

In the news

Nuclear trespassers found innocent

CEDAR RAPIDS (AP) — All seven defendants in a criminal trespass trial were found innocent by a Linn County jury Thursday afternoon.

After acquitting the seven defendants, the jury foreman advised them to use other means of expressing themselves in the future.

The charges grew out of an incident July 6. The seven, five men and two women, were accused of floating down the Cedar River in a canoe and trying to scale the walls of the Duane Arnold Energy Center, near Palo.

Sharp end to glass trick

WATERLOO (AP) — It started out as a good trick, but it didn't end up that way.

Ed Trapp, of Kutztown, Pa., was in a Waterloo tavern early Thursday and pointed out to some friends that he could eat glass.

So, Trapp began munching on some glasses. He got about two down when an unidentified man ran up and began choking him. Trapp was treated and released from a Waterloo hospital.

However, shortly after that, Carl Caswell, Cedar Rapids, decided he could do the same thing. Caswell got through about half a glass. Shortly after, he began feeling badly and was taken to a Waterloo hospital, where he was treated and released.

No locks for inmates

DESMOINES (AP) — Inmates at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison will have to take their own personal locks off their cell doors. All the prisoners aren't happy about it.

Hal Frier, director of adult corrections, says he is aware of inmates' threats to hold a cell strike if the locks are not permitted on the cell doors.

Prisoners have been permitted to use their own combination locks on their cell doors when they are gone to secure their personal property in the cells.

Kirkwood gets Cuban students

MUSCATINE (AP) — Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids will be one of five universities in Iowa that will begin a pilot program Nov. 15 for 16 Cuban students who were expelled from various universities in Havana last spring.

The students are between the ages of 18 and 25.

The director of the program is Tom Wilson, 68, of Muscatine, who has been teaching for nearly 30 years as a professor in Havana before coming to Iowa in 1960.

Wilson said each student will be carefully screened, and given a profile to see how much study the student will need to qualify for their chosen career.

East end of building nearly totally destroyed

Fire ravages half of ASCS office building

TIMESNEWS — Offices at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Building across from the Benton County Fairgrounds are temporarily out of order following a Friday morning fire here.

The east end of the building was mostly destroyed, said Willie Hansen of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation office. Office equipment including desks, calculators and typewriters in the east end of the building were destroyed, although the paperwork was not, Hansen said.

Firefighters made a second trip to the scene when the fire started up again after the firefighters had gone, thinking the fire was out.

The Soil Conservation Commission office, which in the west end escaped the brunt of the fire's destruction, will be relocating temporarily across the street at the fairgrounds, according to the SCS's Robb Morrow. SCS personnel began

moving office supplies early this afternoon.

The SCS office sustained only smoke and water damage, but no figures on total damage to the building and its contents were available at press time.

The fire apparently started in the wiring above the suspended ceiling of the Ag Stabilization office. Hansen said office workers first knew something was wrong when a bank of lights went out.

Shortly after that, fire appeared around a light fixture. Employees reached for a fire extinguisher and for the phone to call the Vinton Fire Department.

Hansen said no one knew how long the fire had smoldered in the attic before it was noticed.

The Ag Stabilization office, Hansen said, probably would not reopen on a temporary basis, but workers would probably load the paperwork into a van and seal it up until a permanent headquarters is reopened.



Ceiling meets the floor

A light fixture hangs down from the ceiling in the gutted east end of the ASCS building, nearly touching the remains of a desk at the bottom of the photo. Office equipment, including desks, calculators, typewriters and other electronic equipment were destroyed. Most of the ceiling on the east end of the building fell to the floor, but the west end of the building appeared to receive only smoke and water damage. Another photo, page three.

Timesphoto by Steve Exley



Firemen attack fire Friday morning

Fire ravaged the ASCS building, across from the Benton County Fairgrounds, at mid-morning today. Firefighters here work to quench the flames, which apparently started in

the wiring in the attic. The east end of the building (nearest) received the heaviest damage.

Timesphoto by Mert Alpers

City gets \$5 million wastewater grant

BY SCOTT CAMPBELL
Times Editor

TIMESNEWS — It took nine years, but Vinton's \$7 million wastewater treatment facility looks like it's finally a reality.

Mayor Bill Strong received official word from the Environmental Protection Agency today that the city has been granted \$5,027,180 to help complete construction of the plant.

That grant is the federal government's share of the \$7 million project, which amounts to 75 percent. The state is funding five percent and the city the other 20 percent.

"It's been in the works for nine years," Strong said of the wastewater treatment

plant. "Ever since Jack Siegel was mayor and I was city clerk back in 1971.

"Actually, that's been the experience of most plants. About nine years to get the grant."

Strong said he can't blame the federal government totally for the long delay, since it took the city and its engineers about two years to design the plant.

"I'm really glad that we could go ahead on our own and get this accomplished by ourselves," said Strong.

He said that there are three phases to the completion of the plant, and that the city is now entering phase three.

"The first phase dealt with a study of the infiltration system, what new lines had to be laid and what lines could remain," said Strong.

"The second phase was having the plans and specifications approved and now we're entering the third phase of having a bid letting."

"The city council is going to meet Tuesday evening to accept and approve the grant offer and hopefully we will set a date for the bid letting then," Strong continued.

He said he was looking for a November or December letting since it takes about 45 days after the ads appear in local newspapers and national magazines.

Strong said he hopes that construction will begin on the site sometime next spring. The new facility will be located about six-tenths of a mile south of Vinton.

Relf benefit Saturday in Shellsburg

TIMESNEWS — Saturday is a big day in Shellsburg — it's Chris Relf Benefit Day, sponsored by the Shellsburg Lions to help young Relf, who was paralyzed following a freak accident June 28.

A hog roast will begin at 4 p.m. in the park, several bands will play, and the firemen plan to provide some games to play. The food, beverages, bands and labor all are donated and 100 percent of the proceeds will go to help the Gary and Donna Relf family meet the high costs of Chris' medical care.

"The Lions' Club started it, but we don't want to leave anyone out," said Lions' spokesman Nate Roehr, emphasizing that if anyone wants to donate some time, the Lions will be happy to let them help for an hour or two.

Roehr said a bake sale also is being held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lions' Hall, and anyone interested in donating items to the sale are welcome to do so.

The Lions' plan to roast three hogs, Roehr said, and several other people offered to donate hogs. Beer, pop, potato chips and other items also were donated.

R.J. Building Supply of Cedar Rapids donated a gas grill for the proceedings. Buttons reading "Chris Relf Benefit Day, September 20, Shellsburg" are also available for \$2.

The high school band will play at the hog roast, as will a group known as the "Old Timers." Another group of four or five

people who used to play together will get back together, said Roehr, to play for a dance Saturday night. He wasn't sure if the band had a name.

If you buy a benefit button, Roehr said, the dance is then free.

The Shellsburg benefit is one of several held or being held for Chris recently.

The Vinton Eagles Auxiliary held a Friday noon luncheon with half the proceeds to go to the Relf family, according to auxiliary president Phyllis Yancey. Creamed chicken on home-made baking powder biscuits topped the menu.

The Cedar Sailors, a local boating club, raised \$519 with a hog roast and beer bash at the Benton County Fairgrounds last Saturday. Spokesman Tom Johnson said about 100 people attended.

In addition, the sailors donated \$200, so the Relfs received a check for \$719 after the hog roast.

Johnson said the group was somewhat disappointed with the turnout. The hog roast originally was planned for this week, until the sailors learned about the Shellsburg benefit day planned for this weekend.

Everything was donated for the sailors' hog roast, with Vinton taverns donating the beer and Jim Stueck of Mt. Auburn Livestock and Trucking donating the hog. Johnson cooked the hog.

now receiving specialized care at Cr Rehabilitation Hospital in Edgewood, Colo. Craig Hospital is an 80-bed facility and was the first in the nation to exclusively with spinal injuries.

