

Twenty-first

ANNUAL REPORT



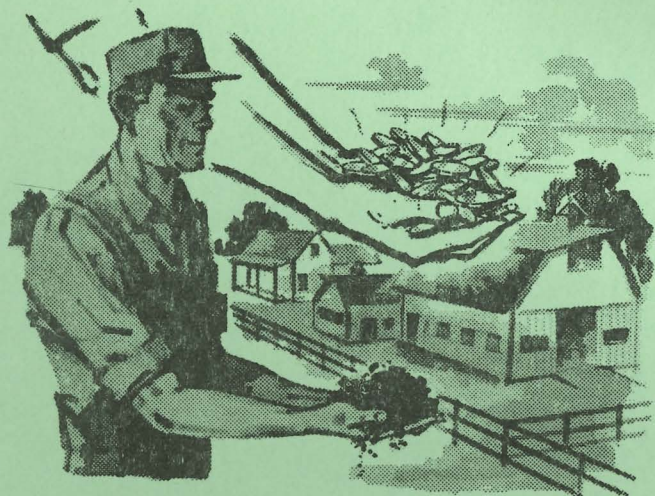
*Iowa County
Soil and Water
Conservation District*



STRIP CROPPING ON THE ORPHA GORSCH FARM

photo by Lynn Beyer

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These are addresses and phone numbers of contractors and business firms throughout Iowa county that can be of service to you.

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The SCD Commissioners of Iowa county.

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MARV DOSCHADIS - Secretary

Williamsburg, Iowa

Ph. 668-1774

INTRODUCTION

By Don Eash, Chairman

In thinking back over the past year's activities and accomplishments we realize much was done. There is a saying, "You must aim high to hit high". At the same time it is natural to fall short of the goal even though we had our whole body and mind on our work. One individual can't begin to do the job of everyone involved here in Iowa county. It takes cooperation from everyone.

When we think of farming and the scientific advancements made during recent years, we begin to realize how small we are as individuals. Stop and consider the bushels per acre in yield which we expect with a minimum of labor and compare to ten years ago. Now we begin to visualize what has been accomplished and we wonder if we are hitting the target or if we are falling short.

We read about people in our world who are starving and we also read about surpluses. We know we are blessed with a bountiful food supply, but with population on the increase future generations could suffer severe shortages. This is why we keep on striving for a higher goal.

Here in Iowa county production of food is one of the main enterprises. Can anyone think of a finer goal than that of feeding a starving world? Now we must revert to the land as this is our source of food and income. Although we have scientific knowledge we must preserve our land to keep the food supply increasing. This is the purpose of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District -- to make each individual aware of his responsibility in preserving while production moves upward. Old Man River swallows up untold amounts of soil wealth each year. It is our aim to short change him.

We express our gratitude to each individual and all organizations who contributed time, talent and tithes to the Iowa County Soil Conservation District during the past year. A special thank you to all who helped in making this report available.

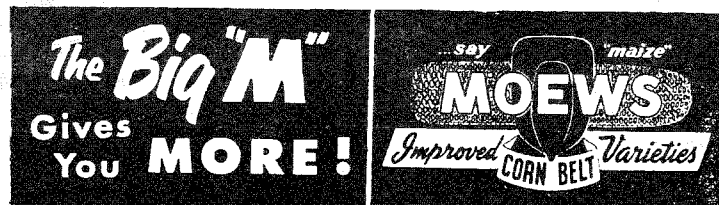
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COMMISSIONERS

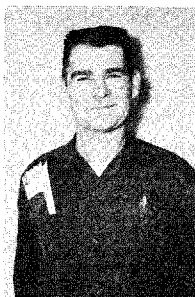
Commissioners of Soil and Water Conservation Districts are responsible for guiding the operations of that district. They initiate, plan, and help put into practice the program of the district. They are the governing body of the district.

A business meeting is held the third Tuesday of each month at the Soil Conservation Service Office in Williamsburg. Typical items of business are review of conservation plans, agreements signed by new cooperators, planning of activities such as speech contests and awards banquets.

Commissioners are elected for six-year terms, with one commissioner being elected every other year.

