

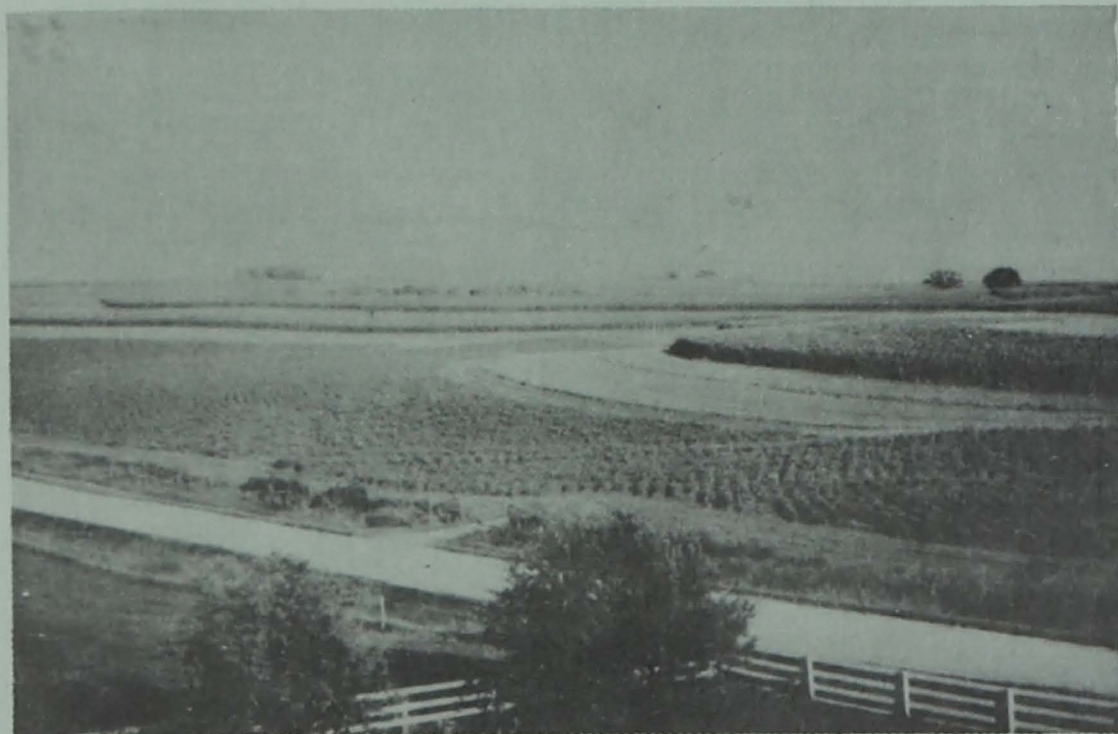
1970

TWENTY - EIGHTH *Annual Report*

TAMA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TOLEDO, IOWA

PHONE 484-2702

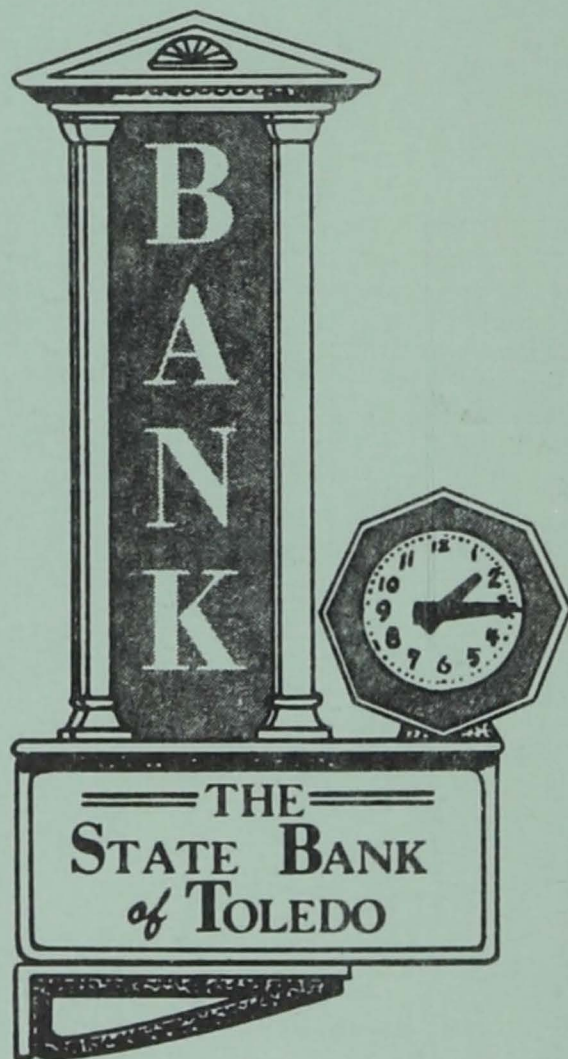


Stripcropping on the farm of Commissioner Harold Higgins,
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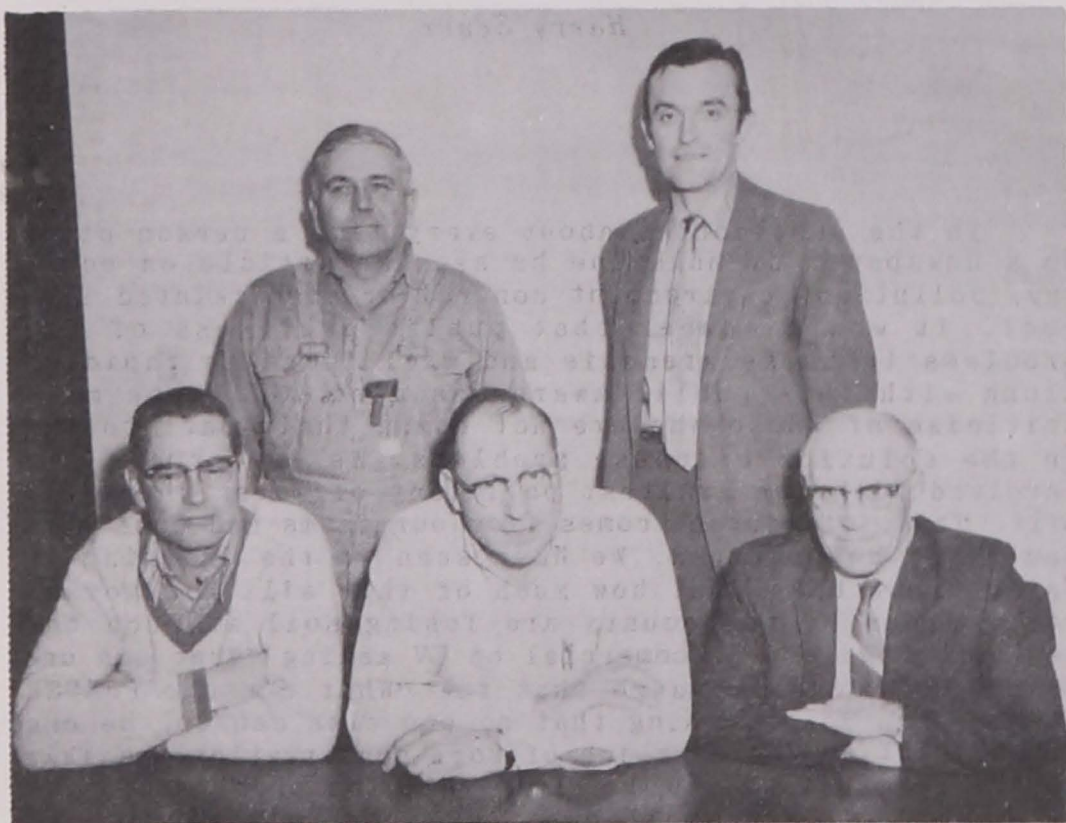
FOREWORD

The Tama County Soil Conservation District was officially organized on January 21, 1942. We the Commissioners submit this annual report showing the accomplishments of our 28th year of operation. We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to those that cooperated with our program through the years and especially this year.

Our special thanks go to the personnel of the SCS and the State of Iowa assigned to the district and to the companion agencies in U.S.D.A., farm organizations, businesses and individuals whose interest and enthusiasm helped make our achievements possible. The county newspapers have been most helpful in publicizing our story to the general public.

The need for conservation is becoming more apparent as the demand for improving our environment becomes stronger. To those who manage land, we offer our hand in helping determine the land use alternatives available for bettering our world.

We hope rural and urban citizens alike will continue to support sound land use and treatment wherever and whenever they can.



Seated left to right district commissioners Harry Scurr, Chairman Lester Lenhart, and Harold Higgins. Standing assistant commissioner Welby Dixon and commissioner Kenneth Bruene. Not present commissioner Joe Lyon.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER VIEWPOINTS

Farming, has been described as the first organized industry in the new world. As stewards of the soil it is our obligation to try to maintain the best possible level of fertility and soil structure.

Soil erosion, by wind and rain, is one of the leading offenders in the fight to stop pollution of our rivers, lakes, and streams. With the soil go fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides while our top soil layer becomes more and more shallow.

With increased public concern and pressure for better water pollution control the time is approaching when control standards will be established. Hopefully such a control agency will be in the hands of qualified agricultural personnel interested in farming as well as control of our environment.

Sincere interest expressed to your congressmen could help insure proper representation.

Harry Scurr

In the past months about every time a person picks up a newspaper or magazine he sees an article on ecology, pollution, environment control or some related subject. It would appear that public awareness of the problems in these areas is and will increase rapidly. Along with this public awareness also will come more criticism of those who are not doing their part to aid in the solution of these problems. We as farmers are involved with the greatest pollutant of water there is, silt. This, of course, comes from our farms and once gone can never be returned. We have seen in the draining of Union Grove Lake just how much of this silt has moved. Other areas of the county are losing soil at much the same rate. We see a commercial on TV asking "What can one man do?" We might change that to, "What can one FARMER do?" He can do something that no one else can do, he can VOLUNTARILY do the best job of soil conservation possible on his farm. If we would all do this the problem of pollution would be a small one. As an extra advantage we would probably find that this did not cost but in the long run would prove to be an economic gain.

