

1973

ANNUAL REPORT

**CEDAR COUNTY
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FOREWORD

By Darrell Brown

We are pleased to be able to bring you this Annual Report for 1973. This is made possible only by the advertising placed by these progressive merchants and contractors.

We, as commissioners, feel it is important that the youth be made aware of the great importance of soil and water conservation. By using the money from advertising, we can buy material to put in the classroom, send teachers to camps and workshops, and pay prizes for speech, soil judging, and poster contests. Our plans include much more of this type of promotion. Therefore, it is very important that we have some funds available.

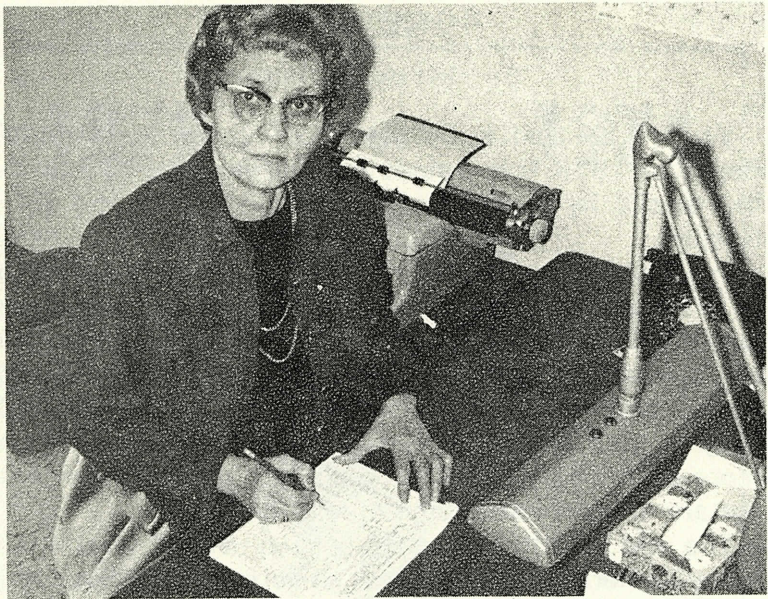
The wet weather last spring delayed field work until many farmers decided to disc or chisel instead of plowing. I am sure many were amazed at how well the crops grew and yielded. Why not use this practice on a more normal year? You will find it works better than when the soil is wet and sticky. You will be amazed at how much less the soil will move when heavy rains occur. If you can keep your soil at home the chemicals you used stay there also.

I know this works. On our farm we have not plowed for eight years and every year the ground is in better condition. Do not listen to the man who says "You will have to plow every two or three years because of the trash build up." He has not tried it.

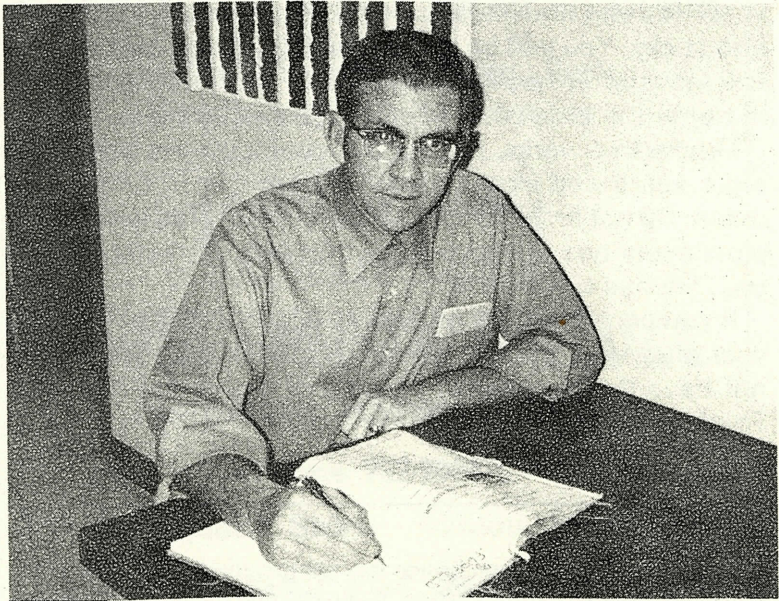
If you can stand idly by and watch your soil wash away year after year and not try new methods then you should not have the privilege of tilling this wonderful Iowa soil. Think about it!

Cover Picture

Cedar County District Commissioners - left to right Willard Eiler, Elmer Wilke, Ken Mather, Darrell Brown, chairman and Bill Davidson, II.



Hilda Carey, district clerk, working on a report.



Ken Muller, Extension Director, also serves as the secretary for the Dis-

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS 1973

January:

Commissioners William Davidson Jr., Kenneth Mather, Willard Eiler and District Conservationist Jeff Anliker attended the Commissioners Short Course in Ames. Subjects covered included: warm-season grasses, land use policy, Iowa drainage laws, and land owners' liabilities. Anliker spoke at the adult farmer classes in Stanwood, Tipton and West Branch about the Conservancy Law, tile-outlet terraces, and conservation tillage.

February:

Election of officers was held: Darrell Brown was elected chairman, Hilda Carey as treasurer, and Ken Muller, secretary. The following committees were appointed: Financial - Willard Eiler; meetings - Elmer Wilke; tours and demonstrations - Ken Mather; education - William Davidson; watersheds - Carl Sagert; programming & legislative - Darrell Brown; annual report & soil stewardship week - Ken Mather and William Davidson; equipment - Elmer Wilke.

Ken Muller, county extension agent, and Jeff Anliker presented a conservation tillage program in Tipton. Over 50 interested people attended.

Clarence Beyer, conservation technician, spoke at a public meeting sponsored by the Board of Health on how soils affect the feasibility of septic tanks and filter fields.

West Branch Watershed Directors met and added Bill Wertzbaugher as the sixth director.

March:

The Cedar County Conservation Education Committee met for locations for outdoor classrooms and plan a teachers' conservation tour in August.

A contractors' meeting was held for tilers and earth movers who do work in Cedar County.

Anliker and Beyer took the Board of Supervisors on a tour of tile outlet terraces.

Resource Inventory and Evaluation was completed on watersheds.

April:

Anliker left for 3 months duty with the Army.

An outdoor classroom packet furnished by the district commissioners was planted at the Springdale School.

Clarence Beyer spoke to the Muscatine Junior College Agriculture class on conservation planning, soil information, and conservation practices.

The Education Committee met to finalize plans for the fall workshop.

Soil Stewardship booklets were distributed to all the churches in the county.

May:

Mrs. Lloyd Thien was selected as Cedar county's outstanding teacher.

The district commissioners and extension sponsored a conservation tillage plot located on William Davidson's farm. Plots included: plow, disk, chisel plow, side winder and various kinds and rates of herbicides.

The Cedar District Speech Contest was held. Kent Lage, Wilton, was the local winner. Bill Seebeck, Bennett, second, and Mark Britcher, Clarence, third.

Beyer showed the Stanwood Voc-Ag class how to lay out contour lines and how they benefit.