A soil conservation district advances soil conservation in direct proportion to the activities of the district governing body. The district commissioners have great responsibilities in carrying out the functions of the district.

Shown below (from left) are Don Eash, chairman; Howard Beyer; Harold Sherman; and Jack Shannahan. Jack is treasurer and assistant commissioner.



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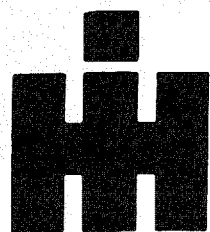
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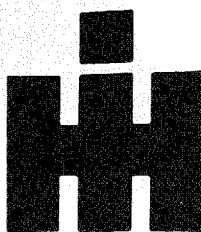
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Williamsburg, Iowa

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Terrace systems with tile outlets were constructed in Iowa county in 1966. Three systems were installed.

The flying tour of Iowa county's conservation work was taken by over 80 people. Airplanes were furnished by Duane Potts of Marengo, Sauters Flying Service, North English; and Ivan Reihmann of Middle Amana. These men also served as pilots. Jim Hall of Marion served as alternate pilot.

During the summer the District had Leota Hamer working in the office under the Neighborhood Youth Corps program.

OFFICE STAFF

Pictured below are personnel who serve you through the Soil Conservation Service Office.



Left to right: Ken Christensen, Gaynelle Gilbreath, Ed Edwards, and Charles Shirley.

The accomplishments listed further on in this book were done with two man-years of full-time personnel, and 1 1/4 man-years of part-time help, for a total of 3 1/4 man-years.

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LADORA

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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- January - Stuart Blythe was chosen Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Williamsburg OYF contest.
- A meeting was held for the conservation contractors of Iowa county.
- All the commissioners attended the Soil Conservation District Commissioners Short Course at Ames
- March - The District held a speech contest. It was won by Duane Maderin of Williamsburg.
- May - The Soil Conservation District published its annual report and a copy was mailed to every landowner and operator in Iowa county.
- Bulletin inserts were provided for the churches of Iowa county in observance of Soil Stewardship Week.
- June - News articles about local conservation work were published in observance of Conservation Week.
- July - The Conservation Air Tour of Iowa county was attended by more than eighty people. Three planes were used to provide rides.
- August - The District held its annual "Queen of Conservation" Contest.
- September - Don Eash served as a referee at the National Plowing Matches held at Jefferson, Iowa.
- All commissioners and their wives attended the Annual Conference of Soil Conservation District Commissioners, held in Cedar Rapids.
- October - The Conservation Awards Banquet was held near Williamsburg. This banquet is sponsored by the banks in Iowa county, plus banks at Belle Plaine, Norway, and Wellman.

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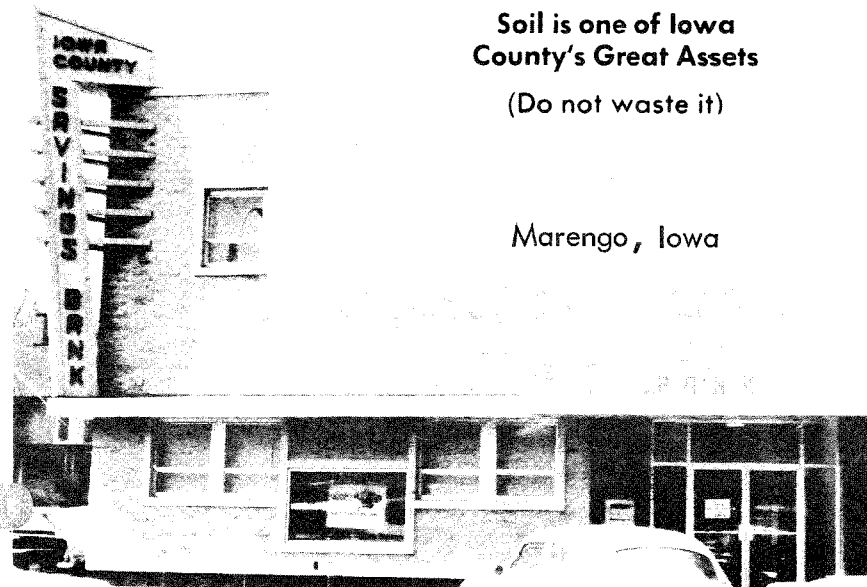
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Junction 6-149 - Left