Ken Bruene

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Soil is great
Protects mans life
Lets learn to protect it.
Before we end in strife

Save it, before its too late
Do your best for Conservation
So there will be a future.
For our new generation.

Welby Dixon

Soil Conservation Districts services were expanded when the 63rd General Assembly passed legislation to include all cities and towns in the Soils Districts and also in a separate action increased the number of commissioners from three to five. This action points up the fact that Soil and Water Conservation is for everyone, not just farmers.

Services that cities can avail themselves are technical planning and advice in the establishing of new developments both residential and industrial where excess erosion can be controlled during construction. They can also determine if such projects are feasible in the event that the subsoil structure is adequate.

Soil Conservation service is available for technical advice in the formation of sanitary land fills so the pollution from open dumps can be eliminated.

Recreation areas used by all citizens must be protected from pollution due to erosion and this protection begins with the erosion control practices established in the watershed of these recreation facilities.

We appeal to all of the citizens of Tama County to avail themselves of the services. Lets make sure we do not repeat the mistakes of the past.

Harold Higgins

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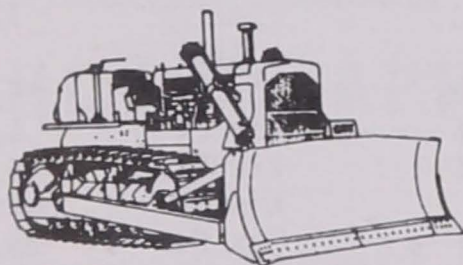
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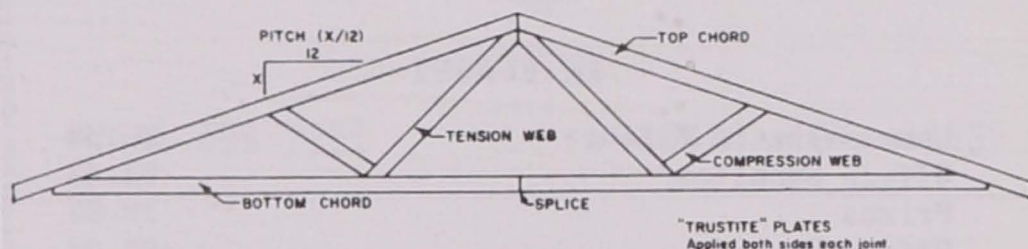
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1970

July 1, 1969 - June 30, 1970

	(unit)	(amount)	(total on the land)
New Cooperators	No.	44	843
Basic Farm Plans	No.	36	542
Revised Farm Plans	No.	8	
Farms Serviced	No.	423	
Sod Waterways	Ac.	123	5,064
Farm Ponds	No.	9	272
Grade Stabilization Struc.	No.	10	181
Contour Farming	Ac.	1,537	78,059
Stripcropping	Ac.	304	11,035
Diversion Terraces	Lin.Ft.	8,200	98,547
Terraces-Gradient	Lin.Ft.	4,350	413,210
Terraces-Parallel	Lin.Ft.	5,850	28,410
Tile Drainage	Lin.Ft.	267,381	2,384,703
Open Drainage	Lin.Ft.	25,780	193,644
Dike	Ft.	8,930	8,930
Tree Planting	Ac.	7	89
Pipeline	Ft.	1,890	11,232
Windbreak	Ac.	4.3	1,008

State Budget of the Tama County Soil Conservation District

1M BUDGET

Commissioners Mileage	25.35
Office Supplies	61.43
Prizes	10.98
Office Expense	402.24

1M-A BUDGET

Office Expense	98.63
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2M BUDGET

State Clerk and Planner Aide	\$11,328.09
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Standing: Betty Thompson, A.C.P. Clerk; Russell Lyon, Office Manager.

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DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS ACTION FOR 1970

JANUARY -

An awards dinner was held at the King Tower Cafe in Tama for the winners in the 1969 Register and Tribune Conservation Achievement contest. Winners were Dean Vint, Toledo and Garland Hopper, Toledo also Mrs. Edythe Hill in the Conservation Teacher division. The District Commissioners entered the Goodyear Company award contest and named Dean Vint as outstanding conservation farmer. Tree planting bars were purchased by the District to be used by Cooperators who purchased trees. Commissioners attended the short course.

FEBRUARY -

A meeting with all the farmers in the Union Grove Lake watershed was held at Gladbrook. A fine turnout was present at this meeting and the outlook was good for getting conservation work done in the area. Soil Conservation speech contest material was sent to all schools in the county.

MARCH -

Contractors meeting was held to discuss ACP practices to be applied in the county this year. Soil Stewardship material was ordered for use in the churches in Tama County.

