

1944 - 1994
"Fifty Years"

Soil and Water Conservation District
West Pottawattamie



WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

AWARDS BANQUET MARCH 7, 1994

AND 1993 ANNUAL REPORT

**THIS CELEBRATION IS DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAD THE
FORESIGHT TO ESTABLISH THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND
TO THOSE WHO HAVE FOLLOWED THEM AND KEPT THEIR TRADITION
ALIVE.**

**Thank you to the following banks who provided support for
this 50th Anniversary.**

**PEOPLES NATIONAL BANK, Council Bluffs,
FIRSTAR BANK, Council Bluffs,
HAWKEYE BANK, Council Bluffs.**

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

First Commissioners

Glen Craft (Photo not Available)



Ernest Harms



Don Anderson

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE ORGANIZATION

Date Petition Approved - 3/14/44

Area by Acre - 245,455

Number of Farms - 1,741

Landowners - number in district
1,800

Percent of Signers - 20.8%

Hearing -

Date - 2/18/44
Place - Council Bluffs

Date Referendum and Election
Approved - 3/14/44

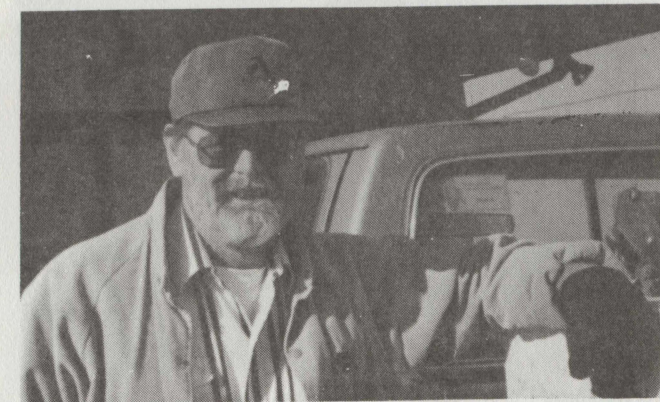
Referendum / Election
Date - 3/3/44

Number of Polls - 5

Results - 134 For / 8 Against

Organized - 4/28/44

1994 Commissioners



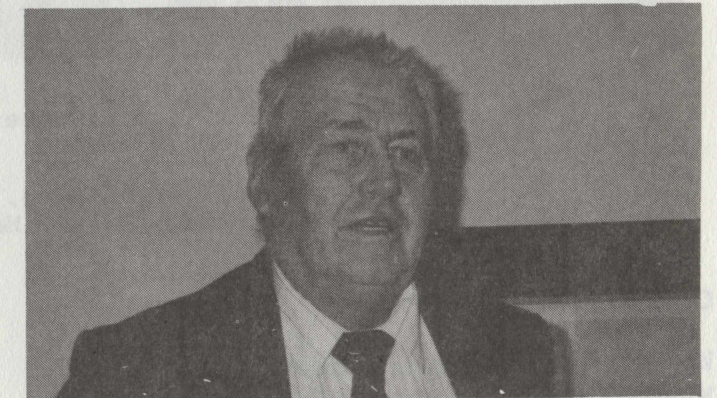
John M. (Mike) Dea
Minden, IA
Chairman, 1994
1990-1997



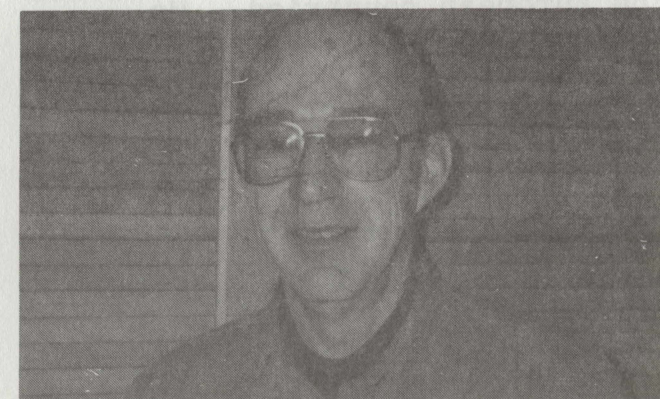
Mark Schnepel
Carson, IA
1986-1999



Dan McGinn
Council Bluffs, IA
Vice - Chairman, 1994
1986-1999



C. Clint Goos
Treyvor, IA
1972-1997



Gary L. Geise
Underwood, IA
1990-1995

Assistant Commissioner
Robert M. Jensen
Photo Not Available



1948 Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. Soil Conservation Award
Litchfield Park, Arizona

W.C. Strohbehn, Fred Hopp, Ernest Harms, Don Anderson,
Louie Fahrenkrug, Harvey Hansen, J. Clifford Johnson

OUR CHANGING WORLD

We are living in a changing world. In this great changing world of ours, our lives are becoming evermore complex. Even our attitudes toward natural resources, as toward too many other things, are changing. We are more worried about resource quality and more concerned about resource use. Recently, pollution has entered the picture. All of these are of concern to us and require good judgment. It would be a coward's way out to turn our back on these issues. We must consider the issues.

To begin with, in America, the resources available to us were tremendous. There was more than enough for all. We had plenty of land and not too many people. At that time, we faced the issues by leaning heavily on the concepts of personality and freedom.

Then, the issues were such that people left the concepts of community and of responsibility largely unused. Neither of these two concepts have played a real significant role in shaping our value system today.

We lacked personal relationship to the soil as found in some of the European countries. We looked upon agriculture primarily as utilizing the soil. We become more individualistic and in doing so we neglected concern for the community.

Today, we have grown up. We have become a mature nation. That which we once took for granted can no longer be taken for granted. We are confronted with a new set of issues. We must face the issues. To do this we must work together as a team in the field of soil and water conservation. Are you with us?

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Soil and water conservation and efficient crop production, through use of improved varieties and the best soil practices, have been a part of the Farm Bureau program since its beginning in 1917. One of the first programs, which was during World War I, was to help farmers to grow two blades of grass where one grew before.

