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EDITED BY K.C. BECK
KANSAS FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Governor Payne H. Ratner, Topeka... ..... Chairman
Lakin Meade, Topeka... ..... Vice-Chairman
Dr. F. S. Williams, Garden City... ..... Commissioner
Roy Wall, Wichita... ..... Commissioner

PERSONNEL

L. C. Webb... State Game Warden P. N. Mullendore... Attorney
W. A. Krueger... Chief Deputy Helle Wilson... Stenographer
Elmo Huffman... Engineer Louise Dowling... Stenographer

Wilton Wahl, Landscape Architect

FISH HATCHERY

Seth Way... Fish Culturist Dan Ramey... Game Supt.
Leo Brown... Biologist Leonard Sutherland... Ass't Game Supt.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GAME WARDENS

Carl Teichgraeber... District 1... Topeka, Kansas
Jack Nester, Jr... District 2... Marysville, Kansas
Brice Rezaau... District 3... Barnett, Kansas
Merle W. Allen... District 4... Burka, Kansas
Wayne F. Figgott... District 5... Chetopa, Kansas
Chester Yowell... District 6... Wichita, Kansas
H. D. Byrne... District 7... Concordia, Kansas
George Wallerius... District 8... Salina, Kansas
Raymond Davidson... District 9... Greensburg, Kansas
Cy W. Graham... District 10... Colby, Kansas
Howard Talbott... District 11... Leoti, Kansas
Joe J. Gallivan... District 12... Ensign, Kansas

SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR

K. C. Beck... Hutchison, Kansas

PARK SUPERINTENDENTS

J. L. Rustin... Butler County State Park... Augusta
W. I. Thomas... Crawford County State Park... Pittsburg
C. R. Ridgway... Leavenworth County State Park... Tonganoxie
John Carlton... Meade County State Park... Meade
Sidney Baxter... Neosho County State Park... St Paul
C. R. Dameron... Ottawa County State Park... Minneapolis
E. E. Male... Scott County State Park... Scott City
A. K. Sprigg... decid County State Park... Yates Center
Shooting today is a luxury and must be paid for according to the law of supply and demand. Adequate shooting can only be produced by the establishment of managed game refuges on private lands. Farmers as a class are not gunners and are not interested in game management to benefit those who enjoy free shooting. Farmers cannot be paid for the necessary work involved in worthwhile game production in terms of sport, they must be paid in cash the same as any other crop that has been an effort to produce. Upland game farming enterprises have become an important supplementary crop on the farms of many of our Eastern states, as a cash crop. Agricultural schools are now giving training courses to students who must be depended upon to guide farm production of upland game for future hunting. These conditions are facts, and must be so recognized by thoughtful sportsmen and dealt with on a practical basis. Regretfully, the time is close at hand when we will have to abandon free shooting (like it or not) and center our efforts to induce farmers to constructive efforts. Right here is the crux of the long neglected situation. It has been destructive rather than constructive which in practice means final and complete destruction if continued. Bob White quail have survived this impractical program by sheer exclusiveness and particular adaption to the natural environments that are exclusively American. Even so, in speaking of our natural environments when these natural conditions have been eliminated by overgrazing and plowing up the natural homes which for eons of time have supplied the natural feeding grounds as well as areas for reproduction and protection, our upland game birds are forced to leave or become extinct. This has been amply proven in the Western sections of Kansas which for ages has been the habitat of countless upland game birds and animals, through thoughtless breaking up of the land and overgrazing of the small portion that is left, it has become a desert as far as our wildlife is concerned and unless there is a prompt reversal of the present system will become uninhabitable to humans as well. It is rather amusing as well as embarrassing to the Fish and Game Department upon receiving applications for birds for re-stocking farms that upon investigation by the district warden, these farms are found to be bare wheat fields and over grazed pastures, if any, with enough old farm machinery to start a junk
yard, with possibly a few stragling cottonwood trees or hedge which looks as if it wanted to die, not a semblance of cover for nesting or protection, let alone feed, and even the insects must go underground and feed on the roots of the wheat to survive. Needless to say, no birds will be placed on such farms.

