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SEASON-ON-BASS-AND-CRAPPIE
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EDITED BY

K.C. BECK

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MONTHLY BULLETIN

FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
PRATT, KANSAS

May - 1939



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In compliance with the law as enacted by the last legislature and as per Governor Ratner's campaign promise to take the Forestry, Fish and Game Department out of politics by the creation of a non-partisan board of six commissioners, three each from the two major parties, he has made the following appointments:

- First District.....E. J. Kelly.....Ottawa, Kansas
- Second District.....Jay J. Owens.....Salina, Kansas
- Third District.....J. H. Flora.....Quinter, Kansas
- Fourth District.....Garland Atkins.....Fort Scott, Kansas
- Fifth District.....Howard Gillespie...Wichita, Kansas
- Sixth District.....Lee Larabee.....Liberal, Kansas

E. J. Kelly, Jay H. Owens, and Garland Atkins are the democrats. Lee

Larabee was chosen as Chairman of the Commission and David Leahy, Jr. was appointed Acting Director to replace Warden L. C. Webb. E. J. Kelly was elected Secretary of the Commission.

As stated above, the Commission was re-created by the recent session of the legislature in line with the recommendations of Governor Ratner to take this department out of politics.

Your editor never having met the gentlemen appointed on the Commission, with the exception of Mr. Larabee, from whom he purchased two black bear at one time, nevertheless wishes them the best of luck and a successful administration.

Our old friend, Dave Leahy, has a wide acquaintance among the sportsmen of Kansas and thoroughly conversant with the duties of the office of which he has been placed in charge, having been connected with the department as Chief Clerk for a number of years. The office heretofore known as warden will in the future, be called Director and the Deputy Wardens will be known as Game Protectors.

During the past few weeks, we have had the pleasure of meeting with many of our sportsmen and conservationists, also, with a number of organizations interested in the conserving and restoring of our wildlife in different sections of the state. Among the organizations, we wish to mention those at Independence, Horton, Holton, Junction City, and Minneapolis. It certainly has been our pleasure to meet with these organizations and observe the awakened interest shown by these men in our wildlife situation.

"Natures cushion is no longer there to break the fall when our artificial structures crash. If nature's pantry had been wisely guarded, our relief rolls would have been a fraction of their present appalling magnitude!...Jay N. Darling.

As the Russell County News sees it, we have streamlined the drainage along our highways, we have denuded the pasture lands of grass, we have made the fields to shed water like a duck, we have straightened creeks and rivers, and then we complain about flood damage! Every highway grade should be a dam to hold back the run-off too.