Actual soil erosion control methods were first started in about 1927 when 9 soil erosion demonstrations were conducted in the county. These were mainly wire dams and ditch dams of different types.

Through the years of 1920 to 1930 main soil activities included soil testing, fertilizers, test plots, soils fertility meeting, crop rotation, weed eradication, and ditch dams.

1930 to 1933 marked the period of time when farmers became more aware of soil and moisture losses and the program included surveys of needs for special soils work. Visits were made to experiment stations and counties.

1934 to 1936, gully control by tree planting, proper soil management and further surveys were made by the County Extension Service.

In 1937, four farms in Hardin township were selected as extension demonstrations farms to show the value of erosion control methods. The next year these farms included demonstrations on contouring, terraces, bromegrass seeding, and others.

1939 marked the big drive for contouring. Agricultural engineers from the Extension Service assisted with laying out contours with the "walking A". 32 men attended the first demonstration and 11 of them contoured that year.

In 1940 a CCC Camp was established in Oakland. The service of their soils personnel and the camp boys was made available to 9 demonstration farms in West Pottawattamie.

In 1941 a special soils committee was appointed by the County Farm Bureau to assist in enlarging the soil program. Fertilizer demonstrations were started on two farms. 13 farms were under Extension-Soil Conservation agreements. 5.2 miles of terraces had been constructed. Much contouring was being practiced.

In 1942 contour demonstrations were held in each township, development of a soils district was being encouraged, and a series of educational soils meetings were conducted. About 35% of the farmers were using some improved soil practices.

Last year, 1943, farmers were demanding more technical assistance on soils problems so the soils districts program was encouraged. Petitions were submitted, a hearing was held and the referendum taken with the result that a soils district was approved March 3, 1944. By 1943, 9 miles of terraces had been constructed, 5 terraces and 3 contour demonstrations were held. Approximately 55% of the farmers have adopted some of the soil erosion control and moisture conservation practices.



Gale Brown (center) receiving the
ISCAP Teacher, Elementary Division
1993, from S. Snyder and J. Perkins.

50 YEAR HIGHLIGHTS 1944 - 1994

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Won the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Soil Conservation Award.

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Watershed program stopped due to lack of funds created by cutback in government spending initiated to stop inflation.

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State Cost-Share first became available for terracing.

Won World-Herald Western Iowa Soil Conservation Award.

Won first place in the Iowa State competition of the Allis-Chalmers Environmental Education Contest.

Second place honors in the National Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners-Allis Chalmers Education Awards Program.

Four watershed projects in the works:

Indian Creek, Ryan Henschal, North Pigeon and Simon Run.

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Local program including 8 counties (9 Soil Conservation Districts) to get rural water systems, better soil erosion protection on farmland, improved water supplies for towns, improved housing, better sewer and water facilities, more water-based recreation areas, and improve pastures.

208 planning comes from Public Law 92-500 to deal with pollution in the nation's rivers, lakes, and streams. By July 1983, these waters should be fishable and swimable.

1991

West Pottawattamie SWCD landowners built a record number of non-cost-share terraces. During the last construction season, 77 landowners installed 169,700 feet of terraces without cost-share assistance. Since 1989, 397,336 feet of non-cost-share terraces have been built.



Michelle Zimmerman
County Resource Planner

WHAT IS WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY SWCD

The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is the local organization which directs the soil and water conservation program in West Pottawattamie County. Our district was chartered in 1944 by concerned landusers who included Ernest Harms, Don Anderson, and Glen Craft.

The county district entered an agreement with the federal government, who agreed to provide technical support for local efforts. That service, provided through the United States Department of Agriculture, is known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

Probably because their acronyms are so similar and their offices are adjacent, the SCS is often confused with the ASCS (Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Committee). Although the two cooperate and have some similar cost share programs, they are separate and distinct.

REAP FUNDING

The Resource Enhancement Act passed in the 1989 session of the Iowa Legislature. REAP has provided cost-share monies to the SWCD for use in tree planting, native grass seeding and water quality practices in designated watersheds. In West Pottawattamie, the money has been used for farmstead windbreaks and in Mosquito Creek drainage area.

All of the work in Mosquito Creek Watershed has been done to improve the water quality of the stream which is used to maintain the water level in Lake Manawa.

1993 Izaak Walton Award Windbreak
Lynn Olsen Farm

ROWCROP CHANGES IN FIFTY YEARS By Chairman Mike Dea

Where soil is concerned Fifty years is like the blink of an eye. When you consider that the American farmer has depleted most of the top soil in this country; top soil that mother nature spent eons building, its a good thing that a lot of dedicated people had the foresight to set up our soil conservation district and the soil conservation service. In the fifty or more years since their inception, the American farm has come a long way in reversing this soil erosion process.

Just as recently as twenty years ago, we have gone from plowing all of our row crop acres to minimum till or no-tilling all of our row crop acres. The plow has virtually been eliminated and no-till has made great strides in replacing it. Today, over 39 percent of our row crop acres are being no-tilled in West Pottawattamie County. We see many benefits from this, the one of primary concern here, being the saving and rebuilding of our top soil. If we hope to sustain the profitability in farming we must all continue to work hard to maintain and improve our most important resource, the soil.

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District and the Soil Conservation Service stand ready to help in this endeavor the next fifty years just as it has in the past fifty years.



By Erwin Aust
Area Conservationist

Congratulations to the West Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District for the fine conservation accomplishments made in your first half century.

The organized district leadership over the years and conservation progress are very visible in West Pottawattamie.

The landowners and operators, as cooperators of the West Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District, have developed an excellent conservation ethic. Excellent progress in controlling erosion is very evident.

Early District program activities built a good conservation ethic. The volunteer program grew to a very active application of conservation systems -- especially an outstanding terrace construction program which provided a stable, permanent practice on the landscape.