Practical conservationists have long realized that America's non-migratory upland wild game continues to dwindle. They also recognize that under the spoils system, wild game cannot be expected to afford free gunning on private lands. Free shooting on private lands is neither practical or equitable, as indeed it has been proven in the past, when on the vast expanse of public domain, millions of buffalo grazed the prairies, and immense swarms of passenger pigeons cruised the air of pioneer days. Within the memory of our fathers, the pigeons went the route of oblivion and the buffalo approached the very brink of extinction. Other valuable species met the same fate as examples of the reckless system of exploitation of public properties. Unfortunately the greed of human nature cannot be depended upon to conserve common public properties, not to mention constructive efforts to increase it. Frankly, indifference of the general public to the fate of wild game prevails, and unfortunately this attitude includes private land owners who hold the key to the final entrance. In truth, no one is sufficiently interested other than a fair-minded practical sportsman who enjoys shooting.

The basic principle of law that holds wild game to be a public property has been retained and unmodified since wild game roamed public lands in pioneer days. Since the conversion of public lands to private ownership, the game still there remains public property. Free gunners illogically contend that they should be permitted to shoot a public property, whether on public or private lands. Since no wild game remains on the public lands and increasing numbers of hunters become dependent on farmers, the game continues to dwindle pending a practical solution. Through the political power of impractical legislation, the free gunning adherents have maintained, the inadequate outmoded game laws that monopolize wild game, since it can only utilize by shooting, yet holding it as public property. Obviously, this unmodified law benefits only those who enjoy shooting to the exclusion of even the farmers or land owners who are expected to maintain feed and increase it. Hostility intensifies as this dispute continues, logically, the farmers who must provide shooting must participate in the benefits. Farmers who hold the key to the fate of upland game, must not only be given fair consideration, but they must be encouraged.
It is regretted by the writer, that in the 1939 session of our legislature, that some provision was not made for the placing of the cottontail rabbit as one of our game animals, and a closed season was not established as well as a reasonable bag limit. The cottontail is the chief game sought by at least 60% of our hunters. Classifying him as a game animal and giving him the benefit of protection, would eliminate much summer shooting along highways by those who use him for a target, as well as the unreasonable killing of large numbers when the ground is covered with snow, when these animals are at a disadvantage.

* * *

There are many calls to the Department as to the closed season on bass and crappie. While on the back of the fishing license it states that the closed season on bass and crappie is from January 1 to May 15, this has been changed by the Fish and Game Commission to March 1 to May 15. All State Lakes, public streams or any lake or pond connected with any public stream or lake or pond, which has been stocked by this Department, are closed for the taking of bass and crappie during this period. This does not apply to ponds or lakes which are privately owned and not stocked by the Fish and Game Department. There is no closed season on channel cat fish.

* * *

Warden L. C. Webb, called all district wardens for a conference March 20, for the purpose of going over the matter of the distribution of the 5,000 quail remaining at the hatcheries at Calista and Pittsburg. There will also be 500 chukar partridge to be placed in different sections of the State. It was decided that Superintendent Dan Ramey should decide as to the proper time for the wardens to come after the birds. Dan thought about April 1 insect life and vegetation would be more plentiful. As stated in our last issue of the Bulletin applications for those birds will be carefully checked as to their adaptability for birds by the wardens.

* * *

After the business conference with the wardens, Monday, March 20, Warden Webb invited all the wardens, their wives, and the heads of the different departments to be his guests at the Pratt Country Club, where they were given a dinner, followed by short talks by the wardens and members of the Department. The balance of the evening and into the wee small hours of the morning were spent in dancing. Speaking of dancing, our host knows them all and did them, from the Jitter Bug to the Big Apple. While your writer tried to kid himself as to the youthful days he so fondly
remembers, when all of his bones were light and limber, the next day he was a mental as well as a physical wreck, and he has made a resolution to stop kidding himself and show the proper respect for his gray hair. So with all of those in attendance agree, our warden L. C. Webb is a perfect host, and we thank him for a wonderful evening.