APRIL -

Soil Stewardship material was distributed to the churches requesting the material. Commissioners were notified that Dean Vint was acclaimed winner of Goodyear Tire Company award for northern Iowa.

MAY -

Commissioners checked conservation workbooks.

JUNE -

Winner of the District Soil Conservation speech contest was Wayne Dvorak of rural Clutier. Wayne is a student at the Dysart-Geneseo school. District winners in the Register and Tribune contest were announced. Louis Paustian was winner in the new cooperator division. Richard Bruene, winner in the owner-operator division, and Mrs. Edythe Hill in the conservation teacher division.

JULY -

Wayne Dvorak represented the Tama SCD in a regional speech contest held at Amana, Iowa.

AUGUST -

The commissioners provided a display at the Gladbrook Corn Carnival. This display was centered on pictures of the Union Grove Lake. A canned ham was given away to the person guessing how many tons of silt in the lake. This ham was won by E.R. Massen of Gladbrook.

SEPTEMBER -

Commissioners Harold Higgins, Lester Lenhart and Ken Bruene attended the Annual Conference of Soil Conservation District Commissioners held in Waterloo. The District ordered soil monolith boards for Extension Service and interested schools in the county. A planning picnic was held at the Tama park with commissioners, past commissioners, office staff and their families in attendance.

OCTOBER -

The Soil Conservation District provided the tuition for five teachers to attend the conservation workshop at Luther, Iowa. The five attending were: Mrs. Edythe Hill, Mrs. Paul Wieck of Geneseo school; Mrs. Jayne Hill, Mrs. Joyce Meyers of the Tama School and Don Whitmarsh, Toledo school. Letters were sent to the schools in Tama County informing them of the conservation workbooks available to them.

NOVEMBER -

A special meeting was held in the District office on the Union Lake watershed with all commissioners and Keith Glandon Area Conservationist, Rep. Miller of Marshalltown, Rep. Fischer of Wellsburg and other interested persons in attendance. Recognition dinner for Register and Tribune Regional winners was held at Montezuma, Mrs. Hill of Tama County was honored as winner in the conservation teacher division.

DECEMBER -

Dean Vint and Harold Higgins were guests of the Goodyear Tire Company at Litchfield, Arizona. The District ordered 200 workbooks to be used in the schools. Material compiled for annual report. The Commissioners named members of the newly organized Education Committee. They are: Mrs. Edythe Hill, Dysart; Harold Higgins, Traer; Darrel Hayes, Toledo; Dick McMullin, Toledo and Mrs. Joyce Meyers, Tama.

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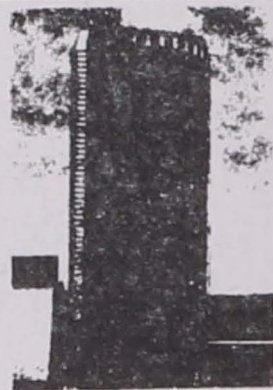
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R. E. A. P.

Russell Lyon, ASCS Office Manager

The 1971 cost sharing program will be known by a new name, Rural Environment Assistance program, R.E.A.P. The emphasis apparently will be on enduring practices that will assist in preventing erosion or pollution, the more popular word.

We in the office have a little story that helps us remember the new designation of R.E.A.P. It goes like this. The little girl mouse was playing in the wheat field when the combine came along, picked her up in the apron and into the combine. She went thru the cylinder and onto the straw rack to get a good shaking up and out with the straw. She layed a moment, sat up shook her head and squeaked "I've been Reaped."

We will publicize the 1971 program details as soon as possible.

The Emergency Conservation measures adapted for cost shares in 1969 were continued into 1970. These practices were to repair damage done by heavy rain to existing practices. Generally they were the same measures approved by the regular A.C.P. Total cost shares earned in the two seasons was \$34,000.

The 1970 ACP accomplished considerable conservation. There are an unusual number of partially completed practices carried over until next spring for completion. This is due to allowing waterway work to be started late in the fall.

Practice D-4, seeding of diverted ac, earned the most cost shares in 1970 serving 10760 Ac. Sod Waterway requests numbered 93 serving 2790 ac. Pasture renovation was cost shared on 2089 ac. 1455 Ac. was improving existing pasture, this included application of Nitrogen on existing pastures. 634 ac. of cropland was seeded to permanent pasture. We were again disappointed at the lack of interest in terraces, stripcropping and contouring.

We invite all farm owners and operators to stop at our office if we can be of any assistance in establishing desired conservation on their farm.