The progress in no-till farming operations has been outstanding and one of the leaders in the state with acreages of no-till farm operations being completed. Your District progress in watershed protection projects and support of the Golden Hills RC&D program are significant additional dimensions to conservation progress.

Program accomplishments addressing gully control problems and degrading streams have been important to protecting the basic soil and water resources from deterioration by erosion.

During the first half century you have included urban erosion control activities along with rural agriculture erosion control programs. With the close of your first half century of progress has come agriculture erosion control compliance.

The early years of accomplishments and preparation for actively addressing erosion control needs have helped landowners and operators be prepared for installing a minimal erosion control compliance plan.

The year 1994 marks the final year to meet conservation compliance requirements. This year also marks the District's step into the next half century of progress and accepting the challenge to reduce erosion to tolerable soil loss limits which are beyond the minimal conservation compliance requirements. The challenge is still ahead to achieve even greater erosion control and water quality while productively managing the basic resources in the West Pottawattamie District.

We in the USDA Soil Conservation Service look forward to a continued excellent working relationship with you as an organized Soil and Water Conservation District led by your Commissioners and actively assisting the many conservation cooperators applying sound land use management systems to protect the soil and water resources.

Congratulations on your fine accomplishments and best wishes on continued future successes.

CROP RESIDUE COVER
By Tom Bottoms

Residue cover is one of the first things to look at to reduce sheet and rill erosion by rainfall. Living plants and crop residues play an important part in protecting the soil surface from rainfall by acting as a cushion to intercept and absorb some of the force before the water reaches the soil surface. This allows the flow of water to decrease across the surface and increase the rate of infiltration into the soil. The management of crop residue is a very essential part of your conservation plan. when used in conjunction with such practices as; terraces, no-till, crop rotations, grass buffer strips and filter strips.

DO YOU REMEMBER 50 YEARS AGO?
By Commissioner Clint Goos

Yes, I remember fifty years ago. For many of us, that was not long ago. But I suppose to many of the teenagers, pre-schoolers, and beginning farmers, that would be a very long time ago.

West Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District was organized 50 years ago. I don't remember when that happened, but I remember a few things about SWCD in between time.

I remember, in the last Ten years, more or less, the number of meetings that I have attended in an attempt to make SWCD a better organization. I traveled with the other commissioners as I remember, to Des Moines, Ames, Cedar Rapids, Fort Dodge, even Storm Lake and Creston. It always took a full day, and many times two.

Twenty years ago I remember standing on a structure, one of many that had been built in the Indian Creek Watershed, to protect the flooding within Council Bluffs. A great deal of planning that took, before my time on the board, to make that a reality. About that same time I attended a field day near Shelby. An assistant secretary of agriculture was present to witness some soil conservation, to take information back to D.C.

Thirty years back, hey, I was just a kid then. Well, compared to today I just about was. That was when I attended a field day near Macedonia to watch the demonstration of a 3 bottom roll over plow. That was, at that time, just the ticket to plow between the new "seeded backslope" terraces. Was a good thought then. Never gave it a thought that some day the word "plow" would be a dirty word.

I also attended a field day at the ARS farm near Treynor. New "seeded backslope" terraces had been built. I remember that was the day that I decided that those kind of terraces were needed on our farm. After thirty years only several hundred more feet are needed. We feel they are an important part of our operation.

Forty years ago we pretty much depended on SWCD to lay out contour lines. Also about that time an SWCD approved structure was built across the ravine above our farmstead. That was when I was beginning to learn what the SWCD district was.

Fifty years ago. Now, was that a long time ago? Back then in 1944, I was teenager. I suppose to me, then, 50 years was a long time. But I remember the day that SWCD came to our farm in an automobile, not a pickup, the farm that my great grandfather had homesteaded some seventy years previous. They wanted to talk to my father about soil conservation.

I remember riding in the back seat of that automobile while those guys talked to dad about soil conservation. As I remember they recommended to him, planting the corn rows around the hill and that he should remove this fence and that fence to make corn planting around the hill easier. Well, I think dad listened and I listened too, but I don't remember that much changed for quite a few years. Dad was a typical farmer. He would not be "pushed". In his mind he knew how to farm. He knew that fence needed to be there. It was put there by his grandfather to hold the cattle.

Farmers today are exactly like dad. They will not be pushed. I've seen this many times over. You cannot push a farmer. You can pull him but not push him. You pull a farmer by talking to him. That is what Soil Conservation is all about, talking, field days, and day or night meetings. It will go on and on and on.

I am sure that out there in West Pottawattamie County there are many young boys and girls that today are either pulling that coaster wagon or asking dad can I drive? In 50 years these same boys and girls will be celebrating 100 years of Soil Conservation. That will be a long time and it will go on and on and on, pulling not pushing.

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS By Greg K. Mathis

Prior to 1989 the business of stopping soil erosion was primarily dependent upon the sales abilities of the people employed by SCS, the promotional activities of the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the willingness of each farmer to install conservation practices on his farm.

Thanks to the willingness of some and persistence of others the slow progress towards reducing soil loss changed the way farmers operated. The moldboard plow and corn-oat-hay rotation gradually gave way to conservation tillage with a corn-bean rotation. Diversified livestock operations began to specialize; some becoming strictly intensive grain farmers. The need for soil conservation was bigger than ever. Environmentalists and conservationists pushed for more.

Congress passed the Farm Bill of 1985 requiring all farm operators with fields deemed highly erodible and receiving any USDA benefits to have a conservation plan developed by January 1990. The plans were designed to reduce the level of erosion to a specific level by January 1, 1995.

The blitz was on all through 1989 to get with SCS personnel to develop a conservation plan for each "highly erodible" field. Many farmers were already in good shape with most of their terraces in place and others having started a no-till operation prior to 1989. However, most had much work to do to catch up to the conservation standard set by that '85 Farm Bill.

Credit certainly needs to be given to conservation efforts made prior to 1989; but nothing has equaled the savings in soil and improvement in water quality from 1989 to the present. To date, 1600 producers have conservation plans on 135,000 acres. Conservation practices (contouring, terraces, field borders, minimum and no-till operations, etc.) are being put on the land at a rate never before witnessed.

