

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1960

of the

Cherokee County

Soil

Conservation

District

Cherokee County, Iowa

BY YOUR COMMISSIONERS:

Vere Corrington

J. F. Ralston

Arthur Dorr

Introduction

Water, 28½ inches of it on the average, falls on your farm every year. It is your most important single resource. It is the determining factor in the abundance of your harvest. It can transform a farm into a picture of beauty with lush grass, tall corn, red clover dense with bloom. Water can also transform a farm into a picture of defeat, with a panorama of raw gullies and barren hillsides.

How well are you managing your water? Is it giving you a maximum return with a minimum of damage? Do you hold and use every inch possible and turn the surplus over to your neighbor below in an orderly fashion? Or, do you let "nature take its course", using the water that happens to stay on your land and letting the rest race uncontrolled down your slopes and onto your neighbor?

If you are the average Cherokee farmer, you are operating 220 acres of land. In an average year 170 million gallons of water will fall on that land. Unless you put forth extra effort to slow it down and give it more opportunity to enter the soil, 34 million gallons of this water will run off, over your land and onto your neighbors. This is a tremendous force and it needs the combined efforts of you and your neighbors if it is to be effectively harnessed.

The natural unit of water management is the watershed. A watershed is any area of land that drains into a particular stream or body of water. It is within these watershed boundaries that runoff must be controlled to prevent floods, reduce soil movement and sedimentation, provide storage to hold water and to drain excess water from farm lands.

The Little Sioux Flood Control Program provides Cherokee District farmers with a wonderful opportunity for unified action in watershed development.

District Cooperators

There are now 742 farms listed as cooperating with the District in applying conservation practices on their farms. 646 of these have complete conservation plans.

Since 1945, 138 district cooperators have sold their land; new owners have been encouraged to become district cooperators. During 1960, a special effort was made to visit with purchasers of all farms whose previous owners had been cooperators. To date, 116 of the 138 have become cooperators (40 of them during 1960). Follow-up will be made in 1961 to bring this up to date.

DISTRICT COOPERATORS 12-31-60

MARCUS	LIBERTY	CEDAR	SPRING
13	39	24	32
AMHERST	SHERIDAN	CHEROKEE	AFTON
47	33	42	33
TILDEN	ROCK	PILOT	PITCHER
55	69	65	51
GR. MEADOW	WILLOW	SILVER	DIAMOND
66	70	64	39

Cherokee's District Commissioners

Vere Corrington of Cherokee, J. F. Ralston of Washta and Arthur Dorr of Marcus served as commissioners during 1960. Vere Corrington was re-elected to a six year term on June 16, 1960; he was also re-elected chairman by his fellow commissioners and the District's representative on The Little Sioux Works Committee.

Following are some of the activities participated in by your commissioners during 1960:

- February 2, 1960 Regular commissioners meeting at Cherokee.
- February 11, 1960 Little Sioux Works Committee meeting at Cherokee.
- March 1, 1960 Regular commissioners meeting at Cherokee.
- March 15, 1960 Waterman-Spring Watershed meeting at Sutherland.
- March 17, 1960 Pilot Rock Watershed meeting at Cherokee.
- March 24, 1960 Meeting with O'Brien Commissioners at Primghar.
- March 31, 1960 Waterman-Spring Watershed meeting at Sutherland.
- April 8, 1960 Soil Stewardship Week material mailed to all Cherokee District churches.
- May 5, 1960 Regular commissioners meeting at Cherokee.
- May 20, 1960 Inspection of all completed sub-watersheds in Cherokee District.
- June 8, 1960 Special commissioners meeting at Cherokee.
- June 14, 1960 Watershed meeting at Primghar.
- June 16, 1960 Election of District Commissioner.
- June 27, 1960 Regular commissioners meeting at Cherokee.
- July 25, 1960 Regional meeting of commissioners at Primghar.
- July 26, 1960 Regular commissioners meeting at Cherokee.
- August 4, 1960 to August 6, 1960 Commissioners staffed Soil Conservation booth at Cherokee County Fair.
- August 15, 1960 Queen of Furrow Contest at Primghar. Judy DeWitt of Washta represented the Cherokee District.

- August 30, 1960 Regular commissioners meeting at Cherokee.
- September 2, 1960 Commissioner Corrington judged at the Buena Vista plowing match. Other judges were Cliff Chapman, ASC Office Manager at Cherokee and Harvey Lindberg of Cherokee.
- October 14, 1960 Sub-committee of the Little Sioux Works Committee inspected Pilot Rock Watershed.
- October 25, 1960 Regular commissioners meeting at Cherokee.
- November 9, 1960 Little Sioux Works Committee meeting at Sioux City.
- November 9, 1960 Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture Awards Dinner at Sioux City.
- November 29, 1960 Regular commissioners meeting at Cherokee.