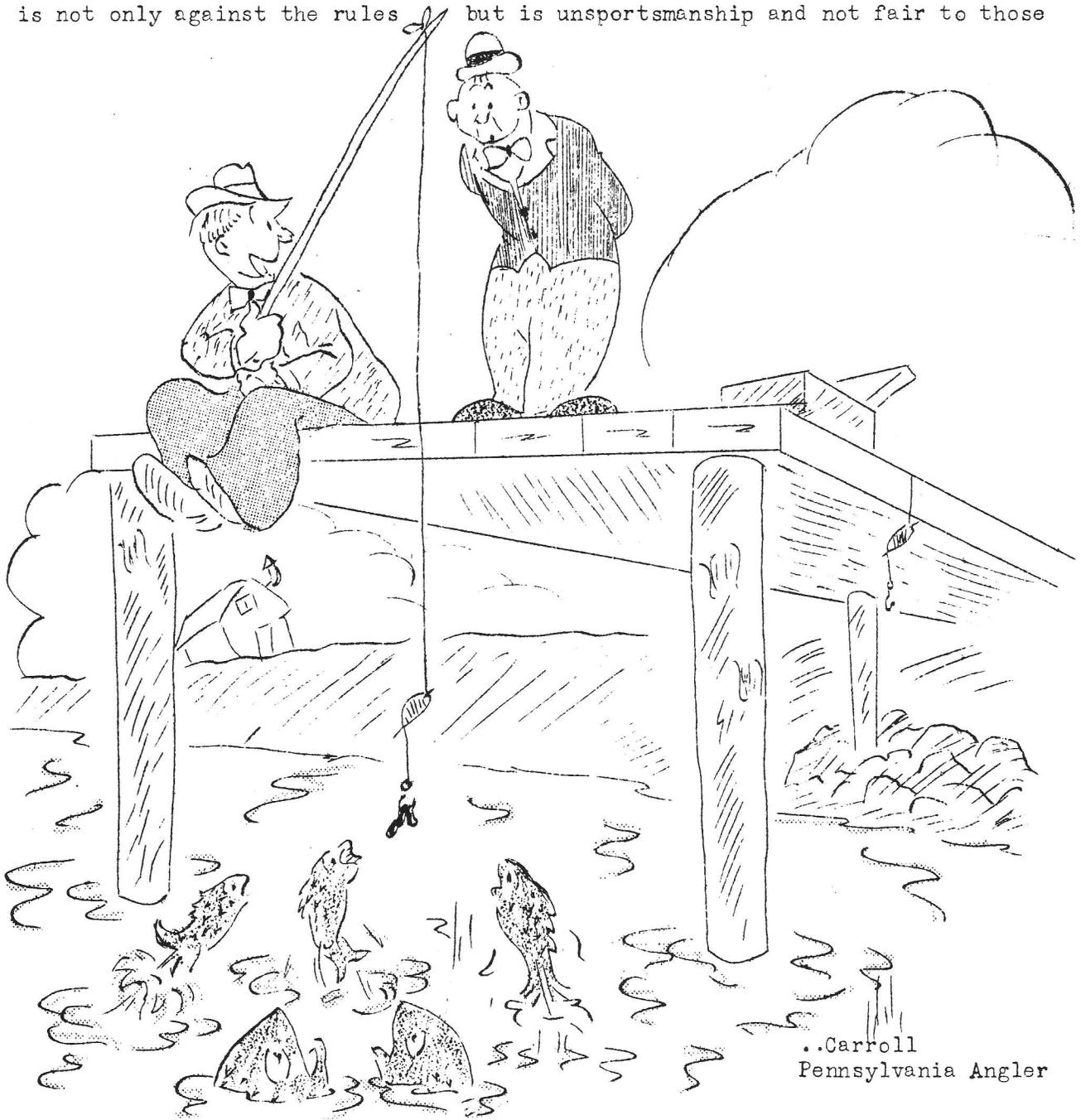
Forty-two years ago, F. B. Koehn, an eastern engineer, demonstrated that water could be carried from the Arkansas River into the Cheyenne Bottoms, in Barton County. He built what was known as the Koehn Irrigation Canal. He demonstrated it so successfully, the Great Bend Herald relates, that the owners of the low lands brought court proceedings to turn off the stream. Ever since, citizens of vision have been nursing the idea that the Bottoms could and should be filled and kept to a permanent level.

The feasibility of making the Cheyenne Bottoms a large inland lake has been proven beyond any doubt by the building of the Koehn canal. The largest part of these Bottoms are worthless for agriculture and have very little value as pasture. The flooding of the Bottoms, which would make a lake of approximately 30,000 acres would be of far more value to the state than it is in its present condition. Its value in the estimation of the writer would be not only as a sportsman's paradise for hunting, fishing and a recreational center for all Kansas, but its importance in the way of flood control alone could be valued in millions of dollars, not forgetting the effect of such a large lake would have on the climatic conditions of our state.

Its possibilities are so great that to longer neglect this project, which would mean so much for the general welfare of our state, seems foolish. The Federal government is more than willing to help. Cannot we, as the most interested parties show them that we will go the limit with them? Let us hear from you!