The Farm Bill asked farm operators to make major changes in their farming habits in a short period of time. Those that tackled the new challenges should be commended for their management skills and willingness to implement change.

The future may hold even more challenges as water quality and chemical contamination becomes a more predominate concern of the general public as well as some environmental groups.

The West Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are committed to continue its role to help implement future changes in a manner that's as fair and consistent as possible.

GOLDEN HILLS RC&D By Lyle C. Peterson

West Pottawattamie SWCD has been a member of the Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development group since its start in 1976.

Committee members through the years have discussed and supported many projects. Perhaps the most well known was "Conservation - Project Arrowhead". This was a project created to work with all of the landowners in the Arrowhead lake drainage area. The landowners were provided planning and financial assistance to stop silt and other pollutants from entering Arrowhead lake.

Through these efforts a dam was built, terraces were built, pastures were renovated and terraced, some landuse was changed from crop to grassland and a wildlife area created.

A field day was held in 1985 to view the project and to commemorate 50 years of the Soil Conservation Service. Wagon tours were available to see the various practices that were installed to help keep the lake clean.

SOIL CONSERVATION EFFECTS By Commissioner Dan McGinn

As one drives through Western Pottawattamie County its easy to see the effects of the soil conservation service. One always notices the terraces on the landscape. They even appear like large works of art; something a person would see in a Grant Wood painting. Out in the county these huge terraces are monuments to soil conservation for all to see. However, people do not realize that the soil

conservation service is not limited to the rural scene. The Soil Conservation Service has been a great help to urban areas as well.

A perfect example of this exists in Council Bluffs, Iowa. This Southwest Iowa city which is actually part of the largest metropolitan area in Iowa when Omaha is included, has received benefits from the West Pottawattamie County Soil and Water Conservation District.

A specific example is the Indian Creek Watershed which controls the level of Indian Creek. Indian Creek runs through downtown Council Bluffs.

Stanley Grote, a current member of the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors and member of the Council Bluffs City Council from 1988 to 1992, remembers Indian Creek as a young boy growing up in Council Bluffs. His family owned Yonkerman Seed Company at 164 West Broadway and he spent a lot of time there. Indian Creek flows nearby. Back then, during spring rains the back room at the store would flood because Indian Creek would rise. This would happen once or twice every spring. Stanley remembers city manhole covers floating in the streets due to the overflowing Creek. Hydrostatic pressure caused by creek flooding would often create dangerous situations with the manhole covers.

The Soil Conservation Service then set up the Indian Creek Watershed in 1961. The watershed stopped Indian Creek from flooding. "In 1993 Council Bluffs experienced the worst rain in years, yet there were no manhole covers floating downtown or any downtown businesses flooded" said Grote. Due to the watershed the flooded back room of his family's old business and

the manhole cover problem remained memories.

Another effect of the Soil Conservation Service on urban life in Council Bluffs is seen in the outdoor classroom program at Iowa School for the Deaf. In 1991 District Conservationist Lyle Peterson lined up Mimie Askew from the Golden Hills RC&D to assist ISD with the outdoor classroom project. Mimie drew up the initial plans and has assisted the project all the way. The outdoor classroom turned into a full blown nature center that is not only accessible for the deaf students but also accessible for the handicapped as well as the general public.

Bob Schulse of Iowa School for the Deaf worked heavily on the project and applaud Mimie Askew and Lyle Peterson for their efforts and guidance. The Nature Center is a huge success and has been used by students from the Nebraska School for the Blind in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

The nature center and its plans later appeared in the August 1993 issue of Landscape Architecture.

Lyle Peterson has continued with the center in a resource guidance role. The center recently received a U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant for \$4,000.00 and has also received assistance from Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Quail Unlimited and is also pursuing assistance from the Coors Distributing Wetlands Program.

The center is another wonderful example of the Soil Conservation Service positive effect on urban life in Council Bluffs.

The Iowa State Extension office in Council Bluffs offers many educational programs for rural West Pottawattamie County and often calls upon the SCS for

assistance. Ray Oelkers, extension director states that a specific example of SCS pitching in with program presentation is in the landlord/tenant situations such as an urban landlord with little farming experience.

A lot of widows or widowers, whose late spouse handled the landlord situation prior to passing away, are in need of guidance due to inexperience as landlords. The leasing seminars provide information on farm management practices, tillage rules, chemical rules, and of course soil conservation. The SCS often pitches in on these programs.

The ISU extension office and the SCS also work together on tillage day programs, management programs for the elderly, windbreak programs and landscaping programs. The SCS is also involved in Youth Field Day programs and Arbor Day programs. There is a lot of overlays between the ISU extension office and the SCS because alot of the work of the SCS is educational.

The SCS has been a benefit to Council Bluffs, Iowa during the last 50 years and will be, a benefit to Council Bluffs future.

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HOW IT STARTED

The first three commissioners were Ernest Harms, Underwood, Don Anderson, Honey Creek, and Glen Craft, McClelland.

Don Anderson served on the District Board until March 1952. His farm was 428 acres.

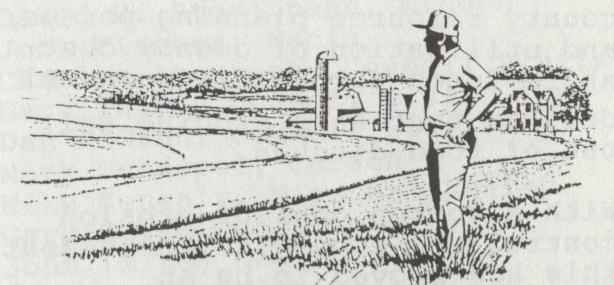
The farm is about three fourths hill-land and the rest is Pigeon Creek Bottomland. His main enterprise is the production of beef. He has a herd of 40 Hereford cows and usually feeds 300 head of feeders.