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Carroll Moyer
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Ward Handorf
Moore Trust
Neil Rowe
Wm. Elmore
Nellie Winders
Lake Park Holding Corp.
Wayne Reinbrecht
Donald Storjohann
Harold Tegt
Roger Platt
Glen Wise

Leland Fisher
Willis Houston
D. D. Davis
Fred L. Hushak
Gary Anderson
L. S. Appelgate
LaVoy Thiessen
Kenneth Frey
Roger Sawyer
Mrs. Leonard Dahms
LaVerne Eckhart
Elmer Starck
A. J. Wentzien
A. R. Sawyer
Louis Paustian
LaVern Hand
Franklin Hand
Allen Palmgren

REVISIONS OF BASIC FARM PLANS
FOR FISCAL YEAR OF 1970

Harry Kosnar
Breakenridge Farms
Merelyn Brown
Walt Turbett

Harold Beichley
Ross Sharp
E. P. Willey
Lyon Stock Farm

NEW COOPERATORS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 1970

Franklin Hand
Dale Renner
Lake Park Holding
Rose Hill Farms Inc.
Roger A. Schafer
Donald Storjohann
Green Mt. Elev.
Albert Bru
Neil Rowe
Mrs. Leonard Dahms
Alfred Kajer
Wayne Reinbrecht
Leland Fisher
Frank Duhachek
James Abrams
Bert Thornes
Nellie Winders
Fred Kajer, Sr.
Elmer Starck
Moore Trust
Leland Frahm
A. R. Sawyer

Leo Dvorak
LaVern Eckhart
Eugene C. Dvorak
Allen Palmgren
Marvin Ohrt
Walter Wait
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LaVern Novotny
LaVoy Thiessen
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THE OLD ELM DIED REPLANT

G. Gress Rogers, County Extension Director

From the standpoint of comfort and beauty, trees are the most important plants in the Iowa landscape. Trees give protection from the glare and heat of the sun and from chilling winds. To some extent, they purify the air we breathe. They form a canopy or ceiling for outdoor activities. They serve as an enclosure or setting for buildings and other man-made developments. They provide homes for many birds and animals. Trees can enrich, supplement and compliment all our outdoor activities.

Trees are the most permanent plants in a development. They are more permanent than many structural elements. It takes time to grow mature trees. Fine, large, mature trees increase the value of property.

The elm, which dominated the Iowa landscape, is slowly disappearing. A victim of Dutch Elm Disease. It was the variety which provided the shade and beauty in most Tama County farm yards.

That pleasant summertime shade is gone and will likely not be provided by the stately elms again. Some other specie will do the job but probably not as well as the elm.

The elm, you will remember, grew tall, was strong and graceful. It was vase shaped, wide at the crown, narrow at the base with few low growing branches. It provided an umbrella under which humans found welcome relief on those hot summer days. A place to park the car, tractor, repair machinery, kids to play and have family picnics. It's now gone.

Another specie will have to provide that pleasantness now. --But which one? Which variety? -- That depends.

Several things need to be considered when selecting a replacement tree. Mature heighth and width, shape, hardness, disease and insect problems, texture, soil conditions, growth rate, care needed, and is it for shade, ornamental purposes or curiosity. These are a few characteristics to consider.

One needs to think about the past as well as the future when the location for planting is selected. Where will it do what we want it to do? That is - is it for shade or ornamental purposes?

Plant in the right place. Consider existing tile or cesspool lines, overhead wires, future building sites or additions to existing buildings, snow removal, traffic patterns, and many more.

Now to name a few varieties for shade which might fit your needs.

THE COMMON HACKBERRY - A native Iowa tree which resembles the good qualities of the elm more closely than any other specie. It will reach 60-70 ft. and 50 ft. in width when mature. Tolerant to most soil conditions and has a medium growth rate. Produces small berries which birds like but is subject to gall mites causing pimples on the leaves. Usually doesn't affect the tree but does cause it to look unsightly. A good shade tree.

ASH - Green ash and the seedless selections are adapted to Iowa conditions. 60 ft. high and 40-50 spread at maturity. Are subject to borers but control is possible. A good shade tree with a medium growth rate.

HARD AND SUGAR MAPLE - Will reach 80 ft. and 40-50 ft. wide when mature. Fall color is excellent. Medium growth rate and tolerates most soil conditions. It is however, susceptible to anthracnose and will often succumb to winter injury when young. Grass will usually not grow under the tree because of the dense shade it offers.

HONEYLOCUSTS - There are several selections of the thornless honeylocusts such as Shademaster and Skyline. Fast growing with small leaves, provides filtered shade, suited to most soil conditions and will reach 75 ft. in height. Not as long lived as those mentioned above, subject to canker and sometime borers. Usually needs training the first few years to establish desired form. Winter hardy.

AMERICAN LINDEN - This specie is commonly called basswood. It has large leaves, flowers rather coarse in texture, hardy and will grow to 75 ft. with a 50-60 ft. spread. Flowers attract bees. Will accept most soil conditions. Also a native of Iowa but subject to wind breakage and shedding of twigs.

SYCAMORE - A large tree often reaching 80-100 ft. Likes moist conditions, has large leaves, cream colored bark and rather coarse in appearance. Subject to anthracnose. Usually grows with one central leader. Needs little pruning. Also native to some sections of Iowa. Strong and rugged.

BIRCH - The River Birch, a native of northeast and eastern Iowa. Also tolerates wet conditions but will thrive in well drained soil. 60 ft. high at maturity, fine textured, pinkish peeling bark. Less subject to borer problems than the paper, clump and white birch. A desirable tree.