Beyer took the Tipton Voc-Ag class on a tour of tile outlet terraces.

June:

Carl Mitzner's farm located in Center township west, was selected as Cedar district's outstanding conservation farm.

Ken Mather, West Liberty, was selected as Cedar district's outstanding district commissioner.

A report on the Cedar River Basin Fish and Wildlife study was completed and reviewed.

Bass were delivered to two farmers in the county.

Howard Bright, soil scientist, reviewed soil information and how soils effect lagoons and filter fields at Rochester.

Conservation tillage plot "twilight" tour was held.

July:

Ken Mather was selected to represent Cedar county for the annual Ken Wagner Award for Iowa's Outstanding Commissioner.

Darrell Brown, Ken Mather, Bill Davidson, Jeff Anliker, wives, and Hilda Carey attended the Regional Commissioners Meeting. Kent Lage placed third in the Regional Speech Contest.

Brown, Beyer, Eiler, Mather, Wilke, and Anliker attended a joint commissioners meeting with Clinton District Commissioners.

Special Commissioners meeting was held to allocate State funds for cost-sharing permanent conservation practices. Four watershed areas were selected to receive the funds.

August:

Jeff Anliker met with the Lowden Town Council and reviewed the progress on the Lowden Watershed Inventory.

Darrell Brown, William Davidson, Ken Mather, and Jeff Anliker attended the West Branch watershed annual meeting. Discussion was on cost-sharing funds, progress made over the past year, and types of priority practices.

September:

Conservation Teachers Workshop and tour was held.

A watershed tour of the Lake Darling watershed in Jefferson county was held for interested persons in the West Branch area. The tour was co-sponsored by the Cedar District Commissioners and Francis Abel, the Voc-Ag instructor from West Branch.

The Cedar annual soil progress and review was attended by district commissioners, soil conservation, Extension, and local governmental personnel. Soil Conservation Service State Watershed party reviewed the Lowden watershed area for possible Federal and State funds for cost-sharing conservation practices.

October:

Tipton won the annual soil judging contest held on the Ray Crock Jr., farm.

Four schools entered with a total of 66 students. Debbie Steffen of Tipton was the high over-all individual.

The cattle feedlot and pollution inventory was reviewed.

The Lowden inventory was reviewed. Public meetings will be held to determine interest in watersheds.

An Inventory and Evaluation was made for the Tipton School District concerning solutions to eliminate water on the football field.

November:

Kent Stout, Lowden, won the Environmental Poster Contest held for 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. Candy Ralston, Tipton, was second. There were 262 entries from the schools in the county. Judges were Ken Muller, Extension; Jerry Bolton, Voc-Ag instructor at Bennett; and Jeff Anliker, Soil Conservation Service. The contest was co-sponsored by the Farm Bureau Environmental Committee and the Cedar county soil conservation district.

Plans were made for the annual meeting and election to be held February 11th.

Letters were written to President Nixon and to Roy Ash, Director of Office of Management and Budget, to urge them to take personnel ceilings off the Soil Conservation Service and to release funds appropriated by Congress for cost-sharing practices.

William Davidson, Jeff Anliker, and Ken Muller attended a Land Use Policy meeting in Iowa City.

Plans for the 1973 annual report were made.

December:

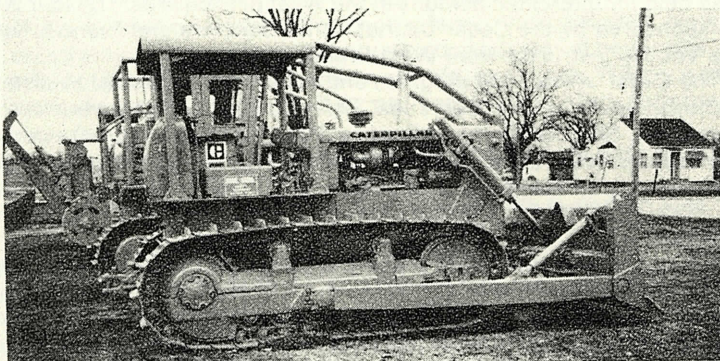
Advertising was sold for the annual report.

District's Long Range Plan was reviewed and approved.

Jeff Anliker, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Brown, and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Thien attended the Regional Register and Tribune Banquet at the Amanas.

The banquet was held to honor Outstanding Teachers and Farmers in the area.

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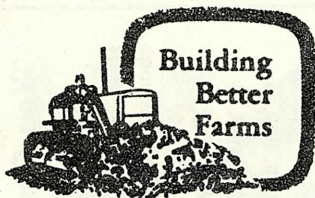


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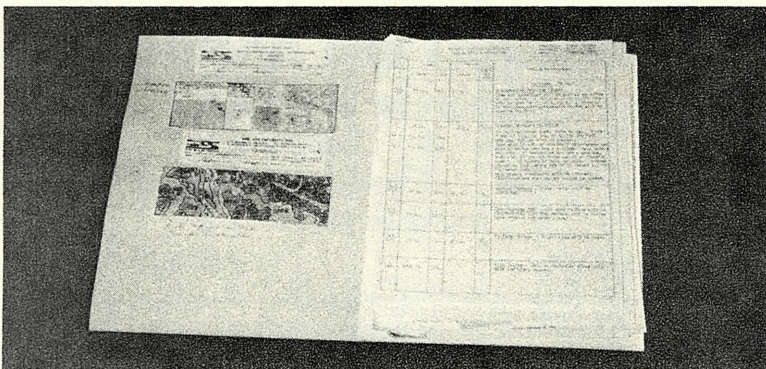


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A conservation plan with the land use map (upper left), the soil map (lower left) and the narrative portion including soil descriptions, land use capabilities, and recommendations.

Conservation Resource Planning

By Jeff Anliker, District Conservationist
USDA, Soil Conservation Service

Everyone is directly or indirectly dependent upon the soil for their very existence and livelihood. To protect us and our future generations, we must take appropriate steps for planning to use each individual piece of land to its fullest potential. This process is called land use planning.

Our resource conservation plan are a portion of total land use planning. In our planning process whether it be for individuals, farmers, groups, cities, or units of government we consider the basic resource - SOIL.

From a particular soil and its characteristics, we can predict its capabilities and limitations for various land uses including: building sites, cropland areas, pond sites, highway locations, septic tanks, recreation, wildlife, timber production, grassland, etc.

Many soils in Cedar county can be used for many uses, but there are soils which are not adapted to building site, ponds, cropland, etc. From the information we have of these soils we can incorporate possible solutions or alternatives for increasing the adaptability of these soils so they can be more suited to the use or desires of the land user.

These decisions and alternatives, with our recommendations, are written in a narrative form and given the land user along with aerial photos and soil maps of the area. Our recommendations are made on the basis of the experience of soil scientist and engineers for over thirty years.