Don served two terms as a Director on the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. He was very active in this Association and over the long period of years made tremendous contributions to legislation both on a State and National level.

While serving as President of the Iowa Association of Soil Districts, he pioneered a state appropriation for Iowa Soil Conservation Districts, which was a first in the United States.

Ernest Harms: Owned and operated 240 acre farm, located three miles west of Underwood. He raised 250 head of hogs each year and had 25 Hereford cows. He was a strong supporter of grass and usually had one half or more of his seeded to brome and alfalfa.

Glen Craft: No picture or information was available to be added to this booklet.



YOUR WEST POTT. SWCD
By Commissioner Gary Geise

Your West Pottawattamie SWCD is proud to report our many accomplishments for 1994.

This past year was a struggle for everyone, including our staff. Hundreds of farm plans were changed to fit the program and weather changes.

Many miles of terraces, water ways and headlands were laid out and checked. New windbreaks were started providing years of protection and beauty for the farmsteads.

Hundreds of our children were encouraged and educated through programs your SWCD sponsors or takes part in.

We want to thank the government agencies, news media, educational districts, county board, banks volunteers and each one of you for backing our efforts to conserve our natural resources for the generations to come.

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION By Lyle C. Peterson

Throughout the years the County Board of Supervisors have promoted the cause of soil conservation in the West Pottawattamie SWCD.

During these years the County and the District have cooperated in memorandums of understanding.

These memos have included such items as watershed sponsorship, RC&D board membership and administration, employment of a county resource planning person, and utilization of county cost-share funds for erosion control devices that keep eroding soil out of road ditches.

With a common goal of erosion control and economic improvement, this has proved to be an effective partnership.

NON-COST-SHARE AWARDS

West Pottawattamie SWCD honors the people who annually build terraces of 1000 feet or more without cost-share assistance. This year honorees are:

J. Vern Bertelson
Jerome Bleicher
Derald Blois
Creighton Boehm
C.A.D.
Forristall Farms
Eldon Frohardt
Dean Gardner
Hall Farms
Mildred Handbury
Delbert Heitman
Paul Hines
Murray Hough Estate
Robert I. Jensen
Francis Killpack
Donna Knop
Gary Larson
Rick Larson
Calvin Leaders
Warrenetta Lewis
Hubert Minton
Don Morse
Jerry Nelson
Karl Niehaus
Glen Owens
Peterson Angus
Genevieve Porter
John Randolph
Art Rath
Ring Brothers
Ryan Emmert
Condon B. Schnepel
Richard Smith
Bill Stephens
Don Storjohann
Elva Tiarks
Lea Voss
Bernard Wellman
Paul Wellman



14 Summer Help
L-R. Julie Rhodes WAE, Andy Lund JTPA,
Nikki Thieschafer WAE, Stacey Rogers JPTA

WATERSHEDS

Public Law 566 authorized the Small Watershed Act. This meant that local sponsors could join with the Soil Conservation Service to plan areas for erosion control.

The local sponsors; the Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners and the County Board of Supervisors, accepted applications from groups of landowners and forwarded them to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Landuse State Committee for authorization.

Once a watershed was authorized, the Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the local people, developed a comprehensive erosion control plan for the area. When this plan was implemented, local landowners installed the individual conservation practices on their land until at least 75% was completed. The local sponsors obtained land rights and rights-of-way and SCS provided the monetary and technical assistance to construct multi-use erosion control structures. One of the requirements of these structures was that they must benefit more than one landowner.

After construction, the structure and its use are returned to the landowner. The sponsors retain only the right to inspect and repair, any other access is only by permission of the landowner.

Since 1961 West Pottawattamie has sponsored 6 Watershed projects, each with numerous structures.

These watersheds, the year the plan was accepted, total acres, and number of structures planned, are:
Indian Creek, February 1961. 9792 acres in the watershed, 5092 acres are urban Council Bluffs. 15 grade stabilization structures. This watershed has proved invaluable to the city of Council Bluffs. This watershed is complete.

Pony Creek, March 1961. 1525 acres in West Pottawattamie, the larger portion in Mills County. No structures planned in West Pottawattamie.

Ryan Henschel, June 1961. 9410 acres planned with 17 structures. All work complete.

North Pigeon, August 1966. 4510 acres. 18 structures planned. Will be completed in 1994.

Simon Run, October 1969. 4150 acres. Eleven structures planned. Three remain to be finished.

Twin Ponies, July 1984. 21640 acres. 6 structures proposed. One structure remains to be built and is scheduled for the coming year.

A total of 51027 acres are in these developed watersheds. The total reduction in soil loss and flooding damages in the past 32 years can only be guessed at.

PAST AND PRESENT COMMISSIONERS

Ernest Harms, Underwood
Glen Craft, McClelland
Don Anderson, Honey Creek
W. C. Strohbehn, Council Bluffs
Louis Fahrenkrog, Carson
Lawrence Dittmer, Minden
Donald Bladt, Shelby
Eldon Ravlin, Underwood
Jack O'Hara, Council Bluffs
Harvey Moss, Macedonia
Derald Blois, Honey Creek
Floyd Fischer, Council Bluffs
Robert Petersen, Minden
Lloyd Brokman, McClelland
Clint Goos, Treynor
C. W. McManamy, Council Bluffs
David H. Storjohann, Minden
John Fischer, Neola
Charles Angeroth, Council Bluffs
Gary Thien, Council Bluffs
Dan McGinn, Council Bluffs
Mark Schnepel, Carson
Mike Kenealy, Missouri Valley
Gary Geise, Underwood
15 John (Mike) Dea, Minden

USDA-ARS DEEP LOESS RESEARCH
STATION A HISTORICAL SKETCH

By Larry A. Kramer

Research facilities to investigate factors related to gully growth in the Missouri Valley Deep Loess were initiated when a field office was located in Council Bluffs in August 1962. This office was part of the North Central Hydrology Research unit office which was established in Columbia, Missouri by an act of Congress in June 1961 to conduct soil and water conservation research in the North Central Cornbelt areas.