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DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MAJOR PRACTICES	UNIT	1966
Contour Farming	Acre	2,998
Strip Cropping	Acre	1,015
Terraces:		
Parallel-Cut and Fill	Feet	46,373
Diversion	Feet	44,165
Standard	Feet	21,085
Total all types		121,623

OTHER PRACTICES

Waterways	Acre	182
Farm Ponds	Number	10
Tile	Feet	296,856
Erosion Control Structures	Number	14
Open Drainage Ditches	Feet	30,665
Establishing Headlands	Feet	186,262
Stocking Fish Ponds	Number	7
Wildlife Habitat Development	Acre	25
Conservation Cropping Systems	Acre	10,176

PLANNING PRACTICES

New District Cooperators	Number	50
Conservation Farm Plans	Number	29
Revised Farm Plans	Number	9

Each year, we have to produce for a larger population on fewer acres of land, as the nation is losing approximately one million acres per year to housing, roads, and industry.

History has shown that no nation is stronger than its agricultural ability to produce. In other words, life in the soil is life to us. Soil and water conservation thus becomes the obligation of each of us.

Today, nearly two-thirds of the U.S. farmers are cooperating with soil conservation districts. We need the other one-third to get the job done.

FARMERS TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK

Capital Surplus & Reserves \$800,000



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of the square

Williamsburg, Iowa

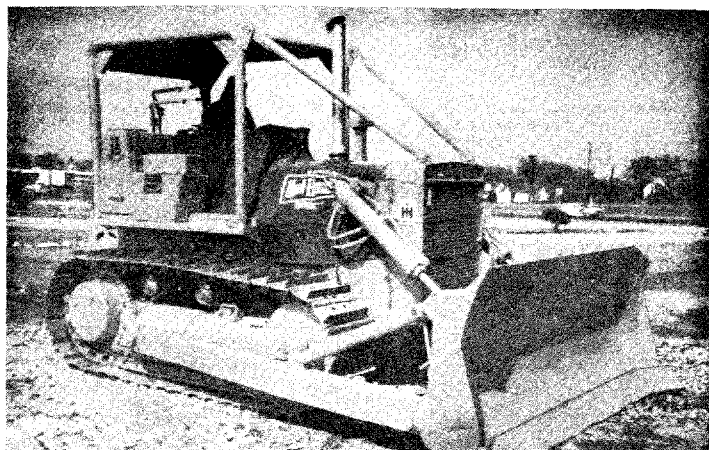
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N. F. O.

HAS ONE GOAL AND PURPOSE
Meeting the farmers' marketing
problems through
collective bargaining

NEW DISTRICT COOPERATORS FOR 1966

These people have indicated an interest in conservation by signing up their farms with the District and becoming "cooperators". When they are ready a conservation plan will be worked out with them for their farm.

A. J. Ahrens
Clegg M. Betz
Richard Coats
Bernard J. Dawson
LaVerne M. Doty
Charles Erue
Forrest Good
Harold Goodman (2)
Fred L. Goos
Orpha E. Gorsch
Frank J. Greene
Everette Grimm
Norman G. Grimm
Ernest Harriman
Hedrick Brothers
Milton Heitshusen
Leslie R. Hochstetler
J. Howard Johnston
Norman E. Jordan
Thomas Kessler
Harold Kruse
Robert Kucera
Harvey G. Maas
Ora L. Marner
Gordon McCaw

Carroll McKusker
William Meade
Raymond F. Murphy
Melvin C. Nace
Dale Noyes
Earl O'Neill
A. B. Patterson
Glen C. Rathjen
Edward Reitzler
Dale Risdon
Raymond W. Schaefer
Carl Schnebbe
Paul Schwartin
Milford Shaul
Edward Shima
Lloyd Sleenwenhoek
Floyd R. Smith
Leonard Steele
Storyland, Inc.
Will J. Thomas, Jr.
Robert Walker
William A. Ward
Ervin Whitlock
Donald E. Wyant

Soil maps and field photographs will be ordered for these farms. When the maps are received, the farmer and the conservationist work out a "basic farm plan". This plan sets forth the measures and treatments that will protect the land while obtaining the most desirable, sustained, productive use of the soil and water.