The Soil Conservation Service also assists in the design, application, and maintenance of the different conservation practices we recommend including: terraces, contouring, diversions, waterways, stripcropping, conservation tillage, wildlife, woodland, and recreation



The Muscatine Junior College Agriculture class learning about land capabilities, conservation planning, soil loss equation, economics of conservation practices, and maintenance on the Ron Hougas farm.

management ideas, seeding recommendations and crop rotation systems.

The Soil Conservation Service in Cedar county this year provided planning assistance to 43 individuals covering 8600 acres, three groups, and seven units of government including:

- 1) An inventory, evaluation and plan of action of the need for tile outlet terraces and priority areas was developed for the Cedar county soil conservation district commissioners.

- 2) A watershed inventory, evaluation, and plan of action was prepared for the West Branch Watershed area at the request of the Town of West Branch. A soil resource map was developed, an inventory of the conservation needs, and a plan of action formulated for the development of the watershed.

- 3) An inventory, evaluation, and soil resource map was prepared for the West Branch School District for possible school sites.

- 4) An inventory, evaluation, and plan of action was developed for the Cedar County Soil Conservation District on watershed priorities, potential developments and needs.

- 5) An inventory, evaluation, and plan of action was developed for Cedar County Soil Conservation District on potential feedlot pollution and distance from existing streams.

The Standard Soil Survey now reaching completion should be of great service to developers, real estate people, road builders, planning commissions, local government, individuals, as well as farmers.

SOIL SURVEY

**By Howard Bright, Soil Scientist
USDA, Soil Conservation Service**

After a terrible Fall in 1972, Mother Nature endowed everyone this year with a beautiful Fall that was filled with Indian Summers. We took full advantage of this time and tried to make up for lost time resulting from the Fall of 1972.

We were 20,000 acres short of our goal in July. This meant that we really had to have excellent cooperation from the weather if we were to finish the county before snowfall. Starting in July 1973, we lacked 57,000 acres. With a determination to finish Cedar County before Christmas, we started to whittle down those 57,000 acres. Ed Schermerhorn, Neal Williamson and I worked hard. In November, a new crew member, Bob Didericksen, was borrowed from Central Iowa in hopes that with more man power, we would be able to complete the county.

We were closing in fast when the first snowfall came in December. This brought an abrupt halt to our mapping. We would have completed the soils map of Cedar County this year if we could have had two more weeks of good weather.

We aren't complaining because it was an extremely productive Fall and we made up for lost time. Only a few sections in the northeastern

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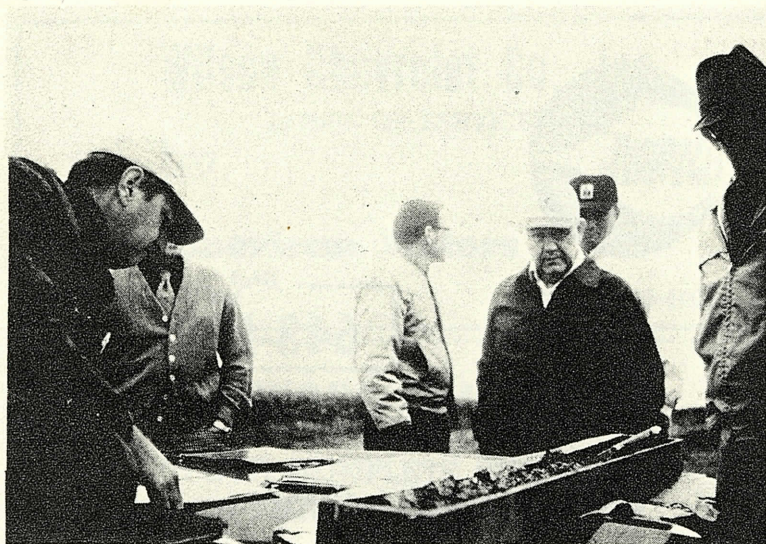
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One of Cedar county's many soil types being reviewed by State and local Soil Conservation staff, Board of Supervisors, Assessor, Extension, and district commissioners. All soils mapped in Cedar county are reviewed annually before they can be published in the Standard Soil Survey.

part of the county remain to be mapped. Most of the acres remaining to be mapped are around Massillon.

Cedar County will be completely soils mapped after the first two weeks of spring weather have passed in April, 1974.

We thank all of you in Cedar County for your friendliness and acceptability. Remember, when you have a question about soils in Cedar County, your Cedar County soils map is a good reference.

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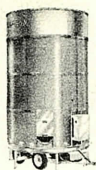
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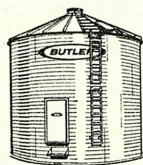
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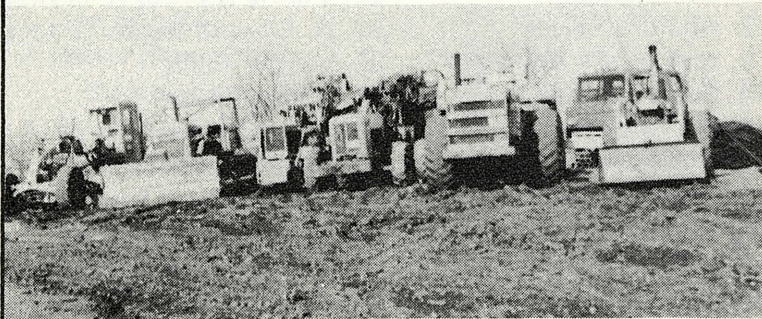


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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jeff Anliker 2. Richard Pelzer 3. Mrs. Mary Hellstern 4. Everett Crees 5. Bernice Hemingway 6. Alfred Fawcett 7. Floyd Fawcett 8. Helen Fawcett 9. Joseph Ruzek 10. Gale Maurer 11. Elmer Petersen 12. John Scott 13. James Fuller &
William Klink 14. Steve Nash 15. Carl Kohrt 16. Harold Horman 17. Wayne Nebergall 18. Phillip Hargrave 19. Robert Kretschmar 20. Melvin Duffe 21. L. Dean Post 22. R. G. Weatherwax 23. Robert Wilkins, Jr. 24. Edward Lee Johnson 25. George Yencsik 26. Hilbert Marolf 27. Greg Tenley | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28. Duane Diercks (2 farms) 30. H. Edward Beatty (2 farms) 32. Wayne Ralfs 33. Robert Glaser 34. Lawrence Licht 35. Robert Jindrich 36. Jim Cahill 37. Clarice York &
Eloise Jaynes 38. Carl Wilson % Hertz
Farm Management 39. Thomas Hoffman 40. Leroy Boettger 41. Kenneth Dunn 42. Brent Kreinbring 43. Herbert Townsend 44. Townsend Farms, Inc. 45. Adolph Miller 46. Allen Keppy 47. Paul Friis 48. Glenn Hoffman 49. Reinking Estate 50. Lean Line Limited,
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- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Carl Mitzner | 23. William Thede |
| 2. Helen Reynolds &
Wayne Kappeler | 24. Wayne Ralfs |
| 3. Piney Knoll Farm
by William Davidson | 25. James Fuller &
William Klink |
| 4. Donald Thompson | 26. Wayne Nebergall |
| 5. Neil Glenney | 27. Hoover National
Historic Site |
| 6. Beth Higbee | 28. Hillhurst Enterprise |
| 7. Millett Brothers | 29. David Litscher |
| 8. Raymond Millett | 30. Jeff Anliker |
| 9. Roscoe Millett | 31. Cedar County Home |
| 10. Howard McClellan | 32. Paul Friis (2 farms) |
| 11. Ruel Wehde | 34. Randall Shaul
(2 farms) |
| 12. Scattergood School | 36. Leroy Albaugh |
| 13. Tipton F.F.A. | 37. Joseph Ruzek |
| 14. Alfred Fawcett | 38. Thomas Hoffman |
| 15. Helen Sterett | 39. Stanley Maurer |
| 16. Robert Albaugh | 40. Ferd Jensen |
| 17. Floyd Fawcett | 41. Kenneth Dunn |
| 18. Herb Hinkhouse (2 farms) | 42. Brent Kreinbring |
| 20. Lawrence Kleppe | 43. Glenn Hoffman |
| 21. Jim Casterline | |
| 22. Oldorf Farms, Inc. | |