Soil Conservation Service

The technical staff, supplied to the Cherokee District by the Soil Conservation Service during 1960, consisted of the following:

Work Unit Conservationist	Harvey R. Lindberg
Soil Conservationist	Harold S. Boehmer
Conservation Aid	Glen Craft
Conservation Aid	Monas Nixon

Additional technical assistance was made available, by Area Conservationist George Lamp of the Soil Conservation Service (at Sioux City, Iowa). Most of the special technical assistance received from this source during 1960 was in the fields of soils and engineering.

We, as commissioners, wish to express our appreciation to the Soil Conservation Service staff members whose fine cooperation and efforts are making the District's goals on "on the land" accomplishments.



New Terraces on Nelson Bros. Farm near Meriden

Work Together And The Job Gets Done

In the south part of Rock Township, between sections 32 and 33, there now is one hundred rods of new county road. A road across a deep ravine that has incorporated in its design a gully control and flood detention structure and two stock watering systems.

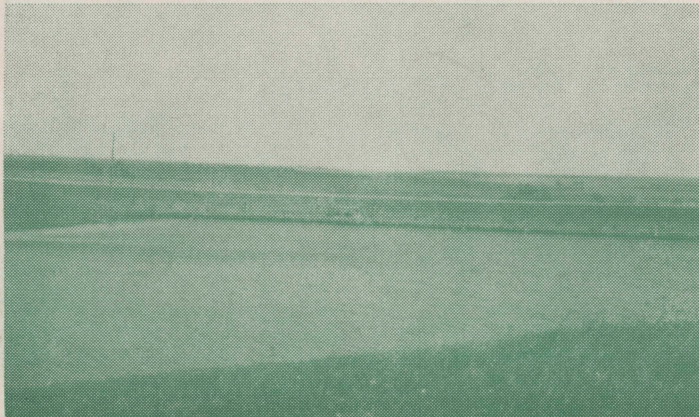
It is the result of a cooperative effort involving Cherokee County (through its Board of Supervisors), landowners Axel Klingborg, Oscar Klingborg, Donald Smith, Leland Smith, the Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Conservation Program service and the District.

An erosion control dam was designed (by Soil Conservation Service engineers and approved by County Engineer William Bennett) whose center line is the center line of the county road right of way. After this structure was installed, Cherokee County constructed the road (using the top of the dam as the roadway across the deep ravine).

The landowners assumed part of the cost of this structure (receiving ACP cost sharing on their part). Cherokee County made up the balance.

To sum it up, one structure serves as a road, provides gully control plus 85 acre feet of temporary flood storage and creates a 4 acre lake (on the Smith Bros. land). In addition, both the Klingborgs and Smiths installed stock watering systems using the lake as the source of water supply.

The District wishes, at this time, to express its appreciation to Supervisors Harvey Miller, Troy Mummert, Albert Peterson, Francis Coburn, Walter Radke and County Engineer William Bennett for their interest in soil and water conservation as evidenced by this project and other smaller installations.



Summary of 1960 Conservation Accomplishments

59	new district cooperators
50	basic conservation plans completed
19	conservation plans revised and brought up to date
5,223	acres of new contouring established
2,497	acres re-established on the contour
10,756	rods of contour field divisions laid out
3,905	rods of headlands seeded
150	rods of multiflora rose hedge planted
4	acres of wildlife areas planted to trees and shrubs
0.6	miles of open drainage ditch (involved moving of 3,338 cu. yds. of earth)
85,953	lineal feet of tile drains surveyed and checked
23.5	miles of terraces constructed (parallel graded and level)
6.1	miles of waterways shaped and seeded (moved 41,268 cu. yds. of earth in shaping the ditches)
14	erosion control structures installed (these structures involved moving of 56,869 cu. yds. of earth, pouring 27.5 cu. yds. of concrete and laying 492 foot of 12 inch, 164 foot of 18 inch and 120 foot of 21 inch treated corrugated metal pipe plus fittings)
8	of the dams form ponds large enough and deep enough to support fish
6	of the dams had stock watering systems installed at the time of construction
5,210	acres soil mapped during 1960
444	farmers received assistance during 1960



Starting a waterway on Lloyd Darling Farm near Meriden

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Program of the United States Department of Agriculture

This program is administered, in Cherokee County, by a committee consisting of Louis Bengtson, Harold Clark and Bryan Campbell. Clifford Chapman is the office manager.