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BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS FOR 1966

Clegg M. Betz
Lon Bigbee
Richard Buswell
Bernard J. Dawson
LaVerne M. Doty
Bruce Feller
Orpha Gorsch
George J. Hanson
Ralph Keller
Harold Kruse
Robert Kucera
Ralph Lortz, Jr.
J. B. Maxey
Richard Mouchka
Milferd Neuhaus

Dennis Oliver
Earl O'Neill
Hugh M. O'Rourke
Edward Reitzler
Jay Roller
E. J. Schmuecker
John Septer
Charles Shirley
Wayne K. Stake
Leonard Steele
Mrs. Anna Timm
LeRoy C. Voigtman
Ervin Whitlock
Henry Zimpleman

FACTS ABOUT THESE FARMS

These 29 farms make up 4,676 acres. The owners and operators have to a varying degree committed themselves and their land to better management which includes:

1. Preservation and maintenance of the remaining topsoil.
2. Farming their land as closely as possible within its capabilities.
3. Applying those conservation practices necessary to protect the land from erosion.
4. Accepting the responsibilities that go with Soil Stewardship,
"To use but not use up."

Conservation farming is more than "just good farming". It includes benefits to the non-farming public as well as the farmer, in the near future as well as the distant.

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Marengo

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 1966

Over 121,000 feet of terraces were installed in Iowa county in 1966. Another 16,000 feet were staked, ready for construction, when frozen ground halted construction.

One hundred and eighty-two acres of waterways were shaped during the year. This includes twenty acres of waterway repair work, leaving one hundred sixty-two acres of new waterways established.

REVISED CONSERVATION PLANS

The following nine farms had been planned in the past by the Soil Conservation District. New technology and farming methods made many of these plans outdated. They were revised to provide answers to conservation problems faced by modern farmers.

Lacy Doty
Hocker Brothers (3)
Harold Sherman
S. F. Sherman

Leonard Steel
W. G. Talbot
Stanley Warner

- Did You Know -

Plant roots will not grow in search of water.

Roots will not develop in nor grow through dry soil zones.

It is always good business to use practices which reduce runoff and get more water into the soil where plants can use it. Strip cropping and terracing help to accomplish this.

SEE O.D. HALL APPLIANCE

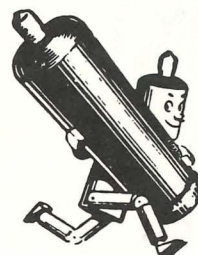
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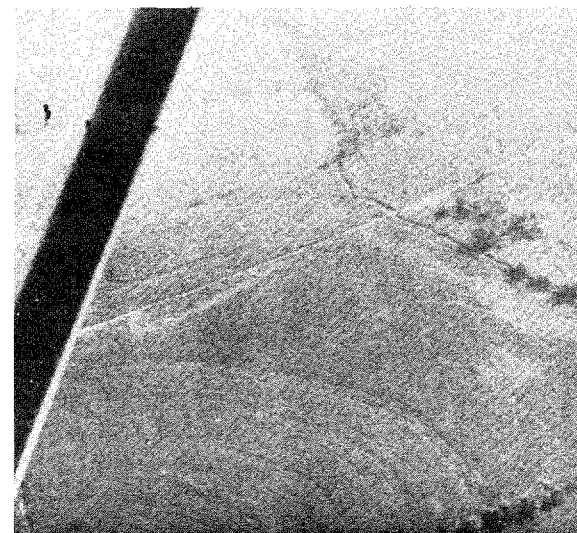
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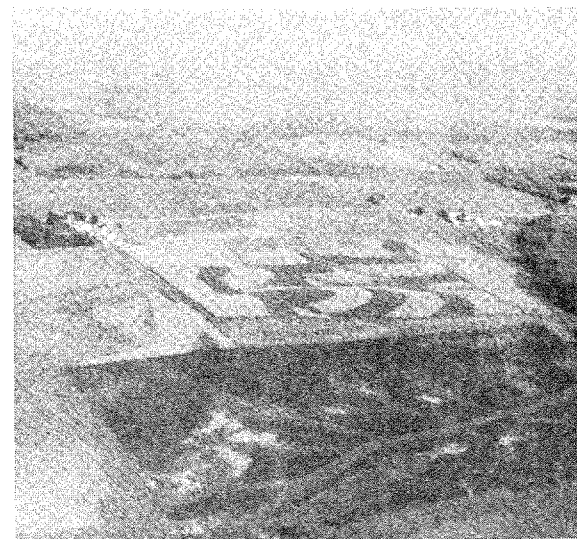
Ford Sales & Service