To investigate the gully problem, which was of highest priority at that time, the USDA Agricultural Research Service was invited to cooperate with the Iowa State Experiment Station and the Soil Conservation Service. To effectively study all the inter-related parameters affecting gully research, it was evident that complete control of land management on the research watersheds was necessary for meaningful results. Land for the study was purchased or leased for a gully research study near Treynor, IA by the Committee for Agricultural Development (CAD), a private corporation affiliated with Iowa State University. The necessary land parcels were acquired by CAD so the research study could begin on four field-size study watersheds in 1964. CAD leased the watershed areas to ARS for research activities, and leased the watershed fields to local farmers for crop production under a management plan to meet research objectives.

Initial primary research objectives were:

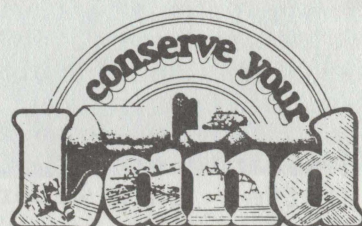
1. Determine factors causing gully and channel erosion.
2. Develop methods to predict gully advance.
3. Determine effects of level terraces on gully erosion.

To achieve these objectives, evaluation of many hydrologic and sedimentation variables was needed. Thus the research program had several secondary objectives:

1. Determine the sediment loss from the watershed fields.
2. Determine water yield from the watersheds.
3. Determine peak storm runoff rates.

In the late 1960's an effort was begun to study nutrients in runoff and sediment loss from the watersheds. In the late 1980's additional effort was begun to study the distribution of agricultural chemicals in the soil and ground water as well. Administration of the Deep Loess Research Station was transferred from the Columbia research unit to the ARS National Soil Tilth Laboratory, Ames, IA in 1991 when the site was included in a new effort to determine the best agricultural management systems for water quality in the midwest.

A unique characteristic of the studies over the past thirty years at the Deep Loess Research Station has been the consistent land management and the opportunity to describe the response of the study watersheds over a long term under the influence of natural climate variability and realistic farming practices. Data from the watersheds have been reported in numerous scientific reports and are being used by many groups to verify math models of field processes.



ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

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District Conservationist

Greg K. Mathis
Soil Conservationist

Thomas G. Bottoms
Soil Conservation Technician

Lois A. Crawford
Soil Conservation Technician

Michelle D. Zimmerman
County Resource Planner

Dawn R. Brittain
State Secretary

Nancy Schnepel
WAE Technician

Thank you to the Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for their help and support throughout the year.

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James E. Gillespie
Chief, Field Representative

Mary Jane Olney
Field Representative

Paul Valin
Field Representative

William B. McGill
Chief, Financial Incentives

Mary Fischer
Secretary

Jean Mathis
Secretary

ASCS Office Staff
Seated-Joanne Kenealy, Elaine Haubrich
Standing-Cathy Martens, Jolene Cox
Vicki Jungferman, Deann Hensdale
Not Present-Norma Tradel CED

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Terry J. Cosby
Area Resource Conservationist

Charles E. Branham
Area Resource Soil Scientist

Henry D. Tordoff
Soil Conservationist

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Agricultural Engineer

Bennie L. Floyd
Civil Engineering Technician

Larry C. Hammitt
Civil Engineering Technician

Joel D. Jordan
Civil Engineering Technician

Russel A. Hopp
Soil Conservation Technician

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Landscape Architect

James M. Gertsma
Soil Scientist

Richard B. Killmer
Computer Specialist

Bonnie J. Weller
Administrative Management Assistant

L. Joan Townsend
Clerk-Typist



1993 DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

1993 3-M BUDGET STATE COST-SHARE By Dawn R. Brittain

1990-91 LEDGER

Total Allocation	\$121,415.35
Total Spent	\$121,415.35
Released to DSC	\$ -0-
Balance Unobligated	\$ -0-
Balance Obligated	\$ -0-
Total Expenditure	\$121,415.35

1991-92 LEDGER

Total Allocation	\$125,765.42
Total Spent	\$117,652.38
Released to DSC	\$ 83.92
Balance Unobligated	\$ 529.12
Balance Obligated	\$ 7,500.00
Total Expenditure	\$125,765.42

1992-93 LEDGER

Total Allocation	\$77,708.00
Total Spent	\$69,971.00
Released to DSC	\$ -0-
Balance Unobligated	\$ 237.00
Balance Obligated	\$ 7,500.00
Total Expenditure	\$77,708.00

1993-94 LEDGER

Total Allocation	\$112,510.00
Total Spent	\$ 39,171.00
Released to DSC	\$ -0-
Balance Unobligated	\$ 339.00
Balance Obligated	\$ 73,000.00
Total Expenditure	\$112,510.00



District Staff
Front L-R
Greg Mathis, Nancy Schnepel, Lyle Peterson 18
Back L-R
Dawn Brittain, Lois Crawford, Tom Bottoms

93 1-M Budget (Commissioners Expense & Office Supplies)

93 - Allocation	\$2,500.00
Supplemental	\$ 900.00
Total	\$3,400.00

Commissioners Expense	\$848.86
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93 - Dues (State & National)	\$500.00
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Office Supplies & Expense	\$2,049.34
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Total	\$3,398.20
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Released to DSC (Division of Soil Conservation)	\$1.80
Balance	\$ -0-

ANNUAL REPORT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1993

Individuals Assisted	102	890
Tracts applying practices	106	206
Conservation plans revised	173	201 (56278 acres)
Conservation Cover	327	83 Ac.
Conservation Cropping Sequence	328	21252 AC.
Conservation Tillage	329	18662 Ac.
Contour farming	330	17294 Ac.
Farmstead Windbreak	380	1 Ac.
Field Border	386	369380 Ft
Grassed Waterway	412	11 Ac.
Pasture Management	510	233 Ac.
Contour Strip Cropping	585	216 Ac.
Terrace	600	540144 Ft.