Chris still has a hard collar on, learning to keep her balance. She left Craig Hospital Sept. 2 and may get home just before Thanksgiving, Mrs. Relf said.



CHRIS, ACCORDING to Mrs. Relf, is

CHRIS RELF

Council wants citizen input on sign slogan

TIMESNEWS — The Vinton Community Betterment Council needs help, and they aren't even asking for any money.

All it wants is some ideas, and good ones, to help promote the city of Vinton.

The council wants to erect a sign at the entrance of Vinton, and what they need is a slogan for the sign. Years ago a sign stood at the south edge of Vinton and it read, "Vinton, City of Progress." But the sign deteriorated and was never replaced.

But now the council feels the city needs a new one and they want a new slogan to go with it.

The council wants to limit the slogan to six or eight words and asks that all slogans be dropped off at the city office or mailed to: City of Vinton, P.O. Box 529, by next Friday, September 26.

After a slogan is picked for the sign, Bill Reames, an industrial art teacher at the high school will construct the sign with the help of his students.

The council has already started taking photographs of signs in other towns to get an idea for the design. But a new slogan for Vinton is still needed by next Friday.



Father Joseph Syrový, pastor of the Catholic church at Vining, is one of Iowa's most avid flower lovers and for 25 years has been growing all sorts of flowers on land near the parsonage.

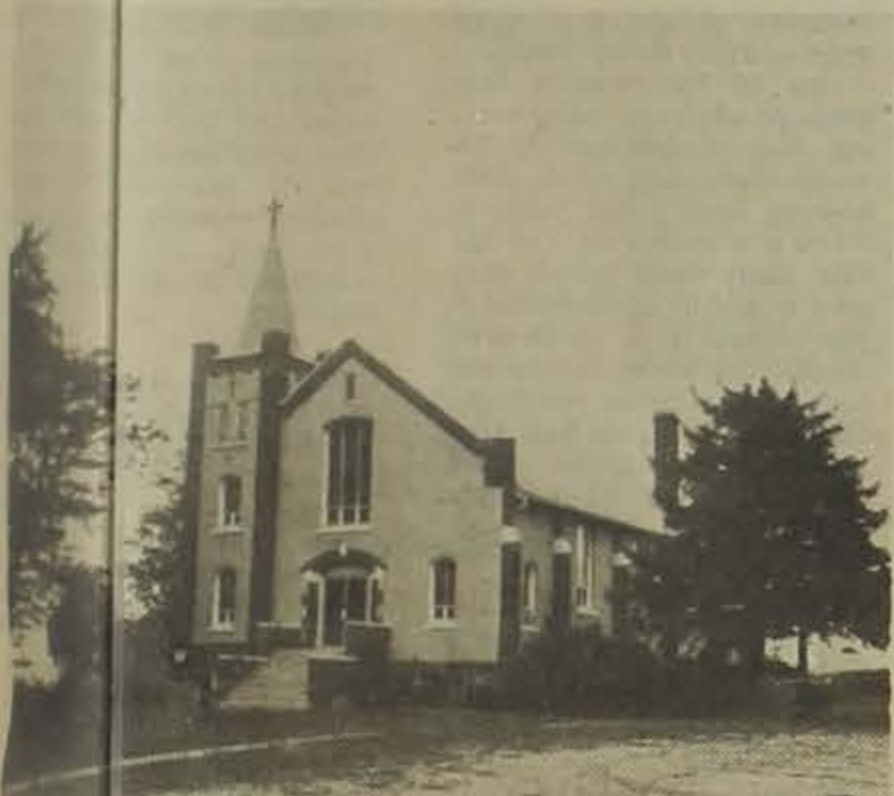
Line fence lingo

By CHARLES GEBHARD

I guess all women love flowers but I doubt many are as fond of them as my wife, Lois. Her dad was quite a gardener and she learned early to enjoy the art. Her many varieties of flowers come keep her very busy but she loves it.

So when I suggested one day earlier this summer going down to real "flower country" she knew exactly what I was talking about. She said: "Do you mean you are going to Clutier and on down to Vining and Elberon?" I told her that indeed we were.

We called first at Clutier but in addition to seeing many fine flower gardens we got derailed into another story that will have to wait for a column sometime in the future.



This is the landmark Catholic church in Vining located high upon a hill that commands a view of the entire town below.

So we headed for Vining eventually and enjoyed driving by a lot of farmyards where flowers were in evidence but we really hadn't seen anything until on impulse I drove up to the top of the hill in northeast Vining on which stands the imposing Catholic church. I had heard that Pastor Rev. Father Joe Syrový is indeed a premier gardener and how true that turned out to be.

—Line Fence Lingo—

Now 77 years of age, Father Syrový has a parish numbering about 80 families some of whom are residents of the western part of Benton County. But for the past 25 years that he has been at Vining he has developed as fine a garden of flowers of every kind and description that you can imagine.

We found him at work despite it being a very hot summer day. He was wearing a Marine Corps pith helmet the same as I own as a souvenir of my years in the Corps during World War II. He greeted us warmly and soon we were being shown around.

His specialty is day-lilies some of which he has bred himself from outstanding varieties. Colors range from a deep red through orange to the palest yellow or nearly white. The picture on this page suggests the large size to which these are grown. He also has mint plant, crows, peonies and many other varieties which were no longer in season when we were there.

One of his real treasures is a European Carpathian walnut tree very large English walnuts inside extremely thin shells. It is an unusual variety or it would not survive in our northern climate. His squirrel "friends" have planted a number of these nuts around the property and he has seedlings coming up.

Visiting with him you soon realize you are talking with a man who is very advanced in his knowledge of botany and very much satisfied with this wonderful hobby.

Large trees help frame the parish rectory. The church also has an educational center adjoining.

We left his place with a promise to Father Syrový to return the future to enjoy his garden and the pleasure of his company some more.

—Line Fence Lingo—

Just next door to the south of the church property is the residence of Vining old-timer William Bazel, now 83 years of age,

who with his wife are also flower lovers. He is remarkably active for a man his age and still mows his own lawn. Until recently he served as janitor at the town hall and fire station. He had been an active member of the Vining Fire Department for 16 years before taking the custodial job. At his retirement he received a fine plaque in testimony to his 25 years with that Department.

His flower specialty is growing geraniums and a colorful bed was in the background when the picture of him was taken in the front yard of the home.

There are many more fine flower gardens in Vining and one of them we found behind the town post office where Postmaster Blanche Upham lives. She had some of the tallest sunflowers in her garden I have ever seen. She also had some colorful gladioli and zinnias, to mention a few.

Next door we saw her neighbor, Mrs. Jim Breja, wife of the Vining mayor. Their one son Alan drove up on a bicycle and we visited with him and took his picture. The Breja children also include: Sharon, Doreen and Ronnie.

The Breja garden seemed to be very productive and Mrs. Breja had just finished harvesting the last of a sweet corn crop.

—Line Fence Lingo—

At the upper end of Main Street we stopped to see how Bev Vore was coming along with her ceramic shop but no one was at home on this blistering summer day. In fact few people were moving about. We were told later that the shop has been doing a very fine business.

We gazed wistfully at the old Christine Karkosh residence nearby where we had some very enjoyable visits with this charming old Vining resident before she retired to live in an apartment at Toledo. Directly across the street is the Big old Czech Lodge hall.

It was completely remodeled and fixed up several years ago and is again the scene of a lot of activity. Besides lodge sessions there are dances held here and also celebrations of one kind or another recalling the days of yore when this place was a mecca for residents from all over this part of Iowa particularly each year of Memorial Day.