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On Monday, March 27, 224 beaver pelts were sold at public auction in Concordia, Kansas. These beavers were trapped by trappers having permits issued to them by the Fish and Game Department, with instructions to trap these animals only on streams traversing farms where the owners had made complaints for damages done by these beavers. Most of these beavers were caught in Cloud, Republic and Clay Counties. Dickinson, Norton, Cheyenne and Decatur Counties each contributed a few pelts. The 224 skins and 21 pounds, 10 ounces of beaver castors were sold to three buyers, bringing the sum of $2,560.25, which averages $11.43 for each animal killed. Half of the proceeds of the sale were given to the trappers and the other half to the Fish and Game Department. There has been a great deal of criticism for allowing these animals to be killed by those who do not know the embarrassing position in which the Department has been placed by receiving scores of letters complaining of damages to trees and crops, some of a threatening tone. It is not only the present year that this has been true, but it has been so for the past five or six years. It is conservatively estimated that from the original planting some sixteen years ago that these animals have increased to at least 3,000 in Kansas, despite the fact that 800 of them have been trapped within the past five years. The writer has spent a great deal of time and study in the beaver districts of Kansas investigating many of the complaints of damages done by beavers, and frankly states that he has found the damages done were negligible compared to the good done in the way of damming the small streams and conserving the water so necessary to our State. The raising of the water plane which is not only conducive to tree growth along the banks of these streams, but holding enough water that the fish and other aquatic life may live. We find the vegetation much more luxurious where there are beavers than where there are none.

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The beaver is the only one of all animals, birds or fish, perfectly qualified to bear the legend, "restore, protect, conserve America's wildlife." The beaver is the original upstream engineer, the number one conservationist of the animal kingdom. For thousands of years before the white man came to America the beaver was at
work reclaiming soil and forests, conserving and stabilizing the water supply, providing habitat for waterfowl, fish and other aquatic life. In the beaver the finest social qualities are highly developed. He is the emblem of industry, frugality, perseverance and cooperativeness. He really is an outstanding example for those who seek his destruction.

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During the last days of our legislative session, the house concurred in senate amendments and sent to the Governor a bill to let owners of privately stocked game preserves and their friends, hunt quail and other birds out of the regular season. Owners of preserves would be required to give the Fish & Game Commission one of every five birds released for the use of stocking other areas of the State. All hunting however, would be prohibited during the breeding season March 1 to November 15, and the bag limit set by the State would be enforced. This bill does not permit out of season hunting of migratory waterfowl protected by Federal law. Persons propagating or selling game birds or their eggs, would be licensed $5.00 annually.

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The above law as written has some great possibilities as the writer understands it. As I have written in previous Bulletins, the day of public shooting is over, or at least is very close at hand, because the land where upland game must be produced has passed from public to private ownership. If this be true, then upland game that originally was produced on public lands, by nature alone, and without any assistance from private individuals was without question public property and subject to be shot by the public. But in the passing of the titles of this public land to
private ownership, and the inability of nature to supply or maintain the necessary game birds on account of our ever increasing number of hunters, it must be obvious to all that should a landowner as an individual or a collective number of such individuals through their own efforts and by scientific and progressive game management produce these game birds, then these quail, pheasants, prairie chickens cease to be public property and become the property of the landowner. The laws which designated game as public property were enacted many years ago, when the possibility of ever having the condition come about that we have today, would have been considered absurd. The above I know will be called heresy by my fellow sportsmen, but this is my honest belief.—K. C. B.

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In the passing of the law allowing the establishment of private game preserves, we can see a future for many of our farmers friends, in which they may supplement their incomes or profits, by not planting so much wheat and plant instead nesting places as well as cover for quail, pheasants and other game birds and see that feed patches and water are available. Rear the birds in incubators and brooders, release them in the fall and invite your city friends out, guarantee them birds at so much per, you will have plenty of customers. Aside from the fact that you can make a most interesting vacation profitable it will help keep the boys and girls on the farm, when they begin to feel that their life on the farm is not to be devoted to making payments on tractors and combines.

