But Schaller said it is nature's way of vegetating the landscape and a good way to conserve agricultural soil and water.

Antique Furniture Reduction Sale

Thursday and Friday, September 21 and 22, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. We're getting ready to go on a big buying trip so many items are being reduced. Such as furniture, miscellaneous and rummages.

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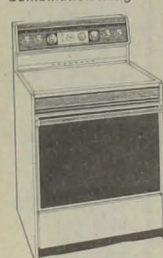
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Degen, Evans, Cranston and Burton receive awards

Leonard Degen, Holstein; Earl Evans, Correctionville; Cranston Bros., Odebolt; and Chester Burton, Battle Creek were named winners in the Annual Soil Conservation Awards program according to George Bartley, Ida Soil Conservation district chairman. A winners are long-time conservationists who have been concerned about their soil resources for some time.

Leonard Degen, rural Holstein, has been practicing conservation tillage and contouring for several years. In 1974 Degen installed one half mile terraces on his Griggs Township farm. This reduced runoff from his 3 to 7 percent slopes almost nothing. Degen also installed tile in waterways for stabilization.

Degen raises approximately 1500 head of hogs on his 200 acres and utilizes most of the corn it grows as feed. Wastes are returned to the land as fertilizer.

The Degen's appreciate trees and have planted many since moving to the farm six years ago.

The Cranston Bros.' farm in Logan Township is owned by Steve and Jeff Cranston, Odebolt. Steve formerly lived on the farm but is now being

farmed by Dean Luft. The Cranstons were among the first Ida countyans to install grassed backslope terraces in 1966. Since then they have done additional work, the latest being in 1977 when they installed 4600 ft. of grass backslope terraces, and erosion control dam and over 4000 ft. of grassed waterways.

Earl Evans, rural Correctionville, lives in Section 31, Douglas Township. His farm was in the center of severe rains falling three weeks ago.

Evans has been installing terraces on his 345 acre farm since 1967. Presently there are 3.5 miles installed and by 1980 the job is expected to be completed. The conservation commission noted Evans is practicing these conservation measures even though he runs a large dairy herd and could use the land for forage and pasture.

1980 is the target date set for construction of erosion control dams in Westside watershed, where Evans resides. Evans has been the chairman of the Watershed organization for over 10 years.

With respect to the abundant rain the area received this spring, Evans' farm suffered little damage. In contrast,

farms in the area that aren't terraced suffered severe damage. Evans said this is proof of conservation's value.

Chester Burton, Battle Creek, is a winner in the Wildlife Habitat category. This is the first year the district is recognizing an individual in this category.

Burton is a well known conservationist in Ida county and his entire 160 acre farm is a wildlife haven. A total of 12.6 acres is devoted to only wildlife and an additional eight acres is covered with trees Burton sells as Christmas trees. The tree plot also provides excellent cover for many types of wildlife.

A sizeable windbreak protects the buildings in the farmstead area and the farm's balance consists of 61.5 acres of permanent pasture and 67 acres of rotated cropland. Because of the cropland distribution, it makes an excellent secondary habitat.

Burton has seen pheasant, quail, partridge, wild turkey, wild ducks and innumerable songbirds in his wildlife areas. Burton's conservation practices have given him a reputation as a friend to wildlife.



Chester Burton

Chester Burton of Battle Creek won the conservation award for wildlife habitat. Burton's entire 160-acre farm is a haven for wildlife with 12.6 acres devoted exclusively to local wildlife. Burton has another eight acres covered with evergreens he sells for Christmas trees. This is the first year the district has presented a wildlife award. (Courier photo)



Leonard Degen

Leonard Degen, Griggs township, was cited by the conservation service for his terracing and also planting trees. Degen has

reduced the run off from his 3 to 7 percent slopes to next to nothing. Tile also stabilizes his waterways. (Courier photo)



Earl Evans

Earl Evans, Douglas township, received a conservation award for the terracing he has done on his farm. Even though Evans needs

pasture and forage for his dairy herd, he's aware of the benefits of good conservation practices for an all around farm program. (Courier photo)

School will discuss bus route changes

Some bus routes may be consolidated next year in the Ida Grove school system. The Ida Grove school board will discuss the possibility at its regular monthly meeting tonight (Tuesday) at 7:30 in the board room of the new high school.

School superintendent Dick Larson said that the board will be looking at the possibility of consolidating the seven rural routes into six and said that there is a possibility of eliminating one of the town routes also.

The board will also discuss bus driver increase. "The bus drivers already received a 4.9 percent rate increase from last year, and in talking to the head bus driver, I learned that if some routes are consolidated, the drivers would like another

five percent increase because of the longer routes and larger load," Larson said.

Other items on the agenda include: administering the oath of office to board secretary and treasurer; discussing school fees for the next term; discussing the 1977-78 audit; discussing the contract for roof settlement (if available); and discussing the new Iowa law regarding smoking prohibitions.

Also on the list are: discussing legal publications; discussing appointment of school attorney; use of driver's education car by instructor; discussing nominations for school board; considering request to be released from 1978-79 teaching contract and student insurance.



Cranston Brothers

The Cranston brothers of Holstein were one of the annual soil conservation award winners that were announced last week. Steve (left) and Jeff (right) are pictured here with Steve's son, Lee. The award cited the brothers' use of the grassed backslope

terraces. The Cranstons were among the first in the county to install these terraces. This past year they have built a 4600 foot grass backslope terrace, an erosion control dam and over 4,000 feet of grassed waterways. The brothers farm is near Odebolt. (Courier photo)

Four local farmers win conservation awards

Three local farmers won Ida county soil conservation awards this year and one farmer was awarded the district wildlife award.