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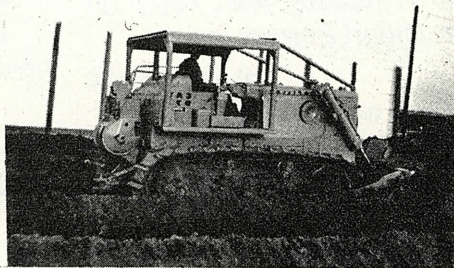
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Flooding covers a considerable part of the creek bottom during the heavy spring rains of 1972. This is west of Tipton.

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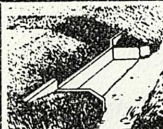
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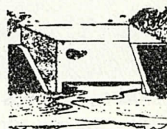
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CEDAR COUNTY ASCS

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Richard J. Pelzer, Vice Chairman
Forest Johnson, Member

County Executive Director:

Donald M. Conrad

Clerks:

Betty E. Morris

Marjean A. Mente

Field Assistant:

Rolland F. Meixner

As we wrote in the 1972 Annual Report, we had lost our ASC Conservation Program and funds for the program. As we write for the 1973 Soil Conservation Annual Report, this program has been reinstated. But at this writing it has not been funded and it appears that the Office of Management and Budget is putting a crimp in the funds for any possible 1974 program. Here again we are optimistic and securely hope the program will be funded, so we can enter into cost sharing conservation work with Cedar County farmers.

The Feed Grain program for 1974, 1975 and 1976 is a program where they are advocating all-out production. With this type of program, we increase the need for soil conservation work. We encourage the farmers of Cedar County to be aware of this and do everything within their power to be conservation minded with our natural resources. Soil being one of the most valuable ones and the farmer being the first steward of this natural resource.

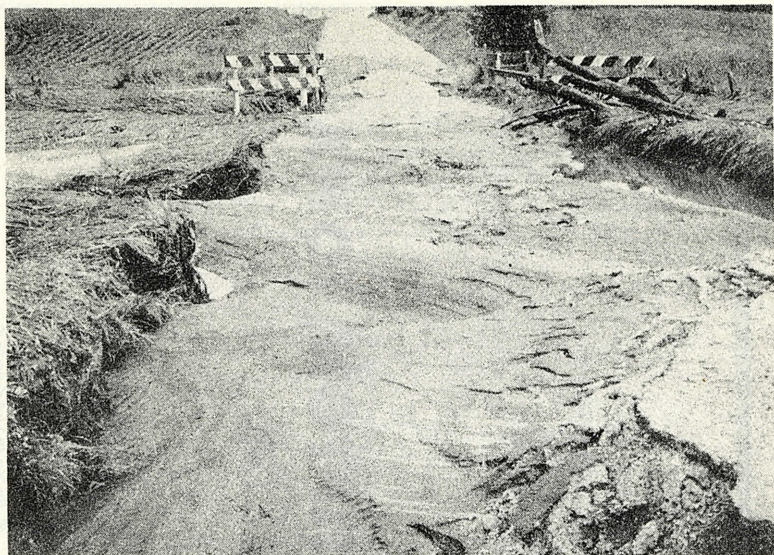
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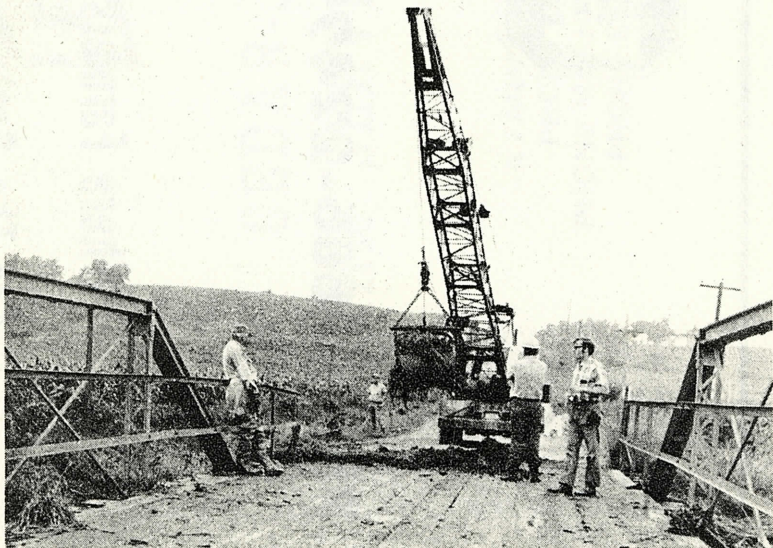


Grow With Us

MECHANICSVILLE, IOWA
MEMBER F.D.I.C.



Water couldn't get under the bridge, so it went over it, washing out a crushed rock road leaving dead elms against the bridge approach. The scene is Baldwin Creek north of Cedar Bluff where the water took a farmer's driveway during the spring flood of 1972.



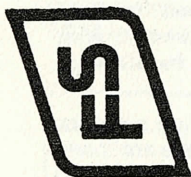
Bridge damaged southwest of Cedar Bluff during the spring flood of 1972. This bridge was one of many that had structural damage and were closed for repairs.



Phone 886-2249

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Farmers Home Administration

Kenneth D. Dunn, County Supervisor
William T. Krahling, Assistant County Supervisor

The Farmers Home Administration assists rural families with obtaining financial assistance if they are unable to obtain this assistance at rates and term they can reasonably be expected to repay.

A three man county committee reviews applications for loans and must certify the eligibility of applicants for loans. The Cedar County Committee members are: Walter Hansen, West Branch, Hugh Doty, Mechanicsville, and Robert Laucamp, Tipton.

Farmers Home Administration makes loans for many needs in rural areas - some of which are described as follows:

Farm Operating Loans: Loans are made to qualified applicants to purchase livestock, machinery, and operating expenses. Debts can be refinanced if collateral is given. There is a \$50,000 maximum of this loan type. Many young men have been "Scratch Starters" with this loan. This is a 7 year loan which enables a farm family to spread out his overhead and get a good start in farming.