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Again we have gone through that period of degeneracy, the Rabbit Round Up, also called under that preverted name of Coyote Round Up. We remember reading in Stanley's "Hunt for Livingston in Africa" of roundups wherein animals were driven in to enclosures and many of them killed to meet the food wants of large tribes of savages, but such round ups for the pure lust of killing as we have in the Western part of the United States are Aces. Then again, the placing of poison in shelter belts leads us to believe that we are trying to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps as far as true conservation is meant. We make the prediction that in a very few years the Jack Rabbit will be a game animal and be eagerly sought, not only for his flesh but for his hide, which is becoming more valuable from year to year for felting and not for the purpose of being used as my lady's "seal skin" coat. Reports are coming to us daily wherein reliable parties tell us of many birds being found dead from poison placed in so called shelter belts.
The following are highlights of a speech made by Jay N. Darling honorary president of The National Wildlife Federation. They are so true that we felt they should be given the widest publicity, sorry that space prevents giving you the entire speech.-Editor

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"We have exploited our forests, exploited our rivers and lakes, exploited our soils and exploited our wildlife. The question is, how long can we continue to live by exploitation alone. It was Benjamin Franklin who wrote, 'Forever taking out and never putting anything in, soon exposes the bottom of the meal barrel.' Conservation is the reverse of exploitation and unless we begin soon to counteract exploitation by the practice of conservation, how soon shall we find ourselves at the bottom of any empty barrel, looking out through the bunghole at our departed standards of living."

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"The term conservation has too often been accepted as though it applied only to forests, fish and game, and the beauties of nature. Within the ranks of conservationists we discover group self interests whose motives are only slightly removed from those of the exploiter. The landman thinks only of land conservation, the bird lover thinks in terms of saving birds, the fisherman thinks conservation means more and bigger fish. Each is of course an integral part of conservation, but we can no more succeed by thinking of conservation in terms of a single pet resource by itself than we can think of the legs of a man functioning without a body, arms functioning without a head, or a dismembered heart performing its duties without a circulatory system. Land, water, and vegetation are just that dependent on one another. Without these three primary elements in natural balance, we can have neither fish nor game, wildflowers nor trees, labor nor capital, nor a sustaining habitat for humans. To attempt to remedy the lack of fish in our streams or game on our uplands without attacking the ailments of our land, water and vegetation, would be like trying to cure consumption with Smith Brothers cough drops. Building ten thousand new fish hatcheries will not restore fish unless we first restore the condition of the waters in our lakes and streams so that fish can live in them. We might as well try to restore the Dust Bowl to prosperity by running excursion trains of new settlers to take up life on the depleted Dust Bowl lands as to pour millions of fish into public waters where the fish have all died from malnutrition. When fish can no longer live in public waters, it is a sign that those waters have deteriorated. Denuded lakes and stream bottoms are to fish and aquatic life, what the Dust Bowl is to man. When soil has gone man can no longer remain. Neither fish nor game nor man can digest
JAY M. DARLING Speech Cont.-

inorganic material. Raw earth must first be consumed by vegetation before living beings can digest it. Neither man or beast can live without vegetation and savants of culture have traced with pride man's progress from his lowly beginning with a stone axe in his hand and a little on his mind, up to and including air conditioned houses, luxurious transportation and universal education - but these experts have consistently failed to note that where natural resources failed, cultured progress and civilization died. Boiled down to the fundamental truth, the history of civilization since man was created, is largely made up of the rise and fall of empires through the exhaustion of resources. History, therefore, in reality, turns out the story of hungry man in search of food. Conservation is the job of so managing our soils, water and gifts of nature on this continent of ours that man's search for these necessities shall not be in vain. If we do neglect conservation as history has ignored it in the past, and any considerable portion of our population does search in vain for an existence, we shall have increasing poverty, social upheavals and, in spite of our high ideals and worship of peace, we shall have more wars instead of fewer, for wars are the spawn of empty stomachs, and empty stomachs follow - as the night the day - the excess of demand for natural resources over the supply."