OAKS - There are several kinds of oak most of which are native to Iowa. The white and scarlet oaks prefer acid soil and are slowest of the oaks in growth rate. Bur oak is also slow growing but will accept moist as well as dry soil conditions. Oak wilt may be a problem in the future. At present there is no satisfactory control.

Other specie to consider include littleleaf linden, pin oak, red and black maple and ginkgo.

Select the kind best for you and plant it this spring.

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Roy G. Hatcher, District Forester

Trees are important to people. They help sustain man and all life through the production of oxygen. They enrich the soil. We depend upon trees for water and water control, for wildlife and for recreation. Trees build and furnish our homes. They provide our paper and much of our food and clothing. Trees probably are the one most vital ingredient in a beautiful environment and essential to a healthful environment as well.

Trees are for people and people had better be for trees! They cover one-third of the land area of the United States and the world. They have influence on the weather, on rivers and on the wind. They furnish basic raw materials for hundreds of products in a modern civilization that has nearly lost sight of its dependence on the land. Trees are a renewable resource that replenish themselves. Trees grow. We can cut the trees but preserve the forest.

People depend upon trees in so many ways yet they often are taken for granted. Only a country that has no forests fully appreciates their importance and no nation can become strong without trees.

The importance of trees should present a challenge to the people of Iowa. Even though we are basically an agricultural state we should not forget that trees do have a place in our environment and we should continue to plant trees where they are needed. We have a lot of sub-marginal land in Iowa that could be more productive planted to trees.

In 1970 twelve rural landowners in Tama County planted over 16,000 trees and wildlife shrubs that were purchased from the State Conservation Nursery at Ames. Some of these were planted with federal cost-share assistance through the ACP program. Each year over 1 million trees and shrubs are planted in Iowa for wildlife cover, erosion control and reforestation. Free technical assistance is available to rural landowners who would like to plant trees through the District Forester of the Iowa Conservation Commission. The forester for Tama County is Roy G. Hatcher. He can be contacted by writing to Box 681, Marshalltown or by contacting the Soil Conservation District office in Toledo. A tree planter is available free for those who can use it. Assistance is also available for timber management and marketing.

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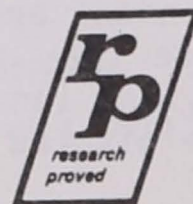
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Mrs. Edythe Hill receiving outstanding teacher award for 1970 at teachers workshop, Luther, Iowa.

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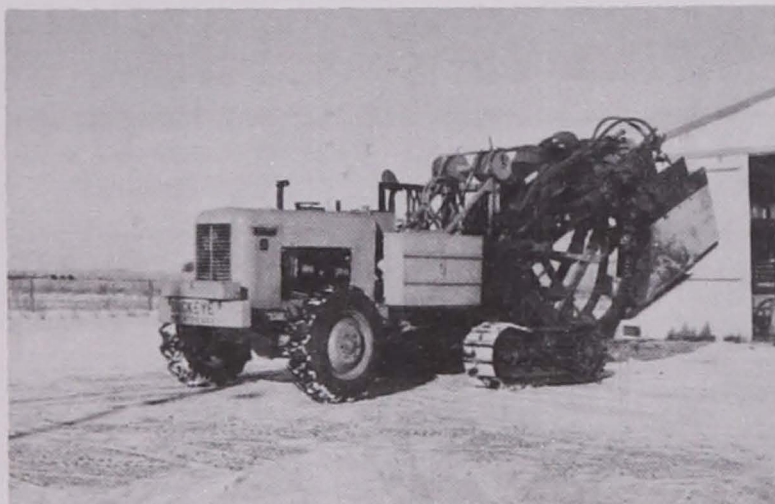
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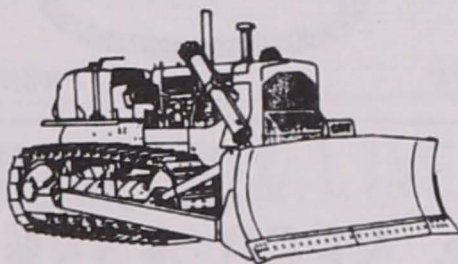


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*Front: Audrey Wheeler, Clerk; Ted Hall, Dist. Conservationist.
Back: Paul Bruns, Soil Cons. Technician; Robert Malin, Aide.*

Mr. Hall & Mr. Bruns are employed by U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service. Mrs. Wheeler & Mr. Malin by the Dept. of Soil Cons.