The interest these men have in soil and water conservation was amply demonstrated, in 1960, by office manager Cliff Chapman. His farm, operated by Clarence Peterson, was one of the nine regional award winners (landlord-tenant class) in the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune.

During 1960, the County ASC Committee approved 253 requests for cost sharing assistance covering practices for which the Soil Conservation Service has the technical responsibility. The requests approved are itemized as follows:

- a. 42 for terraces with 32 completed
- b. 25 for erosion control structures with 20 completed
- c. 79 for tile drainage with 7 completed
- d. 9 for open ditch drainage with 7 completed or substantially under way
- e. 4 for tree planting with 3 completed
- f. 44 for waterway construction with 23 completed or substantially under way
- g. 49 for waterway seeding
- h. 1 for woodland improvement with none completed



Completed waterway on Verna McKinney land near Cleghorn

General Educational Activities

- 1-25-60 Glen Craft showed conservation slides at Afton 4-H Meeting.
- 2-14-60 "America the Beautiful" exhibit at Sanford Museum. This exhibit which consisted of professional color photos (one for each state in the union) of conservation activities typical of the state shown was supplied by the Soil Conservation Service and arranged by Museum Director W. D. Frankforter.
- 2-19-60 Radio broadcast by County Extension Director Forrest Kohrt and Harvey Lindberg. Subject was exhibit at Sanford Museum.
- 3-31-60 Soil Conservation Service supplied material for conservation exhibit at Grand Meadow High School Science Fair. Exhibit arranged and set up by Grand Meadow students.
- 4-25-60 Radio broadcast on cut and fill terraces by County Extension Director Forrest Kohrt and Glen Craft.
- 6-8-60 The Garden Club exhibit at the Sanford Museum included a conservation exhibit with material furnished by the Soil Conservation Service.
- 6-19-60 Soil Conservation Week -- Extension Director Forrest Kohrt had three radio programs on soil and water conservation.
- 6-25-60 Cherokee Daily Times and Courier had several timely articles.
- 7-19-60 Soil Conservation Service technician guided 4-H Club tour of Robeson Watershed.
- 7-23-60 Boy Scout Jamboree at Cherokee. A soil and water conservation exhibit was set up and manned by Soil Conservation Service technicians.
- 8- 4-60 Soil and water conservation exhibit at Cherokee County
- 8- 6-60 Fair supplied by the Soil Conservation Service.
- to
- 10-14-60 Harold Boehmer showed conservation slides to Aurelia Ladies Club.
- 11-15-60 Harvey Lindberg showed conservation slides to Grand Meadow Ladies Club.
- 11-60 Forrest Kohrt presented program on water conservation at Quimby Garden Club meeting. Gerald Conley, Vocational Agriculture Instructor at Aurelia, has included a conservation farm planning unit in his agriculture class. Planning and capability maps, plus supplementary information of a specific farm were furnished by the Soil Conservation Service.

Little Sioux Flood Control Program

The Waterman-Spring sub-watershed which has an area of 2,680 acres, has been awarded a construction priority by the Little Sioux Works Committee. The lower portion of this watershed is located in Spring Township of Cherokee County with the upper portion in O'Brien County. It is being jointly sponsored by the O'Brien and Cherokee Districts. Easements and maintenance agreements are now being secured and it is anticipated that construction will start in the spring of 1961.

The Pilot Rock sub-watershed, which is located in Pilot Township of Cherokee County has been granted a work plan priority by the Little Sioux Works Committee. This watershed has a total area of 2,370 acres and includes all or part of eighteen farms. It is anticipated that detailed surveys will be completed in 1961 and final recommendations for control measures submitted to the landowners for their acceptance.

Six small watersheds have already been completed in the Cherokee District. Control measures installed in these six watersheds include:

- a. 14 flood detention dams with a total flood storage of 1,304 acre feet
- b. 15 gully control structures (6 drop inlets, 2 concrete chutes, 7 drop spillways)
- c. 11.2 acres of grassed waterways
- d. 5.1 mile of channel improvement
- e. 1 mile of diversion

+

Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture

Sponsored by

Sioux City Journal-Tribune and Sioux City Chamber of Commerce

Arthur Nothwehr of Peterson, John Zimmer of Cherokee, and Clyde Petty of Cherokee (who operates the A. W. Krause farm) were selected by the commissioners to represent the Cherokee District in this year's program. Ott Jensen of Meriden received the Cherokee District award for most progress in conservation during the past year. All of these men were awarded certificates of merit at the banquet held at Sioux City's auditorium in November.