"The geological record of this continent indicates that the buffalo roamed the North American prairies over 400,000 years. The white man came and liquidated that species in one generation. But far more significant than the buffalo, are the relics of man's destructive practices. Eroding plains, abandoned farms, great dust bowls, rivers and lakes polluted and devoid of aquatic life, eroding hills and wasted lands where millions of acres of primeval forests once flourished, are now just a city dump where we throw our cast off waste. They are empty shelves in our national pantry. Wealth will continue to exist on this continent only so long as the natural resources of our soil and water continue to yield up their riches in proportion to the requirements of our population. That population already includes a widening margin of want and unemployment. Few are aware of the incalculable cash losses which have been ignored by the people through the persistent habit of calling everything profit which we rip from the soil. A ship which takes a load of wheat to Europe takes with it 60,072,76 pounds of nitrogen, 11,520.90 pounds of potassium and 11,624.44 pounds of calcium all drained away from our top soil. Probably it is true that we could make good our silly boast and produce enough so that American could feed the world—for awhile. But since we with 10% of the world's population, have in a brief period of years used up 80% of our forests and 33 1/3% of our soil, abused our aquatic resources more than our land and forests, can we roughly guess about how long America will feed the world?"
"It is obvious to everyone that if we are to have a bountiful supply of game we must provide the best possible food and cover, but contrary to present day opinions expressed by many so-called wildlife experts, it will always be necessary to conduct game farms to bolster our wildlife supply. That is, unless our legislators cut bag limits and open seasons to the point where no one will be interested in going afield with gun and dog. Often times it appears some of the wildlife experts are working for a scarcity of game in order to perpetuate political jobs. We Americans heartily condemn many things that European nations do, and justly so, but they can still show us how to enjoy excellent hunting without depleting their supply of game. The answer is very simple, practical game management (lacking fan fare and too much theory) propagating farms and sensible game laws. Perhaps some will think by referring to European methods that we are opposed to the American system of free hunting. Nothing could be farther from the truth. We are Americans all, and believe in the American system, but we do believe that our business of producing game is held in check to the point where it is not a profitable business to be engaged in, solely because of asinine laws regulating the productions and marketing of our crop." - By C. M. Kelcher, Sec'y North American Game Breeders Association

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There has been an unusually large flight of wild ducks to their nesting grounds this spring. This is particularly true in regard to the flight of Pin Tails ducks. The same observations that have been seen in the past six years as to this species of ducks, the preponderance of drakes to ducks, it has been estimated by those who have given careful attention to this species that the ratio has been at least 15 drakes to each duck. The Green Wing Teal, 6 drakes to one duck, Blue Wing Teal about the same, Mallards 2 drakes to each duck. Canvas Back, 2 drakes to each duck. Red Heads the female seem to exceed the number of drakes. Blue Bill, Gad Wall and Bald Pate seem to be evenly sexed. The flight of geese has according to our observations been normal. It is conceded by all that our migratory waterfowl have shown a substantial increase in the past two years.

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There are quite a number of breeders of pheasants, quail and chukar partridge in Kansas. We have a list of licensed game breeders in Kansas and will gladly supply these names to anyone who wishes to purchase breeding stock and keep Kansas money at home as well as encourage our Kansas Game Breeders.

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The Fish and Game Department were donated a fine buffalo bull to head the herd at Scott County State Park. This animal was donated by the Biological Survey Department from their surplus animals at Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma.
It is with regret we have seen so much burning of pasture lands this spring, this is especially true in the south eastern section of our State, many of our most valuable nesting areas for prairie chicken and quail have been burnt over and have not only not benefited the pastures, but will be worthless this season for our upland game birds. Farmers preparing to do their annual spring burning might well consider the consequences of this practice. Recent investigations in burning of ground litter have revealed many interesting facts - all pointing to one significant conclusion - burning does not improve pastures. The practice destroys also, valuable food and cover for wildlife at a time which is extremely critical for them. Fire cannot possibly add anything to the soil. At best, fire only makes available, in a short period of time, material that would naturally be fed back to the soil over a period of months or years. Constant burning may lessen the absorptive capacity of the soil leading to gullying. In short, fire depletes the thing all humanity is dependent on, the soil.

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The new duck stamp to be issued on July 1 for the year 1939-1940, the sixth in a series chosen each year from the drawings of a well known artist, will be a drawing by Lynn Boguo Hunt, announced the Biological Survey. Mr. Hunt has chosen for his subject a male and female Green Winged Teal standing at a marsh edge. In the back ground five teal are descending for a landing. The duck stamp inaugurated in 1934 has become familiar to all migratory waterfowl hunters and to philatelists and conservationists throughout the country. Nearly twice the size of a special delivery stamp, it costs one dollar. Migratory waterfowl hunters over sixteen years of age are required by law to carry the stamp, validated by their signature. The stamp does not take the place of a hunting license. The money realized from the duck stamp sale is used by the Biological Survey to supplement other funds for the purchase and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country.