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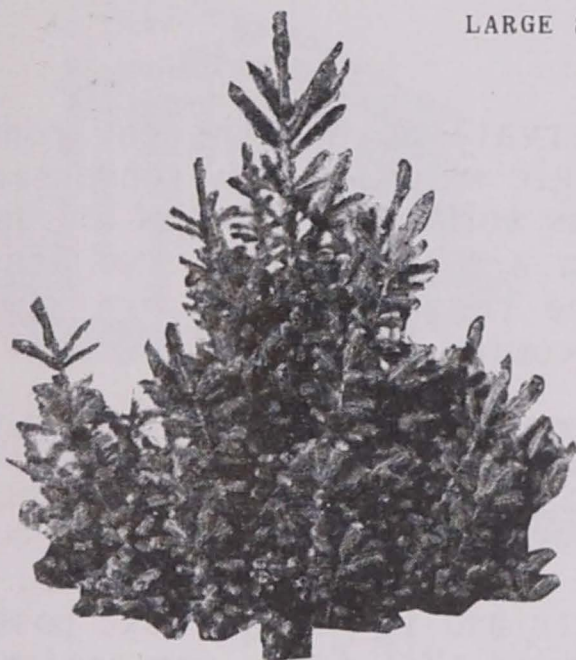
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Ted Hall, District Conservationist

Pollution, conservation, and the environment seem to be the magic words in many conversations today. Those of us working at the job of applying conservation are pleased at the present interest but hope the public concern remains stable without becoming a fad.

Many of the tools farmers need for feeding the world are in jeopardy of being banned for common use. They are the chemicals that fertilize, control weeds, insects and in general make possible the power to produce that feeds our nation. If we had to return to the "good old days", we might like some of the things but many of the conveniences and standard of living we accept are due to our new technology.

Pollution that occurs from agricultural runoff is being watched by scientists around the nation. As soil erodes, the chemicals that cling to the particles leave too, and are easily measured downstream. To reduce this economic loss to the farmer that paid for the chemical additive and the downstream protestor, we must reduce our soil and water losses. Good conservation practices are one of the ways to increase your profits, improve your farm and keep restrictions from being written.

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Dean Vint (left) and Harold Higgins (right) visit with Pat Patterson, Manager of Goodyear Farm Tire Sales at the Goodyear Experimental Farms at Litchfield Park, Arizona during the December 11-14th free trip honoring conservationists. The 2 Tama Countians represented the local district at the gathering of about 100 other winners from around the country at the facilities owned by Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

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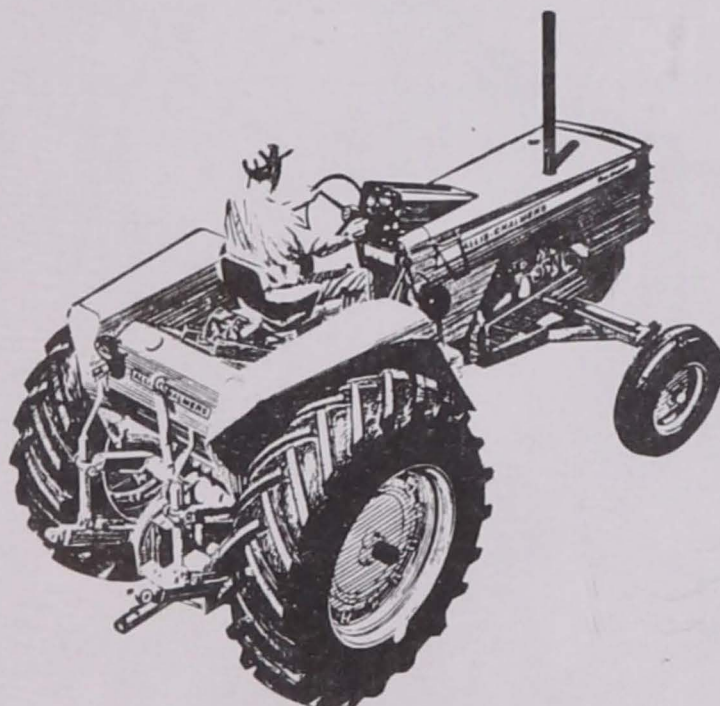
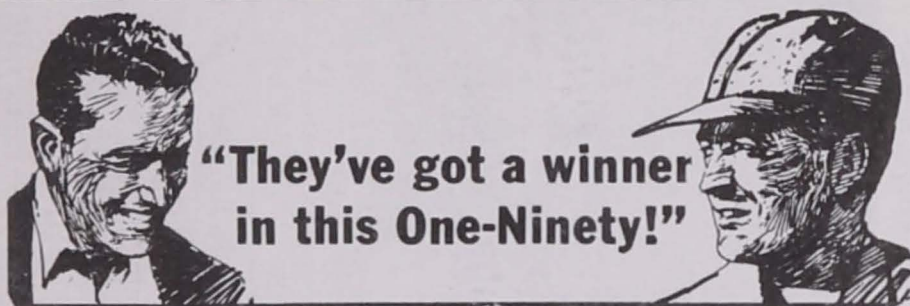
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Shown above is one of the several pictures of Union Grove Lake featured at the 4-H fair booth sponsored in part by the Soil Conservation District. Conservation measures are being urged to help control the siltation problem and prolong the life of the lake.