Farm Ownership Loans: Loans are made to tenants to become land owners and operators. The applicant must be in a good financial situation to get his loan. These loans are made in conjunction with loans with other long term lenders. The maximum loan is for 40 years with a total real estate indebtedness of \$225,000.

Emergency Loans: These loans are made to a farmer when a natural disaster strikes such as wind, hail, blight and drought. These are made to keep the family on the farm and give him operating credit at a reduced interest rate and suitable terms. A substantial loss must have been suffered to get this type of credit.

Soil & Water Loans: These loans are made to finance soil and water conservation practices such as ponds, dams, erosion control structures, wells and other items consistent with good farming practices.

The Cedar County Office is located in Tipton in the USDA Building. Office hours are each Monday from 8:00 to 5:00.

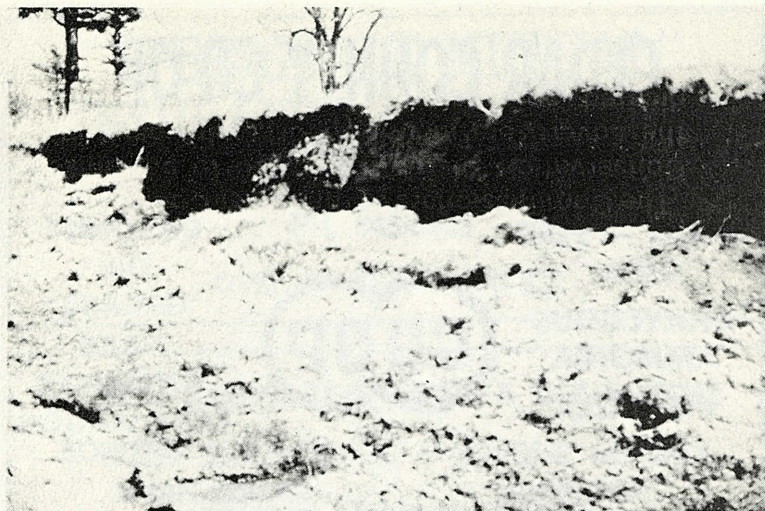
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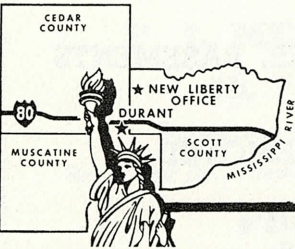
MEMBER F.D.I.C.

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BENNETT, IOWA



Road bank erosion is a serious problem in Cedar county. The district commissioners are providing grass seed to the Board of Supervisors in 1974 for road bank experimental plot to be established near Cedar Bluff.



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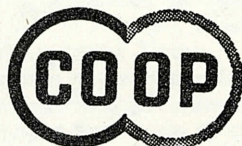
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I-M BUDGET

Commissioner's Expense	\$340.90
Office Supplies.....	64.60
Prizes for Contest	35.58
Meeting Expenses	3.26
Office Expense	350.66
Meeting Halls	5.00
TOTAL	\$800.00

II-M BUDGET

Salary - Clerk	\$5,372.00
State Retirement	188.02
Health Insurance	144.00
Federal Retirement (Social Security)	298.56
Life Insurance	33.69
Travel	42.26
TOTAL	\$6,078.53

The Commissioners of the Cedar County Soil Conservation District urge you to patronize the advertisers in this report, who have indicated an interest in you and your soil conservation effort.

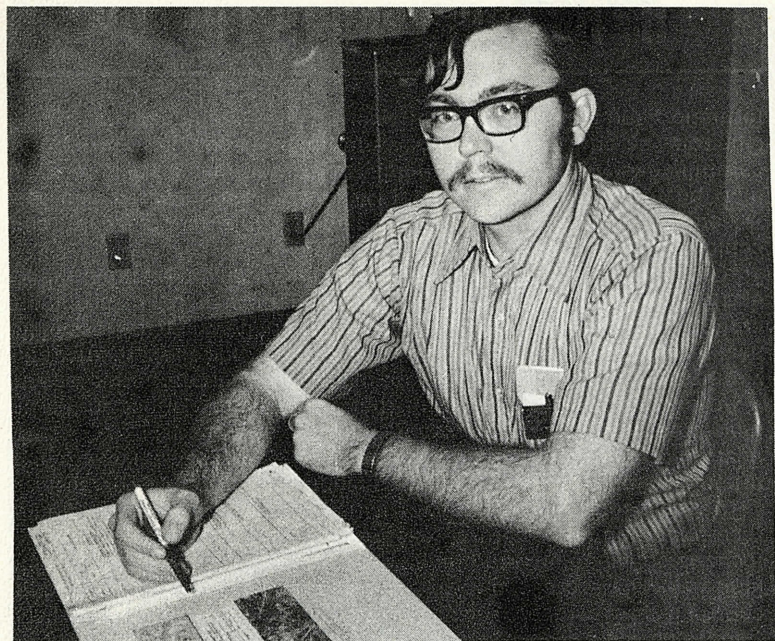
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Jeff Anliker, district conservationist, working on a conservation plan.



Clarence Beyer, soil conservation technician, pointing to one of the soil monoliths on display in District office. There are 82 different soil types in Cedar county.



Richard and Carl Mitzner were selected as Cedar's outstanding conservation farmers in the Register and Tribune Contest.



Mrs. Alberta Thien who was Cedar County's outstanding conservation teacher in an annual contest sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune.

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Kenneth D. Muller
County Extension Director

Environmental crises, energy crises, and other domestic crises have been brought to the forefront this past year.

Citizens, interested groups, public officials are deeply concerned about these issues as expressed through the media, attendance at meetings, questions being raised and discussions in daily conversations. It is felt by some that most of these crises can be traced back to decisions as to how our land is used. Most land-use decisions are being made on the basis of expediency, tradition, short-term economic benefits, contrary to sound land use.

Ideas have life cycles, like many other things. Land-use planning and control is a set of ideas whose time has come again. Intense interest in land-use was expressed in the 1920's and 1930's. Much of today's focus is on urban growth and its effects on agricultural land, wildlife, recreation and other natural resources.

The rapid and continued growth of the nation's population, expanding urban development, proliferating transportation system, large-scale industrial growth, fragmented governmental action and private actions have created what is perceived by many as a land crisis.

An example of the changing situation and man's effect on the environment is to have had all humans in the pre-industrial period take the best tool available to them (crude hammer or ax) and direct them to start cutting trees and continue until they are all cut down on the face of the earth. Man's impact would not have been noticed on the environment. The same proposition today with chain saws would mean that the job could be done in 3-4 days.

Issues involving land-use will be charged with emotion, wealth, conflict, power, and vested interest. We urge you to listen and read carefully everything you can on this subject because it will affect you. Our role, as educators, responsive to public needs, is to provide information and ideas useful in answering land-use questions.