Wildlife Conservation

Most of our soil and water conservation practices have a secondary benefit in that they improve wildlife habitat. Erosion control dams are an excellent example: many of them form ponds that are suitable for fish production.

Of the erosion control and flood detention dams constructed in the Cherokee District to date, 38 impound enough water to support fish (eight of these were constructed in 1960). The ponds formed by these 38 dams range in size from $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres. 17 of these have been stocked with fish through cooperative agreement with the State Conservation Commission. 2 have been stocked with fish from commercial nurseries. Indications are that 10 landowners will make application to the State Conservation Commission for stocking in 1961.

Frank Starr, Conservation Officer, for Cherokee and Buena Vista Counties, has always been happy to discuss fish stocking with landowners and to assist them with applications for stocking. His fine work has contributed much to the wildlife program in the Cherokee District.

+

Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program

Sponsored by

Des Moines Register and Tribune

Cherokee District representatives in this year's program were: Wilbur Plagman of Paullina in the owner-operator division; Loren Schuett, Holstein, in the division for most progress in past year; and Clifford Chapman and Clarence Peterson, Cherokee, in the landlord-tenant division.

Clifford Chapman and Clarence Peterson were judged regional winners in their class (Region 1 consisted of 11 northwest Iowa Counties.) Cliff Chapman attended the awards dinner at Davenport, Iowa on September 20, 1960, (annual meeting of Iowa Association of District Commissioners).

State Soil Conservation Committee

Funds are provided by the General Assembly of Iowa to assist soil conservation districts in their local programs. These funds are allotted to districts by the State Soil Conservation Committee on the basis of needs (as evidenced by budgets submitted by the district commissioners).

State funds allotted to the Cherokee District were expended as follows in 1960:

Commissioners expenses (mileage and meals)	\$ 79.38
Office Supplies	38.67
Printing Annual Report	93.75
Office Expense	47.25
Booth Rental for Cherokee County Fair	15.00
	<u>\$274.05</u>
Clerical help employed by District (includes district's share of social security and state retirement)	<u>\$3152.42</u>
Total State Funds Expended	<u>\$3426.47</u>

It was reported that 1,249 people stopped at the office during 1960 to make appointments ,obtain information or confer with technicians. A total of 621 telephone calls were also handled through the local District's office.

Report of the Treasurer

L. C. Bengtson -- Cherokee, Iowa

Cherokee County Soil Conservation District

December 31, 1960

GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1960	\$217.86	\$
Received from State Soil Conservation Committee	100.92	
Postage		34.80
Office Supplies		5.88
Bond for Treasurer		25.00
Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners Dues		50.00
National Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners Dues		35.00
Booth rental for Cherokee County Fair		15.00
Queen of the Furrow Contest expense		10.00
Office expense		22.25
Stewardship Week Material		8.00
	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>\$318.78 \$205.93</u>
Balance on Hand December 31, 1960		<u>112.85</u>
	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>\$318.78 \$318.78</u>

MAINTENANCE FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1960\$11,985.95 \$

Watershed Maintenance payments received in 1960:

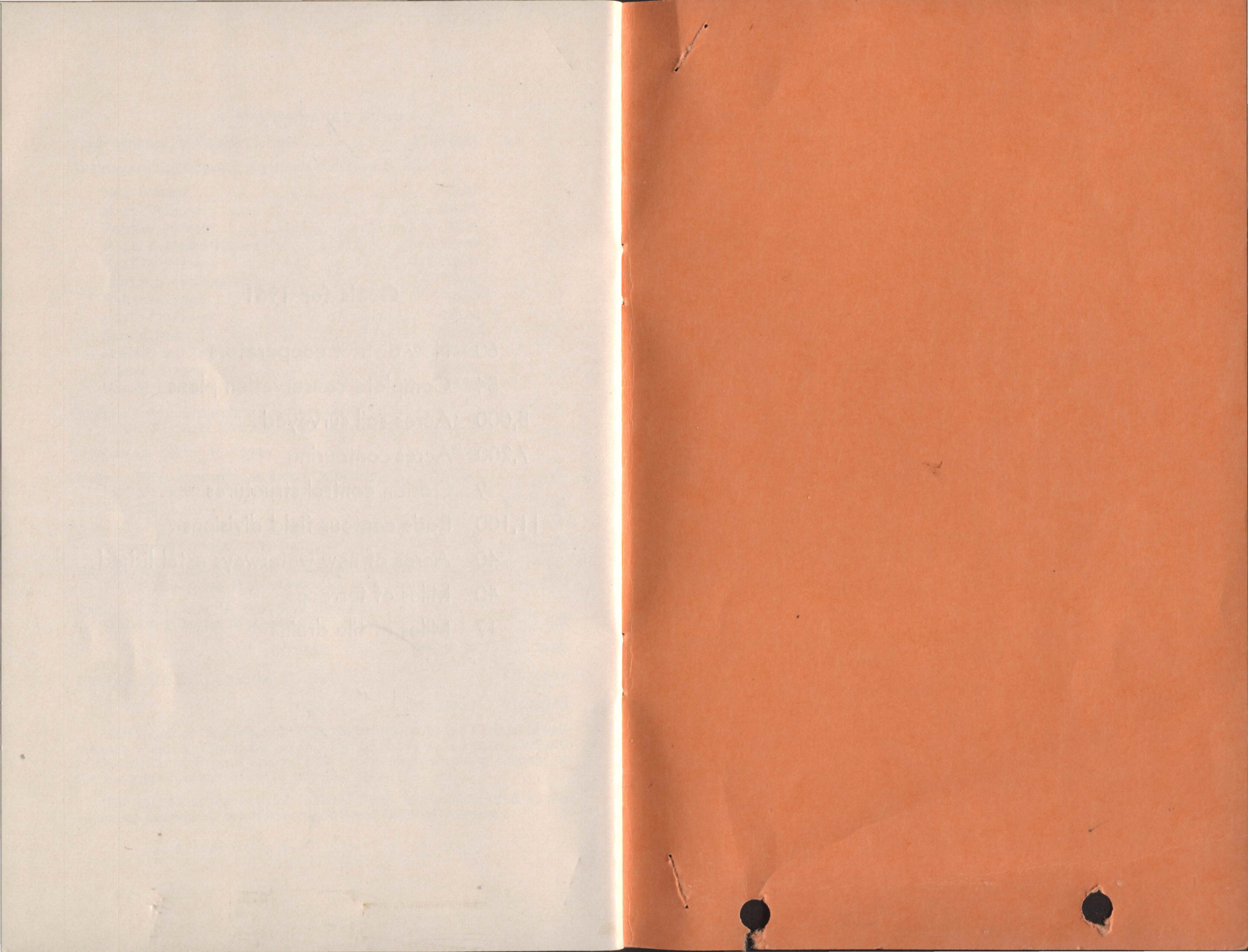
Neil Warner	45.00	
Mary Vollmar	121.33	
Forrest Spencer	30.34	
P. M. Peterson Estate	90.00	
F. O. Mortenson	210.00	
Clarence Pennington	70.00	
Ralph Robeson	65.00	
Doyle Simonsen	150.00	
James Fee	45.00	
Donald and Leland Smith	125.00	
Adolph Tigges	150.00	
Harold Clark	70.00	
Interest on funds deposited on time certificates at the Farmers National Bank in Aurelia ..	316.35	
Interest on Series H Bonds	16.00	
Paid to First Abstract and Loan Company for title searches in Waterman-Spring Watershed		\$ 30.00
Paid to R. E. Simonsen for easement rights in Waterman-Spring Watershed	1.00	
Paid to Mrs. Ruth Nelson for easement rights in Waterman-Spring Watershed	1.00	
Paid to E. E. Beck for easement rights in Waterman-Spring Watershed	1.00	
TOTALS	\$13,489.97	\$ 33.00
Balance on Hand December 31, 1960		\$13,456.97
TOTALS	\$13,489.97	\$13,489.97

NOTE: As of December 31, 1960, the \$13,456.97 in the District Maintenance Fund is disposed of as follows: \$2,000.00 in H Bonds, \$9270.00 in Certificate of Deposit and \$2186.97 deposited in checking account at the Farmers National Bank in Aurelia, Iowa.

The \$112.85 in the District General Fund is also deposited in the checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia.

Goals for 1961

60	New district cooperators
54	Complete conservation plans
5,000	Acres soil surveyed
7,200	Acres contouring
9	Erosion control structures
11,100	Rods contour field divisions
40	Acres of new waterways established
40	Miles of terraces
17	Miles of tile drains



Cherokee Times Print