"We have said before, and will say again, despite the claims of know-it-alls we don't yet know enough about either fish or game to be able to assert positively "Do this or do that and you will have hunting or fishing in abundance". If the man lives that has that amount of knowledge, he had better drop what he is doing and give us all the benefit of his superior understanding for he can command his own price, particularly if he can produce the desired conditions. We are on the highroad to improvement of conditions but we have a long way to go before we will be able to reproduce a fisherman's or a hunter's paradise within the reach of the license receipts! Wendell A. Teague in the Hartford Courant

By the time this copy of the bulletin reaches its readers, the season will be open for the legal catching of bass and crappie (May 15). There has been some criticism as to the closed season on these two species of fish, some wanting a longer and some a shorter season, and then some not wanting any closed season at all. There have been several complaints reach the department as to City Lakes, as well as others that have been stocked with fish by this department, allowing the catching of bass and crappie during the closed season. This is not only against the rules but is unsportsmanship and not fair to those



..Carroll
Pennsylvania Angler

"I always like to tease them a little first!"

who supply the means by which these fish are reared. It is very hard to set the proper time as to which time is the spawning period for bass and crappie in Kansas as there is a difference of almost two weeks between the southern and northern sections of Kansas, furthermore, backward or advanced seasons have very much to do with the spawning period of bass and crappie. It is a well known fact to all who fish for these two species that during the spawning period the fish, in defending their nests and spawn will strike at anything as they are in a fighting mood. Catch a bass over its nest, you have caught a bass, but what about the spawn or fry that is left to meet the rule of survival of the fittest?

I am checking to see if this is an error or if this was actually blank. Also, there wasn't a list of staff with this issue. CHC 10/7/2015

The people of Kansas will soon have an opportunity to see, in an educational color film of Kansas wildlife, a sight that many of our early settlers have seen in the pioneer days of Kansas, before our state became a vast wheat field, the mating dance of our greater prairie chicken. For this, in the writer's estimation a wonderful depiction of one of our fast disappearing game birds, we are indebted to Dan Ramey, Superintendent of our Quail Farms and Vern Newton, of Wellington, who have spent a great deal of time, with many discomforts, to procure this film.

Only after several attempts were the conditions found to be favorable, as on previous attempts an overcast sky and rain frustrated any chance for a film in color. But the morning of April 21 was ideal. Getting up at three o'clock A. M., at Iola, and driving 17 miles north, where Dan had located the dancing grounds of these birds, they then walked two miles over muddy fields, to the blind that had been erected beforehand, and waited for the dawn.

Shortly after their arrival, the birds began to assemble (males only) and began their BOOM-BOOM-BOO call (the editor is at a loss to know if this is a love call or a challenge). This call is made by puffing the yellow skin sacks on each side of the neck, erecting the dark feather horns on the side of the neck over the head, with wings lowered, they begin to dance, going around in a circle. Should one male get too close to another, the battle is on! This is a very brief description of this film. Wait until you see it! It is a gem! To have seen this as Dan and Mr. Newton saw it, I am sure, will bring back to them memories for years to come.

That nature never planned to supply game for 6,000,000 licensed hunters and approximately 7,000,000 licensed fishermen, nor to provide against the great inroads that modern industrial and agricultural developments have made upon wildlife is the opinion of Professor Ralph King, head of the Roosevelt Wildlife Experiment Station at the New York State College of Forestry.

Professor King says that according to figures of the Biological Survey, there are more than $13\frac{1}{2}$ million persons hunting and fishing annually and that the numbers are rapidly increasing. We must take into consideration injurious influences such as farming, clean harvesting, drainage projects, spring burning of fields and woods, grazing of wood lots and pollution of streams, all of which render it impossible for certain species of wildlife to exist. We cannot continue to harvest wildlife in increasingly larger quantities and at the same time reduce the habitable environment. Keeping in mind the need for agriculture and industrial progress, we derive from this resource or determine how wildlife can be maintained and increased in the face of modern means.

All wildlife needs to maintain itself is proper environment. The environments that remain can be left undisturbed and many of them improved. In other words, management of wildlife areas offers our only hope of success. To state nature will take care of its own, is proof of abysmal ignorance. The drive by sportsmen, the progress of industry and land use practices never entered in nature's calculations. We must at least take measures to off-set or elevate the harm done by man, through the improvement of the environments still left to wildlife.