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ACCOMPLISHMENT SUMMARY

The following indicates the accomplishments for the 1973 Fiscal Year and totals to date.

		To Date
Contour Farming	3,229 Acres	62,790 Acres
Strip Cropping	362 Acres	3,937 Acres
Conservation Cropping System	3,691 Acres	101,966 Acres
Minimum Tillage	5,304 Acres	50,385 Acres
Structures & Ponds	2	201
Grassed Waterways	80 Acres	990 Acres
Tile Drainage	285,646 Ft.	5,779,124 Ft.
Detailed Soil Surveys	88,320 Acres	312,203 Acres
Pasture Planting	838 Acres	9,371 Acres
Wildlife Area	294 Acres	1,134 Acres
Land Adequately Treated	7,942 Acres	62,307 Acres
Windbreaks & Tree Planting	10 Acres	213 Acres
Tile Outlet Terrace	18,061 Ft.	23,310 Ft.
Lagoons & Holding Ponds	6	8

"We feel that either directly or indirectly we are influencing the conservation thinking of every citizen in the county. If we continue to do so, our natural resources will be preserved."



Donald Pfeiffer, wildlife biologist, Iowa Conservation Commission, stands among three native grasses found along county roadsides. These grasses which are resistant to herbicides are good for waterways. They are left to right - Indiangrass, Switchgrass, and Big Bluestem.

Wildlife Management Biologist

By Donald Pfeiffer

The specific duties of the Wildlife Management Biologist include wildlife management and habitat improvement on both private and public lands. Surveys of wildlife populations are conducted periodically to monitor the surplus by which hunting and trapping seasons are set.

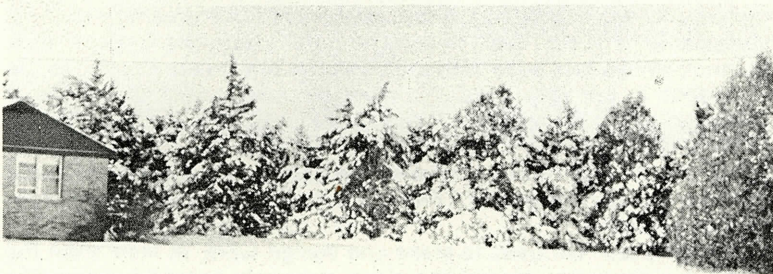
After surveying Cedar County, it is clearly evident that wildlife populations could be increased by encouraging two specific practices; increasing nesting cover and providing adequate winter cover.

A brome grass and alfalfa mixture is the preferred cover type for the nesting of quail, pheasants and rabbits. Even oat stubble with a hay seeding provides nesting cover. As the farming becomes more intensified nesting cover will become the limiting factor on the wildlife of Cedar County.

Winter cover is limiting in only a few areas. This can be improved by planting a few shrubs or trees in such odd areas as along the pasture edge, fence corner, or creekbank. Such cover is necessary during

winter storms and while snow cover persists. An alternative to planting trees is to seed a few acres to grain sorghum or forage. Leave this standing through the winter. This tall growing crop will provide a haven to wildlife during the winter. The seedhead also provides food.

Wildlife provides recreation in many ways whether you enjoy hunting or just watching animals. Through proper regulation and adequate cover they will be available for future generations to enjoy.



Windbreaks in Iowa serve several purposes besides being beautiful. They act as a snow fence, slows down the wind, acts as a noise barrier and serves as nesting sites for birds and wildlife.

DISTRICT FORESTER

By Ed Gardiner

The Forester is an employee of the Iowa Conservation Commission. This District covers six counties, Linn, Jones, Jackson, Johnson, Cedar, and Clinton. The office is in Anamosa, the address is Box 46 and the phone is 319-462-2768.

The primary responsibilities are to work with timberland owners in managing their timber for maximum production, marketing the timberland products and planting trees. The State Forest Nursery at Ames produces trees for reforestation and wildlife plantings. These trees are sold at cost and order blanks can be obtained from the county Soil Conservation office, the County Conservation Officer or the District Forester.

Cedar County has about 24,000 acres of timber land. Last year the Forester worked with 16 land owners in the County involving 786 acres.

Requests for assistance from the Forester can be made through the Soil Conservation District, the ASCS office or directly to the Forester.

TERRACES

By C. L. Beyer, Conservation Technician
USDA Soil Conservation Service

Agriculture is changing at a very rapid rate and will continue to do so. What I remember best about my youth was shocking oats, the threshing rings and riding beside my grandfather on a spring wagon. Today's farm youth will ask, "what is a spring wagon?" Tomorrow's youth might ask, "what was a combine or a row crop tractor?" Our present society is demanding a great deal of our farmers. Until the present time technology has kept pace with our demands but we are starting to see shortages in our resources. We must remember that our topsoil is probably the most important resource we have.

In the last one hundred years we have lost from one-third to one-half of our topsoil. This cannot continue. The Soil Conservation Service and farmers already know that TERRACES are the best method of controlling erosion.

The terraces we used to stake and design were, at least from the farmers view point, spaced too close, unevenly spaced horizontally, causing short or point rows. Farmers felt terraces were spaced so they wouldn't fit equipment; were difficult to farm because of the cross sectioning; were staked one at a time, without planning for future expansion. As a result, farmers became disgusted with their terraces and did not maintain them. We know this last statement to be true because we have staked, designed and built new tile outlet terraces where there had previously been old terraces.

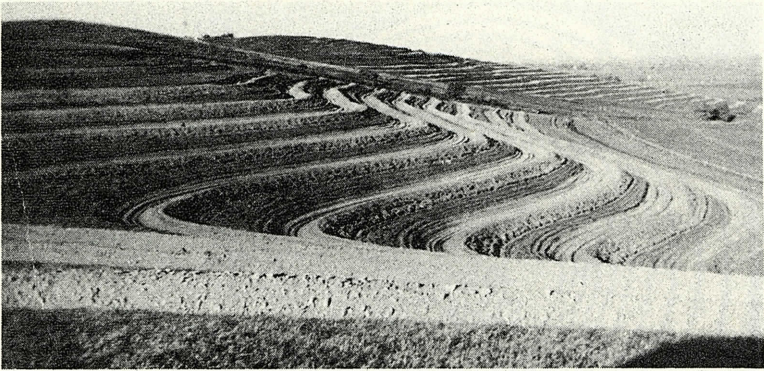
The new type terraces are designed to eliminate all of the above problems except maintenance. We feel farmers will maintain their Tile Outlet Terraces with a minimum of supervision.

Using multiples of 60 feet (i.e., 120', 180' or 240') for spacing, a 15 foot front slope and 15 foot backslope, the terraces can be farmed easily with our modern farm equipment. We stake terrace systems parallel to each other and in most cases parallel with either a road, fence, or on rare occasions, on the contour. This means elimination of excess point rows.

