

SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT FROM 1944 UNTIL JULY 1, 1963

The first official meeting of the Davis County Soil Commissioners was held September 9, 1944. The first commissioners chosen to represent the district were P. W. Spilman, Chairman and Fred Melvin and Dale Blackwell, Secretary and Treasurer.

Since that time the district has developed into a well organized, progressive district. Fred Melvin served as a commissioner until his death, May 3, 1951. At that time Harold Baughman was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Melvin. Harold Baughman is still serving as a commissioner in 1963. Pearl Spilman retired as commissioner in September 1958 and Clay Barnett was elected to serve and is serving at the present time as Chairman of the board. Dale Blackwell retired as a commissioner in September 1962 but still remains treasurer of the district. Sam Botts, Jr. was elected in 1962 to serve a 6 year term which he is doing at the present time.

Through the years since organization of the district we have had 3 men serve as ~~Work District~~ Conservationist's. They were Leland McCord who served from April 1945 until June 1954 when he resigned to take a position in foreign work. Clay C. Barnett replaced Mr. McCord in October 1954 and served this district until he retired from the Soil Conservation Service in October 1958. Verle M. Arnold came to this district in November 1958 and is serving at the present time.

Through the years there have been a number of office clerks hired for our district office. They are as follows:

- Myrtle Sheumaker (Part-time November 1949 until April 1950)
- Shirley Archer (Part-time April 1950 until 1951)
- Rowena McMains (July 1951 until Sept 1951)
- Mrs. Virginia Pinnell (Oct. 1951 until February 1952)
- Donna Dunlavy (February 1952 until May 1952)
- Elaine Bowling (May 1952 until February 1953)
- Joan Huffman (March 1953 until May 1953)
- Shirley Lorton (July 1, 1953 and resigned as Mrs. Shirley Gandy July 31, 1954)
- Loretta Jarvis (August 2, 1954 and resigned as Mrs. Loretta Augspurger April 1, 1963)
- Christine Botts (April 8, 1963 until present time)

The first Annual Meeting was held November 29, 1951 and each year since then an annual meeting has been held. The first contour plowing contest was held in this county September 22, 1947 on the Leslie Bates farm. Our district joined the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation Districts first in November 1947. Contouring demonstrations were held on the Charles Mathews farm operated by Ed Johnson on March 22, 1948. ~~In January 1950 the commissioners voted to join the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce and still hold membership in that organization.~~

As the work load became greater in our district more help was needed to help in the layout work. Since the beginning of the district the following men have served as technical aids:

Dwight Keeler <i>Joel Chamberlain</i>	Burdette Stamps -
Jack Chamberlain -	Harvey Clover -
Charles Gandy	George Smith
Lester Veatch	Eugene Francis -
LaVerne Weillbrenner -	Larry Harper -
Teddy Dixon - <i>Thinner</i>	

At the present time Eugene *Thinner* is working full time as Conservation Aid and Teddy Dixon is working as part-time conservation aid.

In the spring of 1954 the District Commissioners voted to sponsor scholarships for teachers to attend Conservation Camp at Spring Brook Park. The following teachers have been given these scholarships through the years until the present time:

Glenice McCullough -	Edith Gibson -
Dortha Pearl Evans -	Mrs. Icil Parks -
Mrs. ^(Walter) A. H. Glasgow -	Keith Lagle
Mrs. Davis Hughes	Mrs Don Davis

Since 1956 a "Queen of the Furrow" (later changed to "Queen of Conservation") has been chosen each year in Davis County. The winner and runner-up have competed in a regional contest each year and from the regional winners a state "Queen of Conservation" is chosen. In 1962 our queen was chosen as the regional queen and thus competed in the state contest. The list of queens and runners-up follows:

1956

Donna Payne - Queen

Velma Biles - Runnerup

Held at Pulaski Centennial Program

1957

Susan Stoker - Queen

Karen McMains - Runnerup

Held at Drakesville Reunion

1958

Jane Ann Whirrett - Queen

Karen Ellenberger - Runnerup

Held at Drakesville Reunion

1959

Barbara Johnston - Queen

Sandra Forsythe - Runnerup

Held at Drakesville Reunion

1960

LaVera Smith - Queen

Carolyn Sullivan - Runnerup

Held at Drakesville Reunion

1961

Diane Miller - Queen

Linda Harris - Runnerup

Held at Drakesville Reunion

1962

1962

*Kay Clyman - Queen

Barbara Allen - Runnerup

Held at Drakesville Reunion

*Regional Queen of Conservation in 1962

June 1956 at a meeting of farmers at the Wesley Chapel Church it was decided to request assistance of the State Soil Conservation District in Big Wyacondah Watershed planning area.
March 8, 1957 after months of planning and talking with farmers in the Big Wyacondah Watershed area, the Commissioners approved and sent the Watershed Application to the State Soil Conservation Committee. This was accepted for a work plan agreement, April 25, 1962. Several special meetings have been held in regard to the work and planning needed before construction of the Big Wyacondah Watershed. Meetings were held Dec. 10, 1962; March 25, 1963; and June 28, 1963. The March 1963 meeting was held with the Davis County Board of Supervisors and at the meeting it was agreed that the Supervisors will levy a $\frac{1}{4}$ mill when needed for maintenance of the structures built on any watershed developed in this county. The June 1963 meeting was called to explain the operation and maintenance of the Big Wyacondah Watershed and the two sponsoring groups--Davis County Board of Supervisors and Davis County Soil Conservation District--signed the "Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the Big Wyacondah Watershed". A "Project agreement for Part II of the Big Wyacondah Watershed was also signed by the sponsoring groups.

The Application for Assistance for both the North Wyacondah Watershed and Carter Creek Watershed were submitted to the State Soil Conservation Committee for Approval June 6, 1963.

The Des Moines Register and Tribune has sponsored a contest each year since 1953 whereby Farmer Cooperators may be honored for outstanding work in connection with conserving the soils on their own farms. Winners from the Davis District through the years are as follows: The local Bloomfield Newspapers have presented engraved plaques to each district winner since 1953. *the program originated in 1953.*

I Konrad Gottesche (*)

II Glen Lanman - Mrs. J. W. Lanman

III Cleo Rinkenberger

1954

I Dewey Harper (*)

II Robert Singley - Mrs. Myrtle Singley (*)

III Wendell Nicklin

1955

I Cargile Bollman (*)

II Gene Hoffman - Dr. Edwards

III Glen O. Smith

1956

- I Earl Trachsel
- II Daugherty - Ed Burchette
- III Grover Gillaspie

1957

- I W. W. Swaim (*)
- II Christy & Proctor - Mrs. Ralph Baker
- III Hugh Augspurger

1958

- I Ed Amstutz
- II Snowbarger - Wendell Ernst(*)
- III John and Victor Swartzendraver

1959

- I Richard Birchmier
- II Don Price - Hugh Seabury
- III Loren Bengé (*)

1960

- I Charles Swaim (*)
- II Wade Archer - Fredrick Lauder (*)
- III Charles Ramseyer

1961

- I Rex Blackwell
- II Ted Dixon - Dale Dixon
- III Chester Adams (*)

1962

- I Iles Heady (*) (**)
- II Stanley Baughman - Mrs. J. A. Baughman (*)
- III No entry

*Regional Winners

**Sweepstakes State Winner

This is some of the history of the Davis County Soil Conservation District since it was organized in 1944 until the present time - July 1963. In the years to come, it is hoped that we may see more and more of the needed contouring, terracing and structures and ponds established in Davis County.