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Our Fish Culturist, Seth Way, reports having delivered fish to the following counties during the month of March: Douglas, Norton, Thomas, Rush, Barton, Sumner, Morris, Pawnee, Coffey, Allen, Osage and Dickinson. This finishes the distribution for this season. The large truck has been overhauled and repainted and is now in first class condition.

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We have at least one lady trapper in Kansas, Miss Rebecca Lyman of Burlington, reports trapping 4 skunks, 1 muskrat and 3 opossum. We presume that she neglected her social activities after skinning the skunk.
April 15, 1939

TO ALL KANSAS SPORTSMEN:

June 1, 1937, your Department was entrusted to my care through an appointment by Ex-Governor Huxman, approved by the Commissioners, Lakin Meade, Dr. F. S. Williams and Giles Atherton.

The condition of the Department at that time is generally known by all who interested themselves in its affairs. Since that time, the warden and all other employees have given their entire time to the Department and conditions have improved. Grounds have been cleaned up and are well kept. All buildings here and at all parks have been painted, and maintenance equipment has been purchased.

During the two seasons, 2,000,000 fish have been raised and distributed.

26,000 Bob White quail have been raised and distributed over the State where suitable habitat could be found.

1,240 Chukar Partridges have been raised and distributed.

Several hundred pheasants have also been hatched and released but it seems a waste of time and finance to release these birds except in the northwestern part of the State where they thrive.

A new warden force has been organized that is highly efficient but is far too small to patrol 80,000 square miles, (approximately the area of Kansas). The force consists of only twelve salaried men, while other states, smaller, have twice as many and some three times the number. At least twenty-five paid wardens are needed for the State, and the funds are ample to pay for this protection when the plans are changed for financing the construction and maintenance of recreational centers.

We have originated a bulletin service from the Department which is issued monthly, edited and published from our general offices. This service is intended to keep the sportsmen informed as to the activities of the Department and also for educational purposes. 1,000 copies are printed and mailed to all parts of the State each month.

Besides these activities the State Parks have had all the attention and development possible under the present plan of financing.

There are five parks on which are located C. C. C. Camps employing nearly 1,000 men working constantly.

Mondo County State Park.
Oberlin Sappa State Park, which is nearing completion.
Clark County State Park, which will require about $100,000 from this Department for material this year to build the spillway.
Nemaha County State Park.
Crawford County State Park, where there is now a call for about $30,000 which will be necessary to finish the spillway and dam.

There are three parks where there are N. Y. A. Projects employing about 200 men.

Ottawa County State Park
Sheridan County State Park
Pottawatomie County State Park.
W. P. A. Projects are operating at Scott County State Park, Lyon County State Park, and one at Pratt has been approved.

It being necessary for the Fish and Game Department to purchase the structural material for all the projects and our finances limited to:

$151,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1937
$171,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938
$200,000 anticipated income for this year.

It is very evident that other plans must be made to finance the continued program of building parks for the general public. The sportsmen should not be expected to bear this burden alone as they are doing now. Some plan should be evolved to place the responsibility on those who use these parks. Seventy percent of the attendance do not own a fishing or a hunting license, consequently, do not contribute anything toward building, maintaining or developing the recreational features of Kansas State Parks.

There is a strong sentiment of protest by the sportsmen, to such a plan, and should be. On the other hand, there is more or less sentiment by those who have not and do not contribute to do so, if allowed the privilege. This, however, is a problem for the law makers of Kansas to solve.

During the past twenty-two months the Department's bills have all been paid promptly, all discounts taken, and there is now an accumulation of over $100,000 of your money on hand in the State Treasury, with no obligations to meet except those against the State Parks of long standing and should be met by the cooperation of all taxpayers.

Plenty of brood stock has been held over for another increase in production. Your Department is on the up-grade. Give it a boost. Keep your ear to the ground. "Trust in God and keep your powder dry." Ask for what you want and get it.

The Department is yours. You have paid for it and are still paying.

[Signature]

State Fish and Game Warden
ARRESTS

FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

FINES INCLUDE COSTS

Fred Sackriber, Riley County. Illegal possession of seine. Fine $17.00. Wardens Byrne, Parker and Teichgraebner.