Paul Riha continues to run the Ford garage in Vining, an operation carried on now by three generations of this family. His father passed away several years ago and the home in which he lived at the south entrance to Vining is now the residence of the Larry Becks.

While on the subject of flowers and Vining I can't forget the flowering field of poppies I once pictured right along Main Street where a Vining old-timer named James Kubu lived. That was perhaps 10 years ago. Not long after that he moved to a convalescent home in Belle Plaine and later passed away.

Leaving Vining reluctantly we drove to Elberon and had some nice visits there which I'll tell about in a future column. Then we



Right next door to the Catholic parsonage lives one of Vining's oldest but still very active citizens who along with his wife also has an outstanding flower garden and well-landscaped home. He is 82-year-old William Bazel.



Here is the Catholic church parsonage in Vining where Pastor Father Joseph Syrový lives. The parish numbers about 80 families including some in western Benton County in the Elberon area.

drove on over to Keystone and somehow my car always just naturally stops when it gets at Bob Feuerbach's gas station. Spent a little time there visiting and tried real hard to solve a few of the world's problems but not even all the talk helped me straighten out my golf swing the next day. Will have to return.

Still another interesting visit awaited me this day. In fact it was one both Lois and I had looked forward to for quite some time.

—Line Fence Lingo—

We had the pleasure of meeting noted writer and poet Esther Bell Witt who will be remembered by many of you readers some of whom may have had her as a school teacher because she did teach country school in Benton County for quite some years but all the time was enjoying her writing too.

She had a sister, Margaret, now deceased, also a fine poet and the two of them enjoyed very much working together. Many of Esther's poems have appeared in magazines and newspapers and in anthologies and it is easy to understand why because they are written in a simple most appealing style yet reflecting a very tender feeling.

Her parents, both deceased, lived on a farm north of Keystone. She has a legion of friends and admirers around the county and it was such an admirer who led to our meeting. Intend to enjoy another such visit before long.

All in all it was a great day for Lois and myself and one we will long remember.



Another flower lover in Vining is Postmaster Blanche Upham. This picture of her giant sunflowers was taken in the garden behind the post office and home where she lives.



Enjoying a bike ride on the day the writer visited Vining was Alan Breja, son of Mayor of Vining James Breja and his wife, still another garden lover.



Vining has a modern fire station and fire department. Until recently William Bazel had served as janitor but for many years before that was an active Fire Department member.

MEN IN SERVICE

Marine Pvt. Jeff E. Owens, son of Dean E. and Barbara L. Owens of Palo, has reported for duty with the 3rd Force Service Support Group on Okinawa. A 1977 graduate of Shellsburg High School, Owens joined the Marine Corps in December, 1977.

Airman Gregory K. Campbell, son of Robert L. Campbell of rural Vinton, and Norma J. Lowe of Cedar Rapids, has been assigned to Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., after completing Air Force basic training. During the six weeks at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas, Campbell studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs, and received special training in human relations. In addition, Campbell earned credits toward an associate degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force. Campbell will now receive specialized instruction in the administration field.

Navy Electronics Technician 3rd Class Charles E. Purcell, son of Dennis E. Purcell of rural Van Horn, and Jeannette M. Shannon of Cedar Rapids, has graduated from basic electronics technician school. The course was conducted at the Navy Service Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Purcell received introductory instruction on electronic circuit concepts, radar principles, and the basics of radio transmitters and receivers.

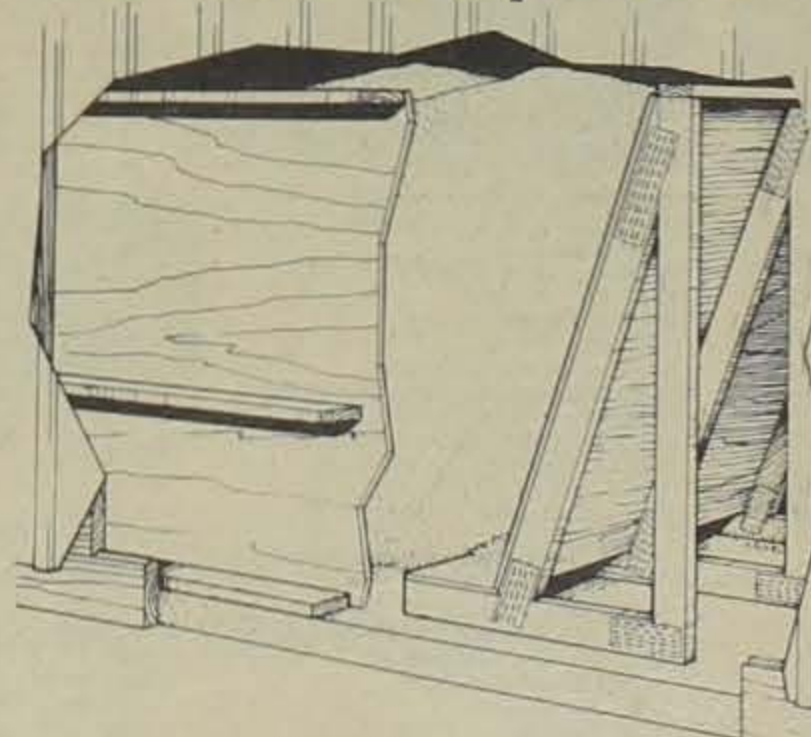
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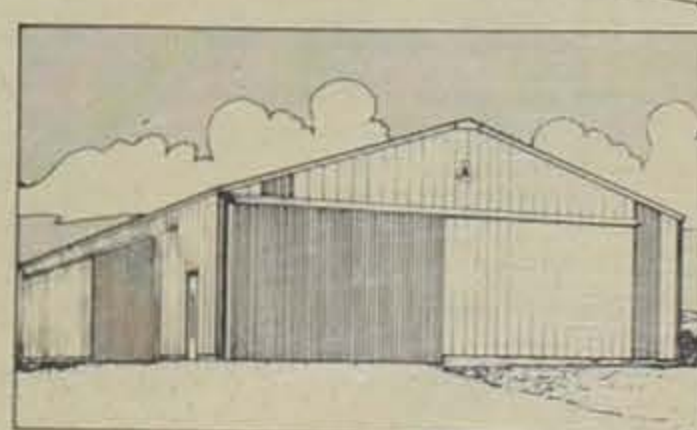
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Proclamation

Whereas, conservation of Iowa's soil and water resources is a matter of paramount importance, to sustain food production and reduce degradation of our lakes and streams; and

Whereas, in this first year of the decade, Iowa has experienced some of the worst soil erosion in more than thirty years; and

Whereas, Iowa's soil conservation laws were amended earlier this year to initiate the "Iowa Soil 2000" program, which establishes a plan to reduce Iowa's soil losses to acceptable limits by the year 2000; and

Whereas, all Iowans need to recognize the willingness and ability of the elected commissioners of the 100 soil conservation districts and voluntary advisory committees of the six conservancy districts to deal with soil and water resource problems;

Now, Therefore, I, Robert D. Ray, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the week of September 14 - 20, 1980, as

Soil And Water Conservation Week

in Iowa and urge that all Iowans extend their continued support to conservation officials, farmers, and landowners, and commit themselves to a conservation ethic so that coming generations may enjoy continued productivity, wealth, and beauty of our great state.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 28th day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred eighty.

Robert D. Ray
Governor

Ray: We're losing ground, must move now

By Governor Robert E. Ray
DES MOINES — Earlier this summer, Iowans witnessed some of the worst soil erosion to occur in the state for more than thirty years. Fast, hard rains swept through county after county, ravaging unprotected fields just after farmers had finished planting record acreages of corn and soybeans.

The resulting soil losses, which were highly visible and widespread, magnified what often occurs to a somewhat lesser degree each year. The amount of soil lost to erosion—261 million tons per year from cropland alone, or an average of 9.9 tons per acre per year for all lands in the state, is twice the acceptable erosion level for most soils.