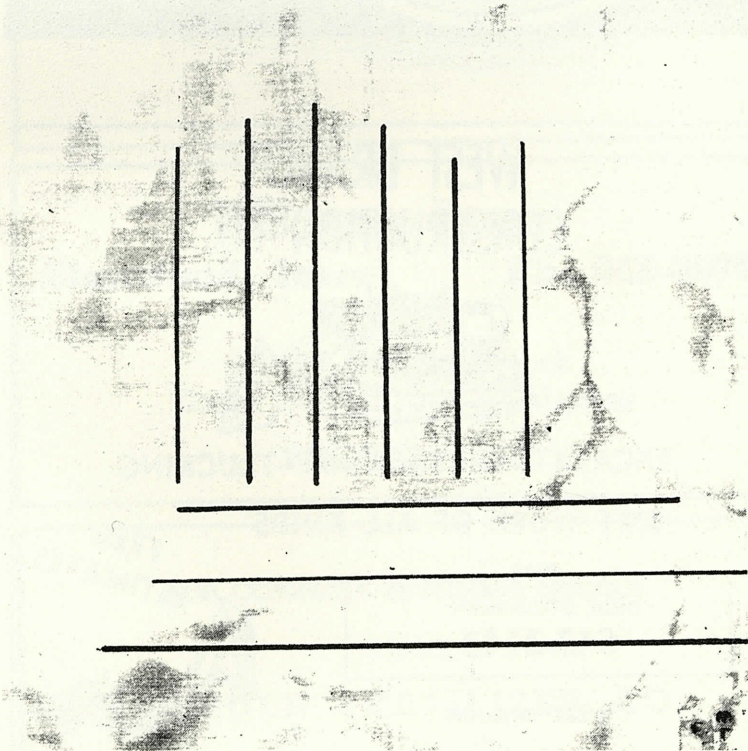
Tile Outlet Terraces are being accepted by Cedar County farmers. In the past three years we have increased from no tile outlet terraces to over 40,000 feet, which are staked out this year. We feel in the next two years we will be staking over 100,000 feet per year.

The State of Iowa feels the need of conserving Iowa's greatest resource. They have agreed to cost share on permanent type erosion control practices. Cedar County's share of these funds were \$17,100 this year and we will have cost share assistance available again next year.

Please feel free to contact Jeff Anliker or myself if you have an erosion problem and feel you need terraces.



The old fashioned terrace system.



Aerial photo of the Modern terrace system designed for Wayne Ralfs' farm south of Bennett.



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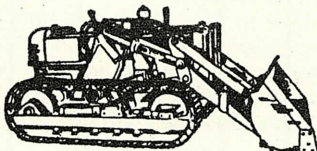
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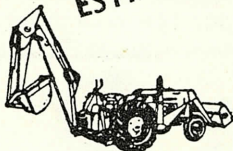
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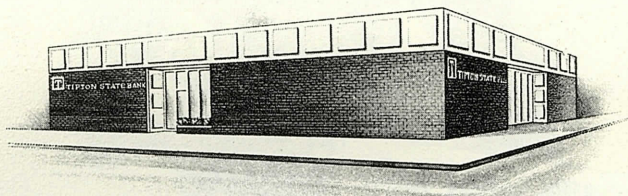


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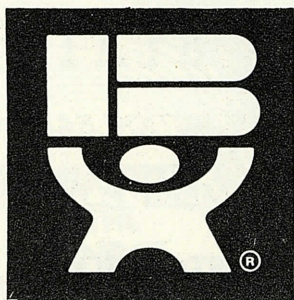
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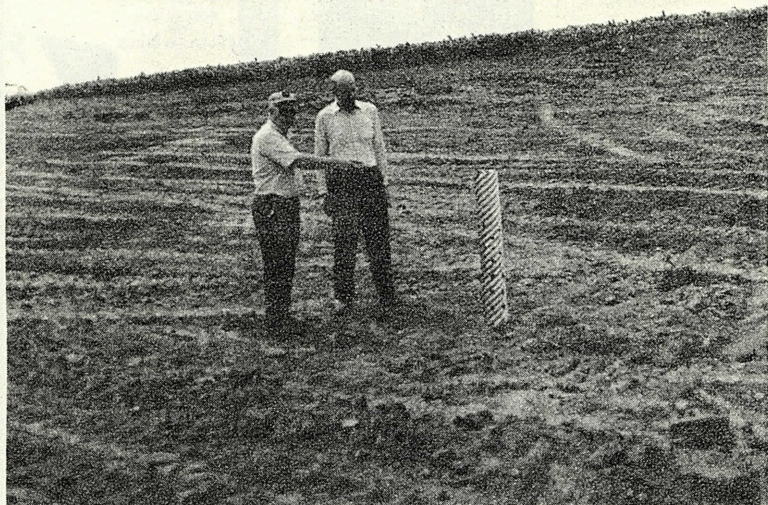
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Ralph Phelps and Clarence Beyer examine a tile inlet on some of the terraces constructed on Mr. Phelps' farm.

STATE COST-SHARE FUNDS

**By Jeff Anliker, District Conservationist
USDA, Soil Conservation Service**

This year Cedar County's allocation of \$17,100 was allotted to 9 tile outlet terrace projects. This cost-sharing will build over 43,000 feet of terraces. These terraces will reduce the amount of soil loss from the range of 10-40 tons per acre per year to less than 1 ton per acre per year.

This is the first time the State of Iowa has made available money for the cost-sharing of permanent soil and water conservation practices. The Iowa General Assembly, who is interested in protecting Iowa's number one resource, stated that not more than 50 percent of the actual cost of installing conservation practices could be paid from these funds.

Practices installed in the cost-share program must adequately control erosion, must be properly planned and installed as a condition to payment. Because of the small amount of funds given to Cedar county, the District Commissioners, who are in charge of such funds, placed priorities on tile outlet terraces and certain watersheds.

July 1, 1974, additional funds will be available.



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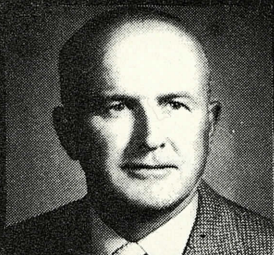
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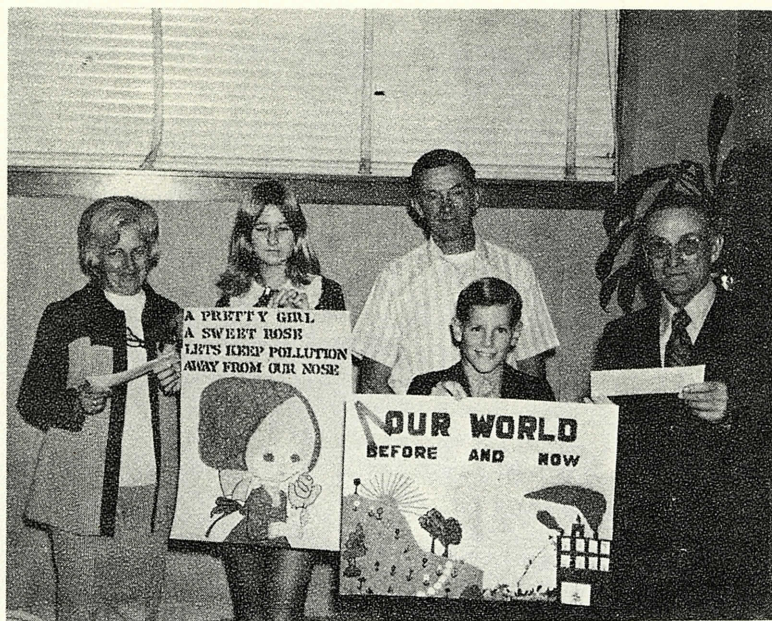
Clarence Beyer examining an inlet on a tile outlet terrace system during construction.