1993 DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS By Dawn R. Brittain

JANUARY - Held board meeting to elect officers for the year.
Gary Geise, Chairman
Mike Dea, Vice Chairman
Dan McGinn, Treasurer
Dawn Brittain, Secretary
Appointed Robert M. Jensen as an Assistant Commissioner.
Discussed Annual Plan of Work and updated terrace priority point system.

FEBRUARY
Regular board meeting was held to take care of business.

MARCH
Held Annual Banquet at Iowa Western Community College with over four hundred people in attendance. Nominated Kim Cooper of Council Bluffs for the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Auxiliary 1993 Scholarship Award. Distributed district annual report. Held annual contractors meeting with over 50 people attending. Received spring allocation and approved applicants for cost-share funds. Commissioners attended Regional meeting.

APRIL
Gave presentations to first grade students at area schools on Arbor Day. About 1,300 Green Ash trees were distributed to the first grade students. Reviewed Equal Rights and Sexual Harassment Policy of SCS. Held regular board meeting.

MAY
Distributed the district news letter and held board meeting.

JUNE
Held annual no-till tour with over 100 people in attendance. County Resource Planner Richard Siglin resigns to return to Vo-Ag teaching at Elkhorn, Iowa. Commissioners held awards tour.

JULY
Annual district picnic was held in Treynor. Received initial allocation and approved applicants for summer cost-share funds. Received funding for Waste Management Projects. Received 1-M allocation for office supplies and commissioners expense.

AUGUST
Held regular board meeting.

SEPTEMBER
Signed project agreement and held bid letting for Site - M of North Pigeon Watershed. Set district policy on Waste Management cost-share. District policy to limit cost-share to \$2,500.00 per approval. Approved Waste management applicants. Commissioners attended fall regional meeting in Atlantic. Michelle Zimmerman is introduced as the new County Resource Planner and will work part-time in the West Pott. and East Pott. offices. Appointed Commissioner Dan McGinn as acting contracting officer for Site M North Pigeon Watershed. Held regular board meeting.

OCTOBER
Received fall allocation and approved applicants for cost-share. District donates to the Soil and Water Conservation Society to help with the 95 meeting. Held regular board meeting.

NOVEMBER
Commissioners attend the Annual Conference held in Ames, Iowa. Gail Brown, K-6 Elementary teacher for Underwood School, was chosen teacher of the year for state of Iowa. Mr. Brown received a plaque at the Annual Conference in Ames. District donated 2 residue counters to Underwood FFA auction.

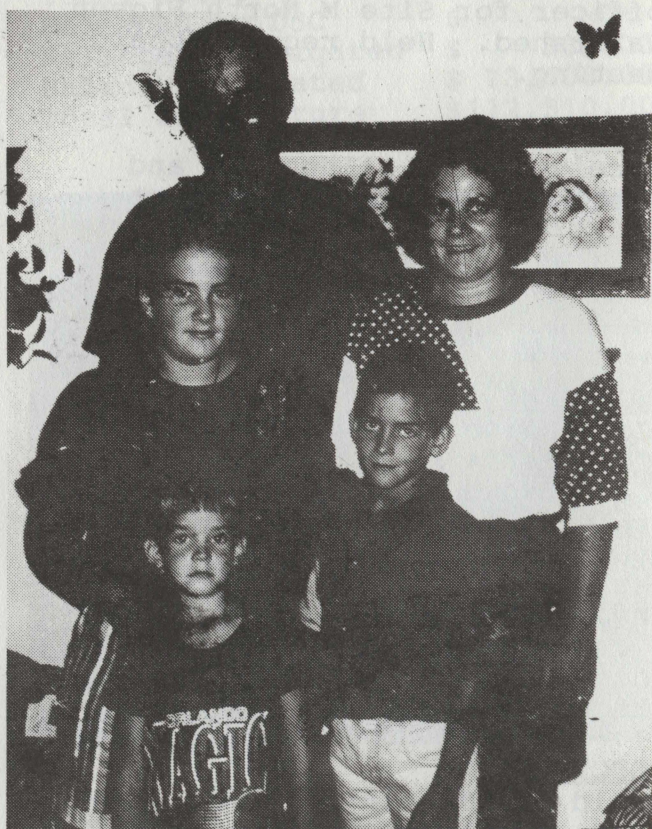
DECEMBER
Held annual district Christmas dinner. Held short meeting to finish district business for the year.

1993 AWARD WINNERS
By Michelle Zimmerman

Gary Larsen of Underwood, Iowa is the 1993 Award winner in the Owner/Operator division. Gary farms a total of 950 acres and has worked completely with no-till for three years.

The Izaak Walton League Windbreak award winner for 1993 is Lynn Olsen of Minden. The longest portion of the windbreak is 500 feet long. It is north of the house and livestock buildings. The rows are Colorado Blue Spruce, Austrian pine and Green Ash. The windbreak was started in 1982, two years after the Olsen's bought their farm.

The 1993 Landlord/Tenant winner is Tom Trede. Tom works with Elsie Bryant and Scott Byram to operate the farm. He has been no-tilling some since 1981 and recently has gone to 100% no-till. Tom is also the area representative for Golden Sun Feeds with Treynor Feed Supply.



The Lynn Olsen Family

TERRACE NEEDS / OPTIONS
By Lois Crawford

Despite hampering weather conditions, landowners in West Pottawattamie installed over 100 miles of terraces in 1993. Existing farm plans show 1200 miles of terraces completed over the years and 800 miles remaining to be built. These figures do not include the crop ground that is planned as a no-till operation. Although we have been making steady progress, with and without cost-share, it is not possible to fill the need for terracing in 1994. That is why we need to start looking at alternative ways to reduce soil loss until the terracing can be completed. Cost-share and technical assistance for terracing will continue after 1994, but there needs to be a plan in effect that produces an equivalent soil loss reduction until construction is complete. About twenty percent of the terraces built in 1993 were funded without cost-share, and one fourth were built in the summer. These would be two considerations if you would like to optimize your chances of carrying out your plans for terracing this year. If you do not get them finished, be sure to stop in this summer or fall and find out what your options are.