The gullies, rills, and sediment-filled ditches we witnessed last spring and summer have long since been smoothed over by tillage equipment or covered by green foliage. And larger equipment, commercial fertilizers, and improved hybrids have masked losses in soil productivity due to erosion. Because erosion is usually a gradual process over

time, most Americans have tended to develop a sense of complacency about it.

Do we have enough time to be complacent? Will the problem wait until 1985 or the year 2000? I think not.

Soil conservationists tell us that the topsoil might be gone from some of our more fragile land in less than twenty years. We are literally "losing ground" to erosion, so we should recognize our responsibility to do more to preserve this rich resource.

Improved program strategies developed in recent years at state and national levels must now be put into action. After all, those who use it today are its stewards for only a relatively short period of time.

We in Iowa have led the nation with the level of support and innovations we have offered to our soil conservation programs. We took a significant stride earlier this year when the state's soil conservation laws were amended, putting in place the "Iowa Soil 2000 Program", a twenty-year plan to reduce the state's soil losses to acceptable limits. I recommended additional monies for cost-sharing with

landowners even though our budget is tight. Nearly \$6 million in state funds are now available for incentives to landowners for installing permanent and temporary soil conservation practices this coming year.

Commendable as all this is, a renewed emphasis on this priority is the only way we will reach our ultimate objective of reducing erosion to acceptable limits by the year 2000.

While soil conservation districts and their elected commissioners have demonstrated their ability to deal with soil and water resource problems at the local level, accelerated soil conservation programs will require even greater coordination among federal, state and local units of government.

I urge you to extend your support to conservation officials, farmers, and landowners who are proving leadership to existing programs. It's all committed ourselves to a better conservation ethic so that coming generations will know the same productivity and wealth of our beautiful state that we have so fortunately enjoyed.



The three-acre wildlife refuge area planted by Jerry McCarty, who says care of the area has become a hobby. McCarty, a hunter, is concerned about disappearing wildlife habitat caused in part by the disappearance of fence lines.

And, he said, it hardly pays to take the big machinery around the creek to farm this small area.
Timesphoto by Steve Exley

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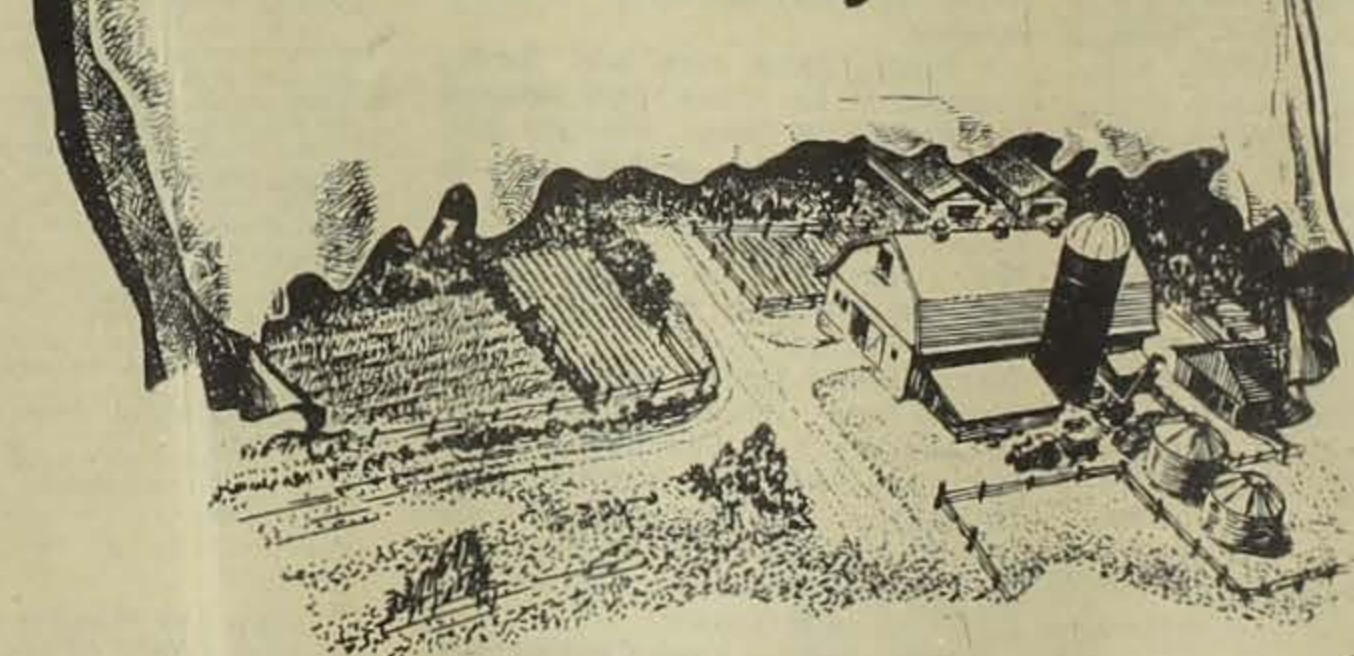
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McCarty, strong like their terraces

By STEVE EXLEY
Times Staff Writer

TIMES EWS — Jerry McCarty was happy when the grass backslope terraces installed several years ago on the land he farms, owned by his father-in-law, John Strong.

So McCarty is just as happy to see the other side of the long hill on the farm terraced this summer.

But terracing isn't the only improvement he's made on the farm this year. He added a three-acre corner, bounded by a ditch on one end, as a wildlife refuge.

The terraces installed this summer improve a 17-acre field, and include 5,560 feet of terraces. The cost of the project totaled about \$19,000 including the tile work, and the cost is split 50-50 between the Soil Conservation Service and the landowner.

If you really want to plant corn and beans in fields with the slope of McCarty's, the SCS says terracing is the way to go.

The terraces on the land McCarty farms were set 20 feet apart, farmable to the top edge of each terrace. The terraces are parallel to make farming as simple as possible.

"We try to stick with the contour all the way," said Robb Morrow, who lays out most of the terraces for the Benton County SCS. "We try to make them so the farmer can live with 'em."

Research says the terraces take a long time to actually pay for themselves, and that time depends on how hard the land is farmed after the terraces go in, said Morrow. But for saving topsoil, terracing is hard to beat.

McCarty said, "I've got a little guy who's three who thinks he wants to be a farmer, then quickly added he had a little girl when he also wanted to live on a farm. Either way, there has to be soil to farm."

Contour farming further helps to save the soil, Morrow said. And this year, it had another advantage.

"This year I think people really will notice the difference if they contoured," said Morrow. "Any raindrop that fell was held and then soaked in a little." The extra moisture helped the contoured fields through the hot, dry spell in July.

The steep backslope on the terraces takes up some room in the field, but "we figure we won't lose eight feet on the average," Morrow said.

McCarty said he sowed the back of his terraces with bromegrass and rye, then harrowed the slopes twice.

He said he also found it a good idea to sow down the end rows of the terraced field, rather than plant row crops and let the water run down the end rows.