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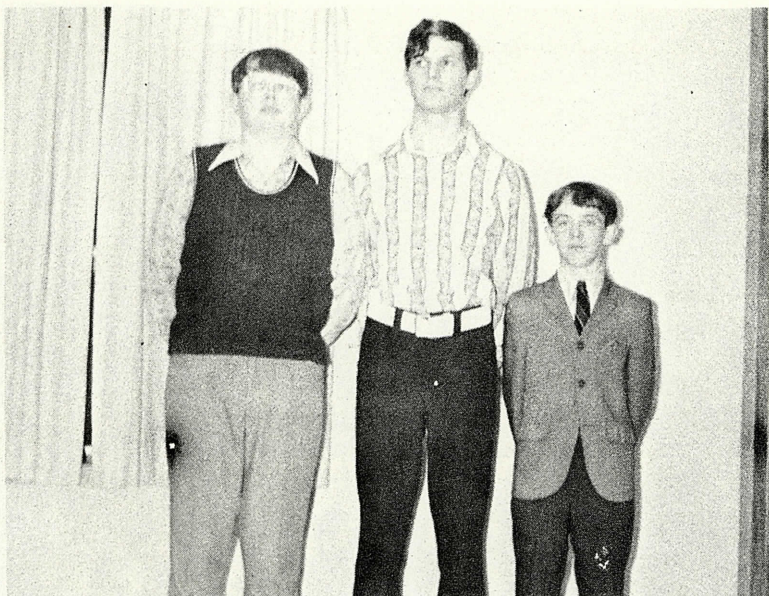


The county winner of the environmental poster contest was Kent Stout, Lowden, and Candy Ralston, Tipton, second. The contest was sponsored by the District and the Farm Bureau Environmental Committee. There were over 260 entries from the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. Left to right Mrs. Melvin Lehrman, Environmental Committee; Candy Ralston, Kent Stout, Darrell Brown, District Commissioner, and Raymond Millett, Environmental Committee.

Cedar County Environmental Education Committee

By William Davidson II, Chairman

Education is where it all begins. We, as commissioners, feel education is one of our most important jobs. We need to learn how to take care of the soil and the resources we have in Cedar County. Mother nature takes a long time to correct the mistakes we make. In some cases



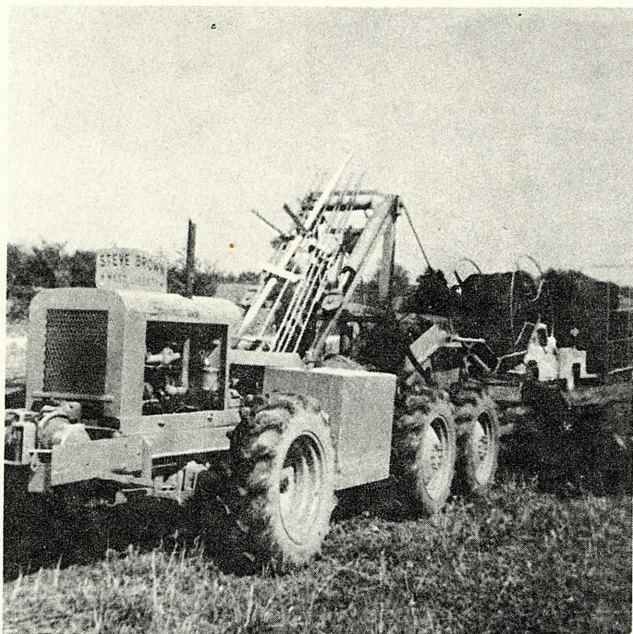
Winners in the Cedar Soil Conservation Speech Contest, left to right - Kent Lage, Wilton, first; Bill Seebeck, Bennett, second; and Mark Britcher, Clarence, third. Kent received third place in the Regional Speech Contest.

it is already too late. But through education we can prevent these mistakes before they happen again.

Some of the programs the education committee are active in include:

1. Promoting outdoor classrooms at different grade schools. This consists of different trees, shrubs, and grasses planted in plots for students to study and watch grow.
2. Hold a local conservation speech contest every year for 7-12th grades.
3. Select an outstanding teacher for the Des Moines Register and Tribune Contest held in May. These are teachers that are active in teaching and promoting conservation in their schools.
4. Promote and sponsor teacher education programs in the county.
5. Hold an annual soils judging contest for high school students.
6. Promote a conservation poster contest for elementary students.
7. Select and sponsor teachers to attend a conservation workshop in the Fall and to a conservation camp for graduate credit in the summer.

We commissioners are active in education. We hope the people in Cedar County will also be active and give support to our programs.



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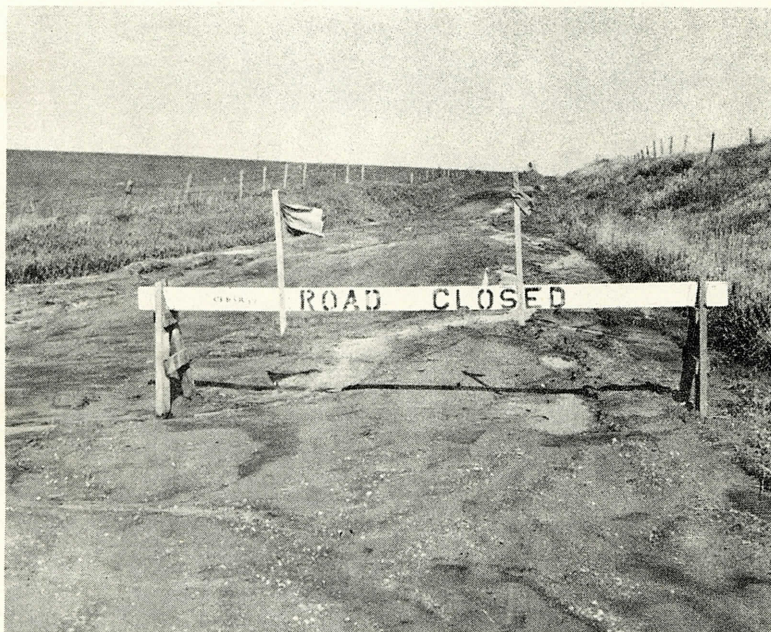
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One of the many roads closed in Cedar county due to floods and sedimentation in the spring of 1973.