North English, Ia.

Ph. 664-4515



In the lower half of the picture are the parallel terraces built on the Richard Mouchka farm in the spring of 1966. Note the even color of the corn all across the field.



Stripcropping in York Township is in the background. Stripcropping is one way to conserve the topsoil and avoid fields like the one in the foreground.

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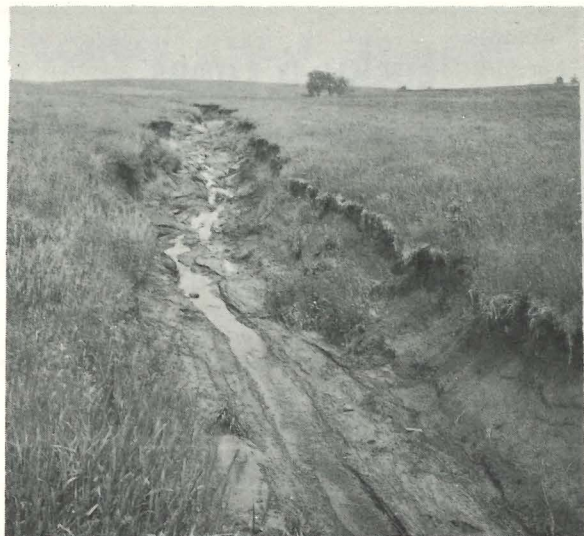


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The "before" picture of the erosion which was cured by the structure at Joe Black's.



Reinforcing steel is in place and concrete being poured for Joe Black's structure. After the structure was finished by Ron Ahrens of Harper and his crew a waterway was constructed to replace the ditch shown in the top picture.

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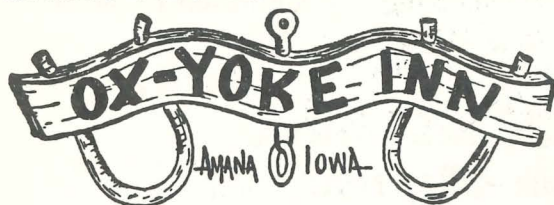
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STATE ASSISTANCE TO DISTRICT

The financial assistance listed below was furnished to the SCD by the
state of Iowa to further Soil Conservation in 1966.

1-M Budget

Commissioners' Expenses	\$290.20
Office Supplies	98.58
Prizes for Contests	75.76
Materials for Demonstrations	6.00
Office Expense	45.00
Meeting Expense	52.98

2-M Budget

Technical	\$2767.68
Clerical	2832.32
Equipment	114.55

STATE PERSONNEL

Gaynelle Gilbreath	Clerk
Sheryl Cronbaugh (May - August)	Clerk
Edward D. Edwards (Part-time)	State Aid
Gerhard O. Hinrichs (Part-time)	State Aid
Larry D. Ahrens (Part-time)	State Aid