20 Mr. and Mrs. Gary Larsen and son. (daughter not available.)

1994 - LET'S WRAP IT UP
By Greg K. Mathis

1994 is the final year to apply conservation practices as scheduled in your conservation plan. Is your conservation plan right for you and your farming operation? Is it realistic? Or is it something that you agreed to back in 1989 or 90 and hoped that compliance requirements would go away?

Compliance requirements for those operators receiving USDA benefits are federal law and are not going to disappear.

If you've lost your copy of the conservation plan, give your SCS office a call and ask for another copy. If you can't understand it, get your local SCS people to explain it to you. It's usually best to have SCS personnel come to your farm if you have questions about a specific field.

Your conservation plan was originally written in 1989 - five years ago. It will be very difficult to have much sympathy for those who wait until the last half of 1994 to express concerns about having their plan completed by December 30, 1994.

Will your farm get spot checked? Each farm (not owner) is assigned a "tract" number that could be drawn out by the national computer to be one of the annual 5% Spot Check that is called Status Reviews. If your tract number is drawn for a status review, SCS personnel must go to that farm this spring to find out if the operator is following what he said he'd do in his conservation plan. You must be following the conservation plan and the agreed to practices must be applied. SCS must report it's findings to the ASCS office where penalty assessment may take place. You can also be put on the 5% spot check list if someone formally requests it.

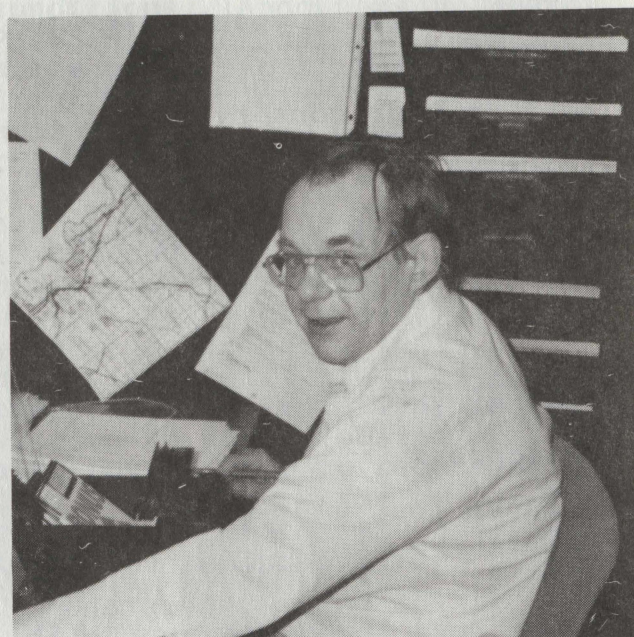
If you're not "in the program" on one farm, do you need to follow the conservation plan or does that get you into trouble on your other farms? The answer is yes. If you are receiving or intend to receive any USDA benefits (including set aside, federal crop insurance, CRP, disaster payments, Farm Home Administration), you must be actively applying a conservation plan on all farms that have Highly Erodible Land.

Keep in mind that you may need to revise your plan if you cannot complete the plan as it is currently written. For instance, if terraces are due in December, 1994 and they will not be built by then, the plan needs to be changed before that time. You are still responsible for getting the soil loss down to the level required - it will just have to be done another way other than terraces. To date, approximately 200 to 300 producers in West Pottawattamie have revised plans on over 800 tracts.

On the surface, conservation planning may seem complex and almost impossible. However, as with most things, there is a method to the madness. Some study and questions answered by your local SCS office usually provides a clearer picture of how you can implement the conservation practices that will reduce the soil loss on your farm.



Tom and Sally Trede



James Cloutier
Earthteam Volunteer



Wrap it up!

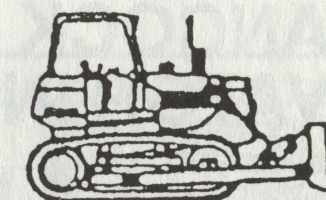
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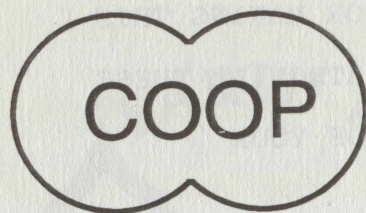
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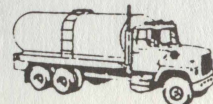
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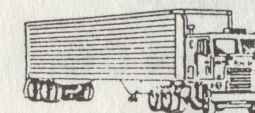
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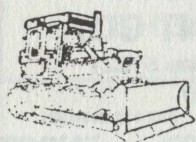
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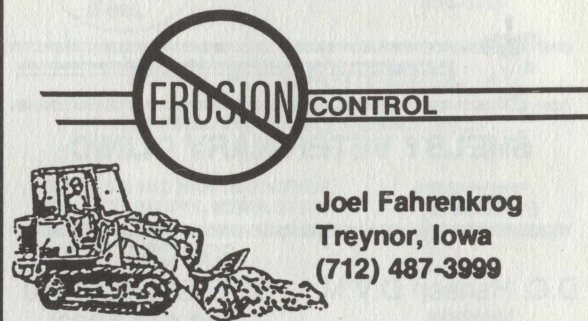
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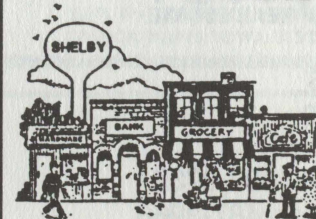


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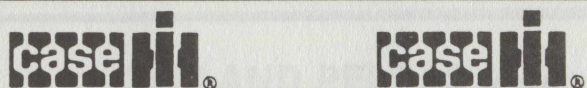
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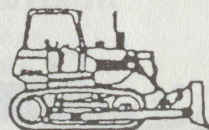
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