Arnold Grell of Cushing and Leon Neubauer and Wilbur Rohlk of Ida Grove were cited for their grassed waterways, terraces, windbreaks, permanent seedings, contouring and conservation tillage.

Lyle Tietfort of Battle Creek winner of the wildlife award, was singled out for developing a 12-acre wildlife area around one of the dams in the Crawford Creek watershed. Contouring and terracing are among the practices on Grell's farm that helped him win the award. Grell began contouring 30 years ago because of the fast-changing slopes on his land.

Grell's land is made up of two soil types, Ida-Monona silt-loam and Galva-Primghar-Sac, that have different erosion properties. "That alone makes it a lot more difficult to farm," Grell said.

About 20 years ago, Grell put in his first terraces and today there are many of the push-up kind of terraces on his farm.

Grell, who today rents the farm out to Bruce and Marc

Lundt, credits his tenants with helping him with the award. "Without the cooperation of tenants, you don't have anything. They're doing a good job."

Neubauer farms 400 acres, all of which is contoured and about 180 acres are also terraced. Neubauer has approximately four miles of terracing, which he began in 1969.

Neubauer said that terracing the land is "well worth the time" because it utilizes rainfall. "Before I started terracing the land, I could count 13 ditches running down one hill when it rained. Of course, that wiped out all the corn in those spots, too. Now after it rains the water just sits on those terraces...right where it's needed."

"It all depends on the value you place on your land," Neubauer said of terracing land. "If you want there to be some topsoil left for your sons to farm in years to come, then terracing stops soil erosion and leaves the soil where it's supposed to be. But if you're out for the 'Almighty Dollar', then you might as well forget it, because terracing takes time and costs money."

Neubauer has just finished restructuring the lane which goes west from the road into his farmyard. "Before I had two culverts in that lane and it would still be flooded when it rained. Now that I've terraced the land south of the lane, I put in one culvert and the water doesn't even come up to the lane at all," he said.

Neubauer has won the conservation award previously in 1975. Also, in 1969 he was awarded the progress award for the conservation measures he'd taken that year.

Rohlk's award is the culmination of eight years work on conservation practices including terracing, strip

farming and contouring. He said he built his last terraces approximately two years ago and has plans to do more work in the area of conservation.

He noted one terrace he constructed had to be re-constructed because some of it washed away. "If you can get through the first year without any of it washing away, you usually have it made. It has to settle properly," said the Logan township farmer.

He also noted gophers and badgers are constant problems for terraces because they dig holes through them, allowing water to seep through. "The gopher will dig first and then the badger will dig to get the

gopher. Although they are small animals, they can really dig."

Rohlk farms 500 acres of land with approximately 300 acres devoted to row crops. The remainder is used for hay crops and pasture land for his livestock.

Tietfort and his wife, Bonnie, began developing the 12-acre wildlife habitat on their farm near Battle Creek in the fall of 1974. Built around one of the dams in the Crawford Creek watershed, the area consists of a six-acre pond and six-acre wooded area.

The first trees planted in 1974 were received through the Conservation commission and several were unable to withstand a harsh winter. They were replaced and the Tietforts have planted an additional 3,000 trees during the last two years. Varieties include Blue Spruce, Scotch Pine, Javay Pine and Australian Pine. This area provides shelter for pheasants, raccoons, muskrats, deer and ducks.

The pond, which Tietfort estimates is 30 to 35 feet deep in some places, is stocked with bass, crawfish, blue gills, bullheads and catfish. Tietfort said he sometimes allows people to fish in the pond, but will not let anyone take bass out until they are bigger, probably in the fall.

Members of the Tietfort family are avid hunters and fishermen, he said, and spend a good part of the fall hunting deer and pheasants. "But we go out of this area to do most of our hunting, especially for deer," he said. "There aren't enough deer in Ida county so we go to Harrison county where they're more plentiful."

About the wildlife habitat, Tietfort said, "This should have been done 10 years ago. If I'd known then how scarce shelter for the wildlife would be now, I'd have started this a long time ago."



Honored

Arnold Grell, Cushing, was one of four Ida county farmers who won Ida county soil conservation awards this year. Grell, because of a severe erosion problem on his land caused by two very

different soil types, was one of the first farmers in his area to use contouring. Grell credits tenant farmers Bruce and Marc Lundt with helping him win the award. (Courier photo)



Recognized

Wilbur Rohlk, Logan township farmer, was one of four recipients of conservation awards this week. Rohlk has spent eight years developing his conservation program and was recognized for his grassed waterway terraces, windbreaks, permanent seedings, contouring and conservation tillage. Rohlk said he constructed his final terrace two years ago but has plans for more conservation methods in the future. He farms 500 acres of land with 300 of the total devoted to row crops. (Courier photo)

Conservationist

Lyle Tietfort (right) of Battle Creek has been named to receive a conservation award for a wildlife habitat on his farm. The habitat was built around one of the dams on the Crawford Creek Watershed. Tietfort and his wife, Bonnie, began the project in 1974. The six-acre pond is bordered on the south by six acres of recently planted trees, and tall grasses surround the entire area to provide a refuge for wild animals. (Courier photo)



Award winner

Three-time conservation award winner Leon Neubauer cited windbreaks, terracing and conservation tillage as the conservation measures used on his farm southwest of Ida Grove. Neubauer was a district conservation award winner in 1969 and 1975 also. (Courier photo)