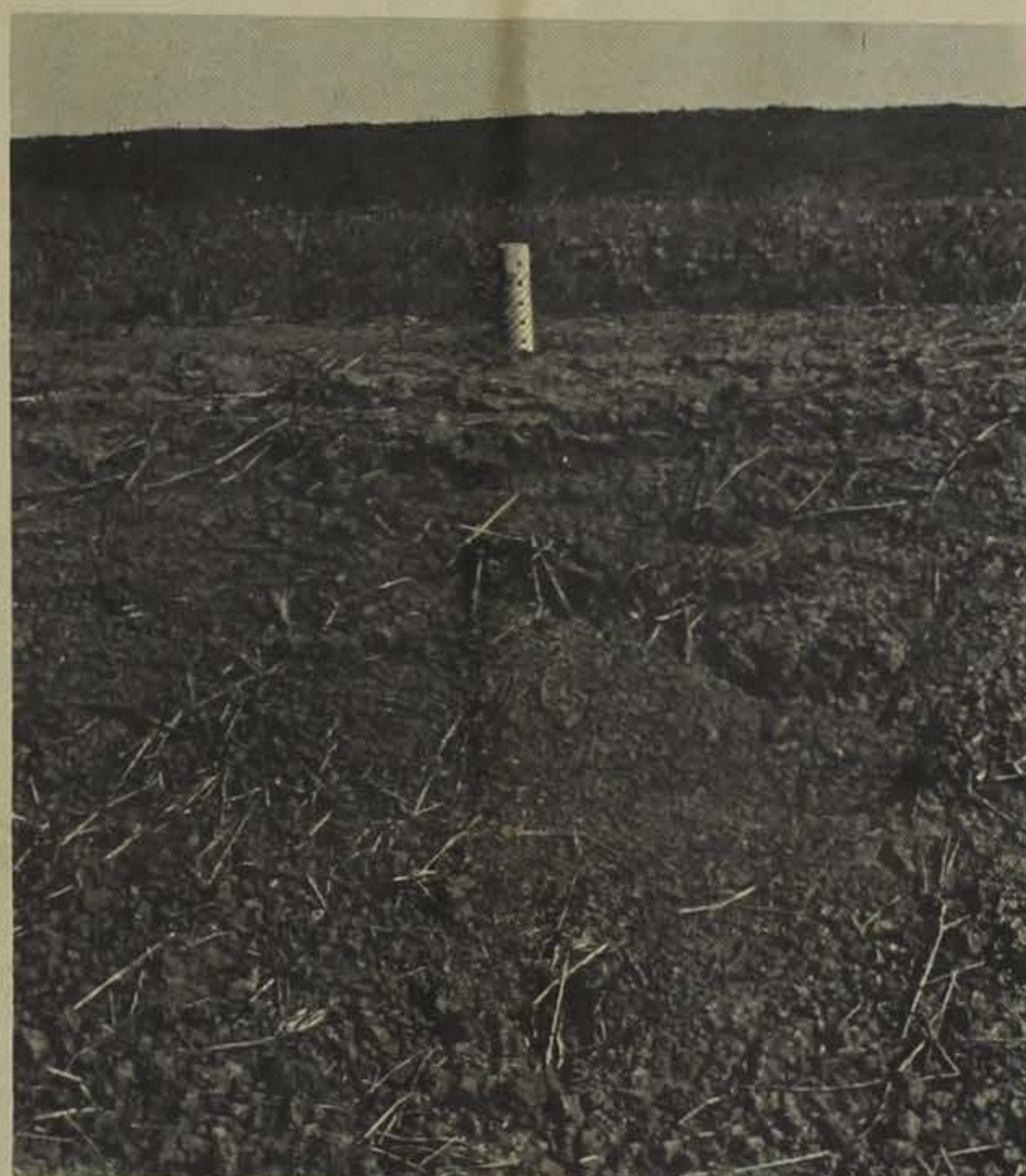
And he's sold on the terraces. "With that kind of ground, I think you need something like that," McCarty said. "Even with contour you'd still see dirt running down." He said he tore out a fence on the side of one of the hills, and it was buried up to a foot high with dirt that had washed down from above.



Terracing work completed this summer

Earthwork is just complete on these terraces on the land owned by John Strong, Jr. and farmed by Jerry McCarty. The grass-backslope terraces, combined with contour farming and some sort of conservation tillage, cuts erosion on the hillside drastically. The terraces are set parallel, and enough room is left between the water intake pipe and the top of the terrace for at least two passes with the tractor and equipment at planting and harvest.

Timesphoto by Steve Exley



"I'M A HUNTER," said McCarty of the wildlife refuge, "but I think we need some kind of place birds can go." So he planted six rows of shrubs and trees on the three-acre corner near his farmhouse, then sowed oats and Timothy between the rows to make it habitable for wildlife.

"It's a three-acre patch, and with the kind of machinery we run these days, it doesn't even pay to run in and tear it up to put in corn or beans," McCarty said.

The biggest problem for wildlife around Benton County and the rest of Iowa is that pheasants and other birds and wildlife have to put up with diminishing areas of cover year after year. The ditches around here fill with snow, McCarty said, and everyone keeps taking out fence lines.

He said Donald Pfeiffer, a wildlife management biologist from Iowa City, helped plan the wildlife area. Pfeiffer told him switchgrass is good cover for pheasants, but it's expensive.

Bromegrass also is good cover if clipped every couple of years to keep the center part from dying and rotting. Mowing shouldn't be done until late July, according to McCarty, so the pheasants can finish the nesting season.

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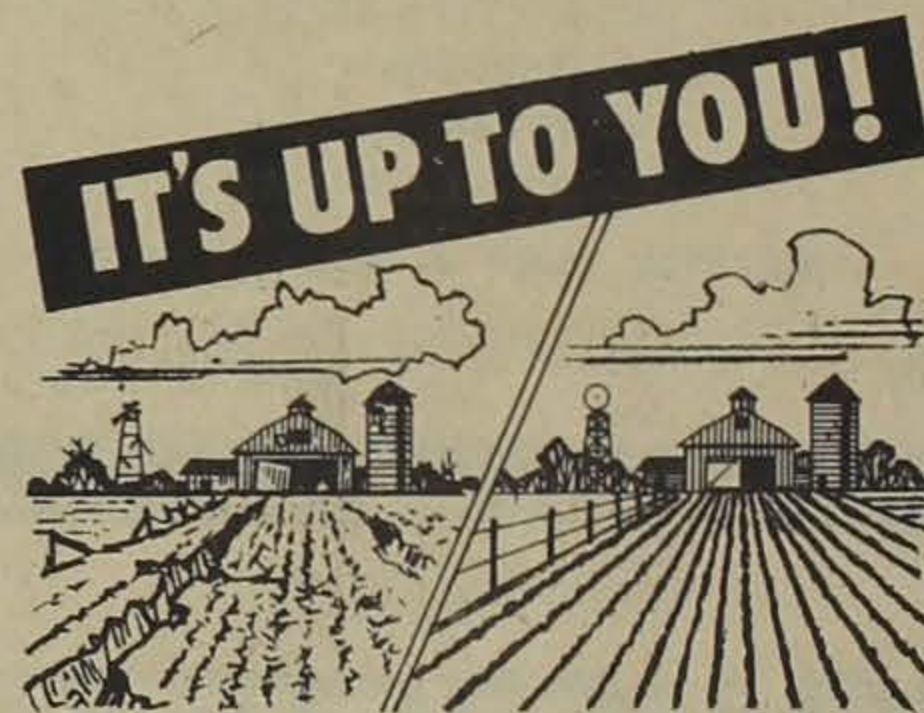
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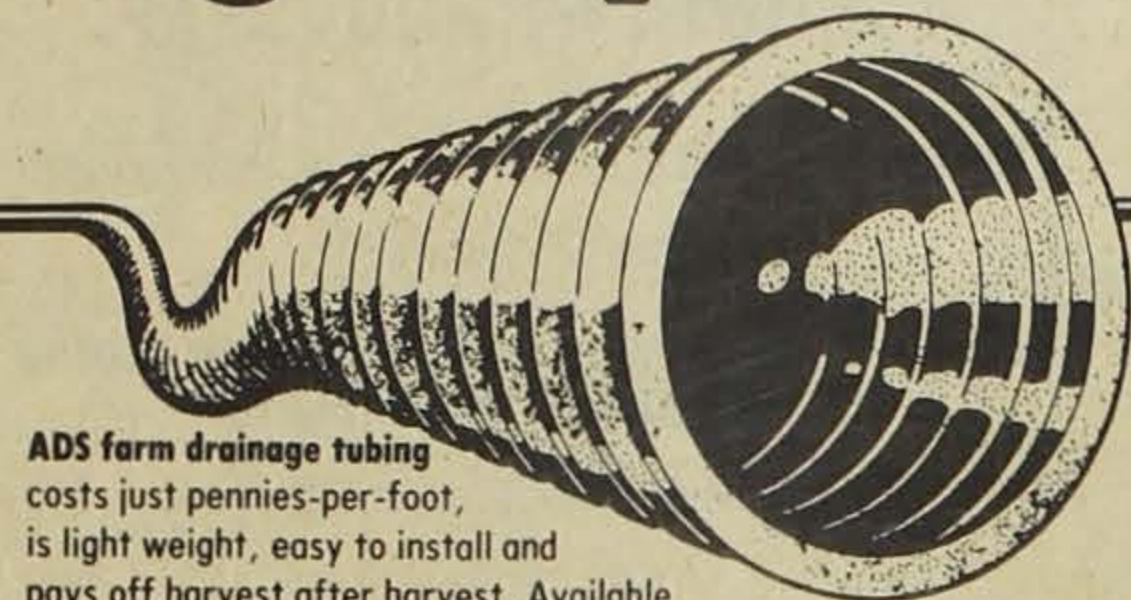
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Hay strips-inexpensive conservation