USDA SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL

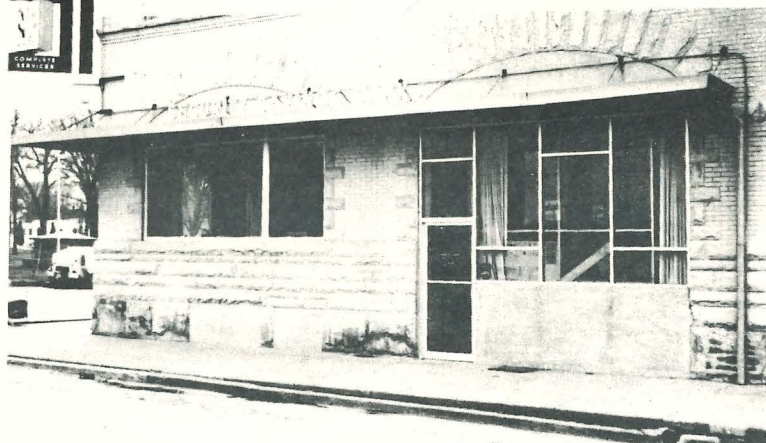
Charles E. Shirley	Work Unit Conservationist
Kenneth D. Christensen	Soil Conservation Technician
Edward D. Edwards (Part-time)	Conservation Aid
Gerhard O. Hinrichs (Part-time)	Conservation Aid

OTHER SCS PERSONNEL ASSISTING DISTRICT

Dale Shadle	Area Conservationist
Stanley Barker	Area Clerk
Edward J. Schmerhorn	Area Soil Scientist
George Fonken	Area Engineer
Thomas Brown	Agricultural Engineer

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Some of the FFA boys are shown while studying terracing on the Richard Mouchka farm in Sumner Township. They watched construction of the terraces and studied the benefits obtained from terracing.



These people were presented awards for conservation work on their farms. They are: Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Harris and Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Lockridge; Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Meyer and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Wiedemeier; and Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Oliver.

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Contestants in the Speech Contest were (left to right): Diane Spratt, third place; Eric Larson, second place; and Duane Madoerin, first place.



Contestants in the Queen Contest held at Marengo in August were Virginia Malloy; Loralee Teggatz; Margaret Neuhaus, Queen; Kathy Furler, Queen; and Alice Heitman.

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Stripcropping on the Virgil Meyer and Herbert Swain farms in York Township. Stripcropping gives better erosion control than just contouring.



A passenger leaves Duane Potts' plane after a ride during the 3rd Annual Air Tour of conservation practices in Iowa county. This tour is held the third Sunday in July so that Iowa county people can view conservation progress.

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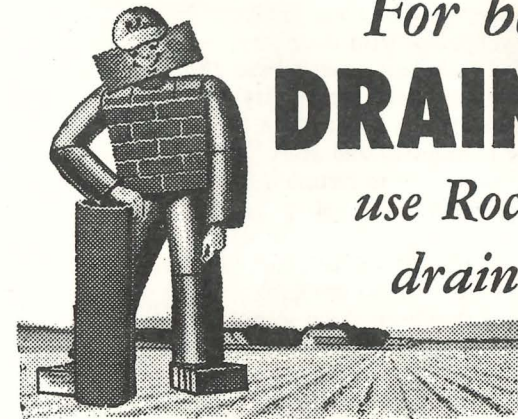


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THE PARABLE OF THE DANGEROUS CLIFF

'Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed,
Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant;
But over its terrible edge there had slipped
A duke, and full many a peasant.
The people said something would have to be done,
But their projects did not at all tally.
Some said, "Put a fence round the edge of the cliff";
Some, "An ambulance down in the valley".

The lament of the crowd was profound and was loud,
As their hearts overflowed and was loud,
As their hearts overflowed with their pity;
But the cry for the ambulance carried the day
As it spread through the neighboring city.
A collection was made, to accumulate aid,
And the dwellers in highway and alley
Gave dollars or cents - not to furnish a fence -
But an ambulance down in the valley.

"For the cliff is all right if you're careful," they said;
"And if folks ever slip and are dropping,
It isn't the slipping that hurts them so much
As the shock down below when they're stopping."
So for years (we have heard), as these mishaps occurred
Quick forth would the rescuers sally,
To pick up the victims who fell from the cliff,
With the ambulance down in the valley.

Said one in his plea, "It's a marvel to me
That you'd give so much greater attention
To repairing results than to curing the cause;
You had much better aim at prevention.
For the mischief, of course, should be stopped at its source -
Come neighbors and friends, let us rally.
It is far better sense to rely on a fence
Than an ambulance down in the valley."

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