

Under Our Noses

4-20-67

Last week, it was announced that 1966 third quarter retail sales in Bloomfield and Davis County set an all-time record for a third quarter.

Being an economic indicator, high retail sales would seem to indicate that that all is well in the economy of Davis County. It is easy to assume that we are a growing county, business wise, and there isn't too much reason to worry.

At the risk of dampening spirits, we must caution Davis County residents that they may not be as well off as one would think from such indications. Things are good now, but will they be five years from now or 10 years from now?

There is no current answer for this question. No one knows what is going to happen five years from now. Nevertheless, there is something that can be done now to help insure continued growth into the 1970's.

THERE ISN'T much doubt that farm consolidation will continue. The rate of consolidation will depend, of course, on the level of the farm economy and other factors. But, regardless of the rate of consolidation, there will more than likely be fewer farms five and 10 years from now, and fewer people.

Fewer people in Davis County will eventually mean a decline in many areas of business, particularly those businesses that provide for the needs and wants of individuals.

The thing that can be done, of course, is to provide those persons who will be leaving the farms with other means of income. This means providing jobs in Bloomfield and the other towns in the county. To most this means acquisition of more industry.

Bloomfield has done well in getting new industry in the last few years and the efforts should continue to entice more industry here. Each industry, no matter how small, provides a few more job opportunities that were not available before.

But we must not overlook another

resource that can provide job opportunities. That resource is recreation, which, as Americans acquire more leisure time, will become even more important.

Davis County is fortunate that it is less than 30 miles from Rathbun Dam. When completed this will become an economic factor in cities and towns for several miles around. Davis County should accrue some benefits.

With Rathbun Lake drawing tourists and water recreation buffs to the area, Davis County needs to do something that will keep these people here for a time, maybe even provide recreation away from the crowd.

Davis County already has Lake Wapello, one of the finest state parks in the state, and a fine recreation area at Lake Fisher. We, however, could provide more.

THE PRELIMINARY plans of the Soil Conservation Service call for the construction of a more than 200 acre lake 10 miles southwest of Bloomfield as a part of the proposed Carter Creek Watershed. Since SCS is unable to purchase land, it expects problems acquiring easements for the land necessary for the lake.

It would seem to be a worthwhile project for the Greater Bloomfield Development Corporation or the Chamber of Commerce to study the possibilities of this lake as a recreation site. If the potential is lucrative, and we think it will be, we should go after this with all the effort that we seek out industry.

Such a lake, along with our present lakes, and the development of the historical importance of Davis County from Black Hawk to the Mormons to the Hairy Nation and the Honey Wars, could provide attractions that would make tourists stop here, stay here and spend money here.

No matter how good business is today, we must not let ourselves be lulled to sleep. And no matter how lucrative far-away industry looks, we must not forget recreation and the things we can develop right under our noses.