TIMESNEWS — Sid Rinderknecht is using a relatively inexpensive method to cut soil loss on hills on the land he farms to less than five tons per acre per year.

Rinderknecht employs 100-foot hay strips between strips of his money crops—either corn or soybeans—on hills on the land he farms, owned by Ray Nolan and located between Garrison and Van Horne. Those hay strips slow the flow of water down the hills, estimated at a 6 percent

slope, cutting loss of soil due to erosion just about in half.

"Corn or beans without the strips probably would double the soil loss," said the Soil Conservation Service's Robb Morrow. "He'd probably be in the 8-to-10-ton loss range without the strips."

A goal of soil conservationists is to cut erosion losses on all land to five tons or less of topsoil per acre per year. The Iowa Legislature recognized that goal by

making it a part of its "Soil 2000" program, which is concerned with uses of the soil by the year 2000.

Another method for slowing the rate of topsoil loss would be to terrace the hillside, but that requires quite an investment. Terrace work cost about \$2.25 per running foot of terrace for the earth work this summer.

If farmers can use the hay, said Morrow, the hay strip is a good, inexpensive way to save topsoil.

The slope Rinderknecht farms is both steep and long, a bad combination, since water tends to pick up speed as it runs down hill. Thus, the hay strips become even more important.

Contour farming and some sort of conservation tillage are also important on such slopes, according to Morrow. Any practice that helps slow the water down on its way downhill will help to hold the soil.



Hay strip slows water

Sid Rinderknecht's 100-foot haystrip wraps around the hill in this field. The haystrip is an inexpensive way to cut soil loss on hilly ground, and is particularly applicable where a farmer cannot use hay anyway. The strip slows the water running down the hillside, which is important on long, steep slopes because the water tends to pick up speed.

Windbreaks save energy, shoveling

TIMESNEWS — The advantages of a windbreak are well known to the farmer — the mature windbreak helps save heating bills in the home, helps keep snow from filling in the drive, and protects the whole farmyard and often outbuildings from the ravages of the northwest wind in the winter.

"It takes about 10 years to get any advantage out of a windbreak, but it's something people should be doing," said Soil Conservation Service's Robb Morrow, as he drove out to look over the windbreak at the Wilbert Sindt farm, north of Van Horne in Big Grove Township.

The Sindt windbreak is one of several around the county nominated for the SCS's "Windbreak of the Year" award.

Like most Iowa windbreaks, the Sindt windbreak is L-shaped, designed to protect the house, lane or driveway and outbuildings from the northwest wind and drifting snow.

The windbreak was planted there in 1952; the seedlings were first planted elsewhere in 1946 and then moved. Surprisingly, all but two of approximately 40 trees survived.

The trees are set in three rows, approximately 24 feet apart. Morrow said trees in today's windbreaks are normally planted 20 feet apart, and that many older windbreaks were planted too close together, causing the trees to die prematurely.



Big windbreak at Sindt farm

The windbreak at the Wilbert Sindt farm, with about 40 trees, is one of those nominated for recognition as the SCS's "Windbreak of the Year." This photo was taken from the lane and looks toward the northwest, source of Iowa's biting winter winds. Trees this size help stop that wind and the snow piles up between the windbreak and the house.

Timesphoto by Steve Wiley

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Albright jumps into no-till with both feet

By TEVE EXLEY
Times Staff Writer

DESNEWS — No-till farming is one way to save production costs and precious topsoil, and Ronny Albright thought he'd give it a try this year.

So he went out and bought a cultivator and a buffalo till and planted all his corn and soybeans — 170 acres — in no-till.

The system, says Albright, saves fuel because you don't make as many field trips and you don't plow, which uses a lot of fuel because of the drag involved.

"I think this system cuts fuel costs in half," he said.

With the system, he now has a bigger tract than he needs, he said, indicating that the manufacturer recommends 10 horsepower of tractor for every row of planter or cultivator.

Albright indicates he's had some problems with the no-till system this year,

and said the manufacturer recommends not jumping in all at once with no experience. The closest thing to experience for Albright was the fact that his cousin has used the no-till system for 18 years.

His cousin uses less herbicide than his neighbors who farm conventional, Albright said. One reason for that is the no-till system the two men use calls for building up big crowns and valleys, planting each year in the same crowns.

Any weed seeds are thrown or washed to the center of the rows, and the cultivator takes care of that.

Albright said one of his problems this year was that he didn't have crowns built up from last year. The manufacturer of the system recommends that the farmer buy his cultivator the year before planting no-till, so he can build up the crowns before planting.

Albright didn't get his crowns as high as he would have liked. Also, it was too windy when he wanted to spray herbicide, so he let it go.

The crowns help not only with weed control, but with other aspects of planting. For instance, the crowns warm up earlier in the year than the valleys, so you can plant earlier. They dry quicker in the fall, helping with harvest.

All the residue falls into the valleys, where it helps hold water for the corn.

The biggest advantage to no-till farming, of course, is that it can help cut erosion losses to the absolute minimum.

According to statistics compiled by the Soil Conservation Service, a non-contoured field with a slope of 4 percent that is fall plowed can lose up to 12.5 tons of soil per acre per year. Even a chisel plow-disk operation in the fall can cost 5.7 tons per

acre per year on the 4 percent slope.

No-till reduces the loss to 2.3 tons per acre per year. In most cases, conventional fall plowing on non-contoured fields costs the farmer nearly six times the amount of topsoil per acre per year than no-till.

Fields that combine no-till farming with contour farming cut the loss to 1.1 ton per acre per year.

And Robb Morrow of the SCS believes

that this year, any field with contour farming may show a little better yield than it would if planted straight row. Contour rows gave the scant rains early in the year a better chance of soaking in, so contouring may help the yields.

By the same token, Albright, who works full time at the Vinton Electrical Plant, thought 1980 might be a dry year, so he didn't crowd his crop. He planted 22,500 plants per acre, in 38 inch rows.

People finally believe in no-till farming

CLUTIER, Iowa — Dave Podhajsky had skeptical eyes looking his way back in 1979 when he first experimented with no-till farming. But now, some of these eyes are beginning to believe what they are seeing.

During his first year of planting no-till corn Podhajsky increased his yields by nearly 50 bushels per acre.