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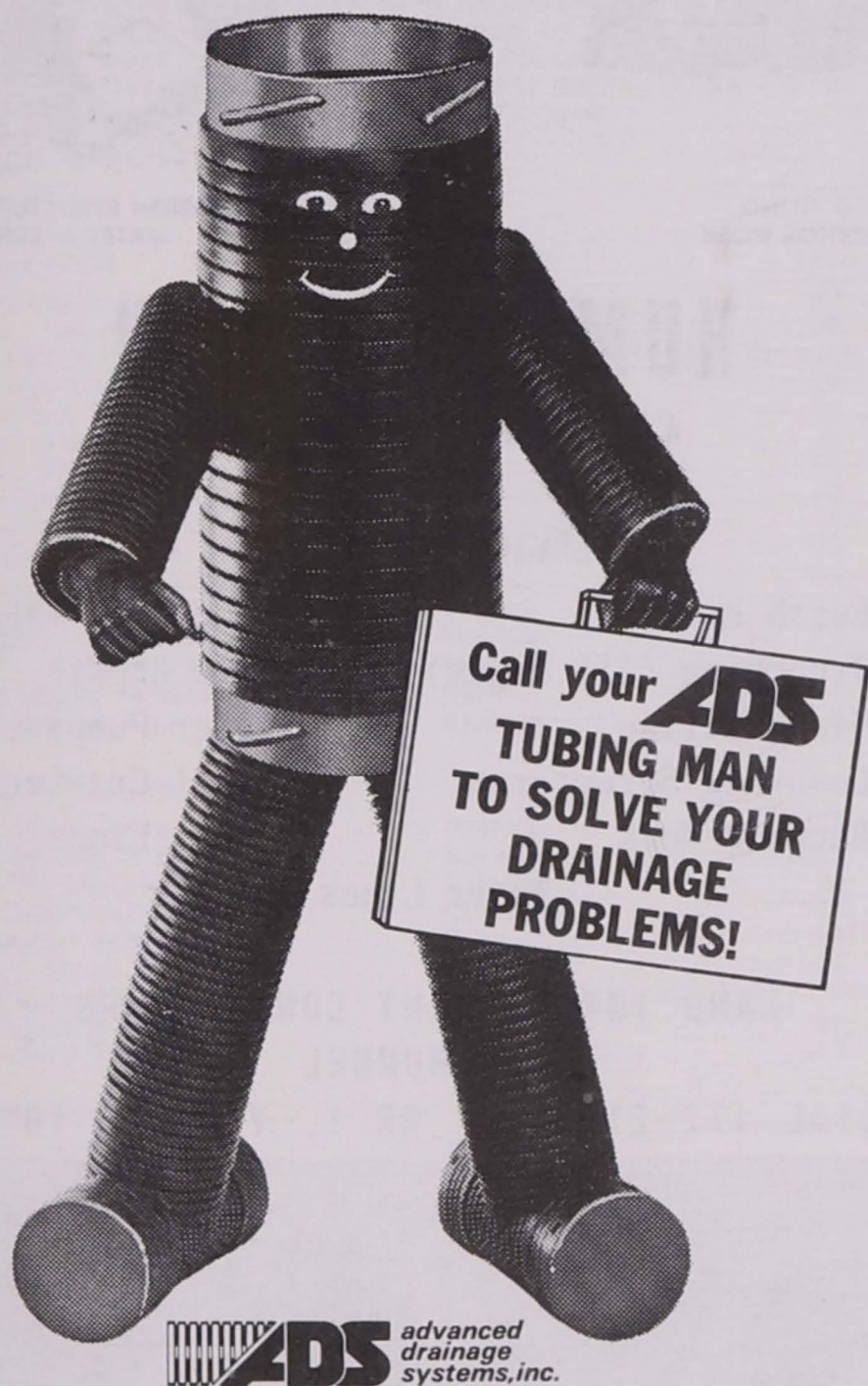
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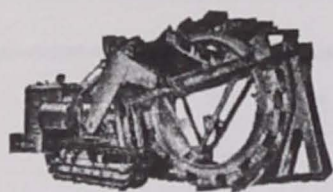
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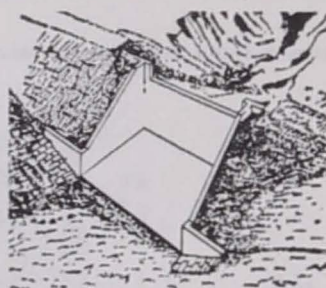
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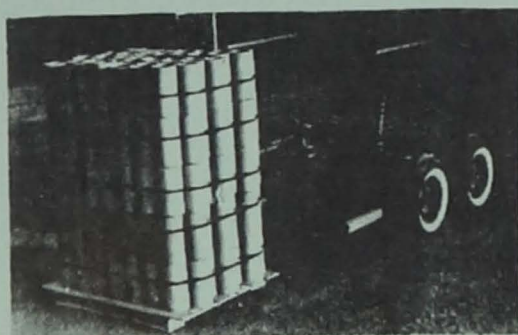
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