"I'm convinced me," he says.

While using conventional tillage methods, Podhajsky had been getting 90-100 bushels of corn per acre. His ground was dry and cloddy, and his stands were poor. He said he knew there had to be a better way of farming.

Six years ago, he tried a no-till planter loaned free to farmers in his area from the Ortho Chemical Company. Although 1974 was exceptionally dry, Podhajsky saw his best yields ever—nearly 150 bushels per acre.

Podhajsky, who farms 210 acres of hilly land near Clutier in Tama County, is enthusiastic about his no-till operation. He admits he was the talk of the neighborhood when he began planting no-till, however.

"I never saw so many people nearly drive into the ditch watching me plant corn," he laughed. "It takes guts to do this."

He says many farmers still are not convinced, but they are "waking up" to the success he's had with no-till.

After seeing how well no-till worked on his farm the first year, Podhajsky bought a four-row International "Co-Till" Cyclo planter, which he has been using since. The planter features fluted coulters, which cut a narrow track for receiving seed. It also has center ribbed press wheels that press the seed down into the furrow track.

He generally rotates his crops between corn and soybeans, although he does plant some continuous no-till corn. He uses soil samples as guidelines for fertilizer rates each year.

Podhajsky's pre-plant operations on his corn this year included 200 pounds per acre of 10-20-20 dry granular bulk fertilizer. On some land, he injected liquid manure from his hog operation instead of the 10-20-20 pre-plant fertilizer.

On continuous no-till corn, his pre-plant herbicide treatment was one pint of Paraquat with X77 spreader and one gallon of Bladex. With the herbicide, he applied 120 pounds of 28-0-0 liquid nitrogen as a carrier. If the crop needs a "rescue" treatment, he applies Banvel, or 2,4-D.

During planting, he applied 50 to 60 pounds of 8-32-16 starter fertilizer and 10½ pounds per acre of Mocap insecticide.

He employs a crop monitoring service to monitor his fields for pests. This year he applied insecticide to only half of his fields during planting.

In no-till corn following soybeans, he uses a pre-plant treatment of three quarts of 15-50 and piggybacked on one-half pint of 4-D and one-half pint of Banvel combination in addition to one pint of Paraquat and X77 spreader. Soil samples

on all his fields were similar, so Podhajsky applied the same rate of fertilizer to both corn following soybeans and continuous corn.

Podhajsky says he still experiments with herbicides, since weeds seem to be his biggest problem with no-till. Other than Paraquat, he doesn't use much more herbicide than conventional tillage farmers. Weeds don't seem to affect yields in a no-till field as much as in a conventionally tilled field, Podhajsky says.

"There will always be a few weeds that come back in a no-till situation. When they do come back, the corn is already knee high or better, so the corn isn't really bothered," he said.

Podhajsky says he avoids planting corn after alfalfa since alfalfa is especially difficult to kill. When he tried this in the past, he used a quart of Paraquat and X77 spreader, plus four to five pounds of atrazine.

Podhajsky said he was told to plant heavier than usual when he first began no-till, since the ground is generally colder during planting. His planting rate of 24,500 seeds per acre the first year turned out to be too heavy, and he had a lot of barren stalks. Since then, he plants around 23,800 seeds per acre, and gets a final stand of around 20,000.

Podhajsky plants a medium maturity variety of seed corn. This year, he began planting his 120 acres of corn April 28 and finished May 3.

Podhajsky adds that he is never in a hurry to get his fields planted since he's been practicing no-till.

"It (no-till farming) is just a whole different ballgame; it's so relaxed. Other farmers are still out in their fields after dark, but I go out there at seven in the morning and I'm always back by six at night," he said.

By planting no-till, Podhajsky not only saves time, but also fuel. He uses about one-half gallon of fuel per acre to plant corn, at a cost of about 50 cents. In table 1, Dick Pulse, Tama County extension director, compares Podhajsky's direct costs per acre for planting no-till corn with conventional plowing and planting.

In table 2, Pulse compares returns per acre over growing costs for conventional corn production and Podhajsky's no-till operation this year.

Podhajsky said the Ortho Chemical Company warns farmers to expect a 10 to 15 percent yield reduction when planting no-till. But Podhajsky said he hasn't seen much of a loss in yield.

"I won't claim that you will get the same yield as with conventional tillage, but you'll get as many dollars in your pocket at the end of the year," he said.

Podhajsky says he thinks more farmers will be turning to conservation tillage and no-till as fuel prices continue to rise. He says he's seen more reduced tillage this year in his area, but most farmers still



No-till

Ronny Albright holds back his soybeans to show off residue from his newly adopted system of no-till. Residue collects in "valleys" between the rows and the beans (or corn) are planted right in the same ridges, year after year. Albright also has corn planted with the no-till system.

Timesphoto by Steve Exley

insist on plowing. "Plowing is a tradition that's hard to break," he admits.

Podhajsky's wife, Irene, says she thinks the appearance of the fields is one reason why many farmers are reluctant to farm no-till.

"A plowed field looks so nice and clean. When you look at a no-till field, it just doesn't appear as pretty. Appearance is a big thing," she said.

Her husband agreed. "When you get done planting no-till, you just have to close the gate behind you and don't look back." For farmers just getting into no-till, he suggests reading books on the subject. One which he found helpful is "No-Tillage Farming," by S.H. Phillips and H.M. Young, Jr.

Podhajsky emphasizes the need to go into no-till farming with an optimistic outlook. "You've got to have your mind

made up that it will work, and you need to keep trying, he said. "I had no one around to help me when I first started, and it took pure determination."

"A lot of others tried no-till, but never came back to it. They'd say that it didn't work the first year. But, you've got to keep trying and learning through experience, or it'll fail."

Although some farmers may still be pessimistic about no-till farming, Podhajsky says he has no doubts.

"The only thing I regret is that I didn't start no-till farming a lot sooner," Podhajsky laughs.

TABLE 2. Corn returns per acre over total growing costs. (Reflects all variable and fixed machinery costs, labor, seed, and other costs. Fixed costs spread on 240 tillable acres.)

Item	No-Till	Conventional
Returns	\$148.27	\$113.42
Gallons of fuel	.95	4.73
Hours	.30	1.08
Labor cost	1.50	5.40
Machine cost per acre	30.58	71.53
Machine cost, fixed	32.00	63.00
Number of operations	2	7
Tractor size, H.P.	85	125
Yield, bu. / A.	125	125

TABLE 1. Corn variable (out of pocket) growing costs per acre.

Item	No-Till	Conventional
Seed	\$14.00	\$14.00
Fertilizer	56.00	56.00
Insecticide	6.90	6.90
Herbicide	24.00	14.00
Planter	1.30	1.30
Chopping	—	1.25
Plowing	—	2.90
Discing twice	—	1.70
Cultivating	—	.95
Field Cultivator	—	.78
Hoeing	—	.50
TOTAL	\$102.20	\$100.28

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GARRISON

Soil survey maps to go into computer file

AMES — Steps are being taken by cooperators of the Iowa Soil Survey Program to develop a comprehensive program placing completed soil survey maps on computer file, says Iowa State University extension agronomist Gerald Miller.

The task of coding soil maps onto computer file is being handled by the Land Use Analysis Laboratory in the department of agronomy at Iowa State University.

Miller explains that computer files of soil maps allow soil conservation districts and farmers an opportunity to develop and evaluate alternative crop management plans and cropping sequences, conservation tillage systems, and soil conserving structures. Using current cost estimates, the economics of alternative management plans can be evaluated in terms of net earning capacity, productivity, soil depletion, and environmental degradation.

A recent study was completed by soil scientists and an economist at Iowa State University using soil map data stored on computer file to evaluate a 7,100-acre watershed area.

On-site observation and assessment by local soil conservation district and extension personnel indicated that the cropping sequence of the land was continuous row crop with only a small amount of conservation tillage associated with fields harvested for corn and soybeans. Based on this assessment of cropland use a combination of five alternative cropping sequence and tillage systems were developed for the watershed, reports Miller.

One plan was based on an estimate of cropping sequences and tillage management systems presently used in the watershed. The remaining four plans required increasing kinds and numbers of conservation practices.

Soil losses for each soil unit used for cropland in the watershed were computed for each plan, Miller says. In addition, soil losses were computed for soil units used for woodland and pasture. The computed soil losses were summed over the land use categories for all soil units in the watershed. The average annual soil loss for cropland in the watershed under present conditions was calculated to be over two times the tolerable soil loss limit.

Only two alternative plans reduced the soil loss estimate to acceptable levels, Miller says.

A 160-acre farm unit located within the watershed was also analyzed in the study. The present cropping sequence on the farm was corn-corn-soybeans, with a minimum of conservation tillage practices. The total annual soil loss for the farm under present management was calculated as 14.2 tons per acre. Each of the five alternative tillage management plans reduced the soil loss below 14.2 tons, according to Miller.

An alternative plan was then developed for the farm, which combined conservation management plans. Using

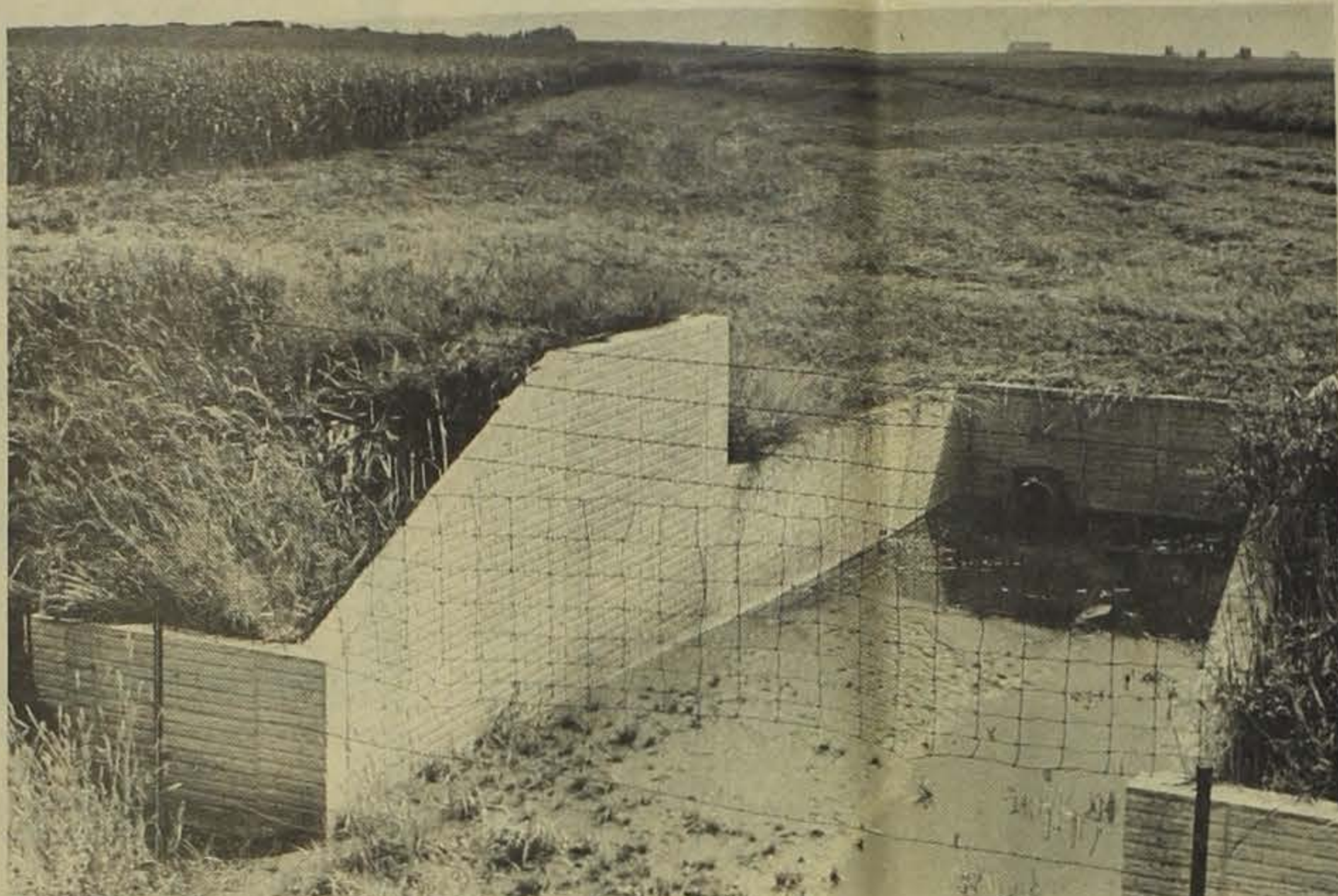
this approach, the average annual soil loss for the farm was calculated as 5.5 tons per acre.

An economic analysis was made of the present plan versus the alternative combination plan. The alternative conservation plan resulted in fewer dollars returned to the land than the present plan. However, offsetting the decrease in direct economic return to land of the conservation plan is the savings of more than 1,400 tons of soil, Miller reports.

The evaluation of different combinations of tillage systems and cropping systems is through the use of the Universal Soil Loss equation. This equation is used by soil scientists to predict potential soil loss. The parameters of the equation are varied

according to the conditions specified by the conservation practices and cropping sequences selected. The advantage of the methods used in the study revolves around the efficiency and speed of the computer in performing rather routine calculations as the variables change, Miller says.

Miller reports that computerized soil maps, knowledge of land use and conservation practices, plus use of the Universal Soil Loss equation, provide a means to evaluate and study potential soil losses under a wide range of conditions.



Structure saves earth in waterway

This waterway, though initially expensive to install, benefits some 520 acres of watershed. And while the creek below the ditch is somewhat deeper than the ditch through the waterway would have been, the advantages of the concrete retaining structure are obvious.

Timesphotos by Steve Exley

New base, low cost terraces coming

AMES — A new type of terrace is being tried in Iowa, with an advantage over other terrace types that is particularly appealing to farmers. It's referred to as a narrow base terrace, and its advantage is its comparatively low price tag.

"Broadbase terraces require considerable earthwork to make both sides of the terrace farmable," says Douglas Seibel, Soil Conservation Service state engineer.

"Earthwork is less with grass backslope terraces because one side of the terrace is left steep. Narrow base terraces are the least expensive because both sides of the terrace are left steep and seeded to grass," Seibel reports.

He estimates that narrow base terraces cost about 40 percent less than grass backslope terraces.

One of the first to build narrow base terraces was Bremer County farmer Neal Smith.

"They're cheaper to build than other terrace types," Smith says. "I'll put in more if they continue to work as well as they do now."

Narrow base terraces have other advantages, according to Seibel. Farmers don't have to farm around the terrace intake, so equipment size isn't a limiting factor. In addition, there's no worry about farm equipment tipping over, because the terrace isn't farmed.

But there are other considerations, Seibel says. Narrow base terraces aren't easily compacted, so there is a greater chance of rain or livestock damaging the terraces before the seeding is firmly established. The narrower base also may mean more susceptibility to rodent damage.

On the other hand, grass backslope terraces have the advantage of flattening out the land and broadbase terraces don't require any seeded slopes.

"There's a place for all three terrace types," says Seibel. "A family must compare construction cost against costs of maintenance and land taken out of production."

According to Seibel, a grass backslope terrace takes about two rows out of production and a narrow base terrace about four rows.



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