"We may juggle our currency, we may substitute dictatorship for democracy, we may set up devices for the redistribution of wealth and social security, but none of these, or all of them together, will restore the sustaining land we have wastefully depleted. It will not put back the forests on our eroding hills, it will not reclothe the Dust Bowl in protective vegetation, it will not restore the fish in our polluted streams and vacant waters of the seaboard. Only we ourselves by studied processes can accomplish this recovery!"Jay N. Darling.

The Sunday drivers had picked the farmer's fruit and his flowers, and their car was full of plunder. Pointing to an unexplored highway they inquired of the farmer:

"Shall we take this road back to the city?"

"You might as well, replied the farmer, "you've got almost everything else!"
...Pennsylvania Angler.

While the editor is interested in any and all organizations, whose aim is to conserve and restore our wildlife, we feel that county wide organizations can be more beneficial than purely local clubs. Each of our counties have their own individual problems to solve, problems that possibly do not exist in any other county in the state.

As an example, in the establishment of refuges, we have found that in some counties they have gone to the extreme by designating almost every farm that had proper environment as a refuge, while in others very little attention was paid to the establishment of breeding refuges. When the matter of refuges is a matter of individual designation, it has been found to be, as a rule, unsatisfactory. This can be eliminated by a committee of competent men of the organization cooperating with the farmer and landowner as to the proper number of refuges to be established and which they will help stock and protect.

An organization can be of a great deal of benefit as to where quail, chukar partridge, pheasants, and fish are to be placed instead of leaving these matters to incompetent individuals. As a county wide combination, you can demand your just proportion of fish and game to be distributed, according to the licenses bought by the hunters, fishermen, and trappers of your county. Further than that, you will be in a position to ask that no local warden commissions be awarded in your county unless endorsed by your organization. Under the new law passed at the last session of our legislature, the ten dollar fee allowed local wardens for an arrest and conviction of a fish and game law violator has been eliminated. This is bound to have some effect in the prosecution and conviction of violators of our fish and game laws, consequently, it will be up to the organizations to endorse men for local deputies who are willing to act as witnesses in case of violations but it will be the organizations that conduct the prosecutions.

There are many other beneficial ways that a county organization can be more effective than small local clubs. After all is said and done by organizations, we can get results, but as individuals we will get nowhere.

"We have set our standards of living in the United States on the basis of this continent at its peak of virgin riches. We then proceeded, with axe, scopp-shovels, dredges and over-mining of the soils, to pull the sustaining from under it -- and expect our standards of living to remain the same. The resources of this continent are not inexhaustible and to consider them as everlasting in our national bookkeeping is to invite bankruptcy which we are jolly heading for at the present moment!"Jay N. Darling, National Wildlife Federation.

Mrs. P. A. W., of Augusta, writes us as follows: "Where may I obtain rules and laws for fishing? I purchased a license to fish, now where may I fish? I find that on the little Walnut River and on Hickory Creek from Leon to Rock that the farmers have leased their fishing rights on their farms to private individuals from Wichita. Now I want to know, can I fish on bridges on the highway along these streams, or may we go up these streams in a boat and fish from the center of the river or does the farmer have control of the water? Some say a farmers land does not go to the waters edge and some day it does. I ask you, is it fair for the state to stock these streams for a few wealthy Wichita individuals to get all the pleasure of fishing?"

Well, well, Mrs. P. A. W., I will give you the facts as they are, not as you or I may want them. You may fish in any State Lake (your nearest one is what is known as Santa Fe Lake, near Augusta) or any creek where the farmer or landowner has given you permission. Without this permission, you are trespassing, as the landowner or farmer has the privilege of refusing this permission and has absolute rights to do this. I can see no objection to fishing from the bridges along any highway, but as to using a boat, we must answer no. As to the fairness of the state stocking some of our streams where much leasing is done is a disputable question as our laws are such that this may and is done.

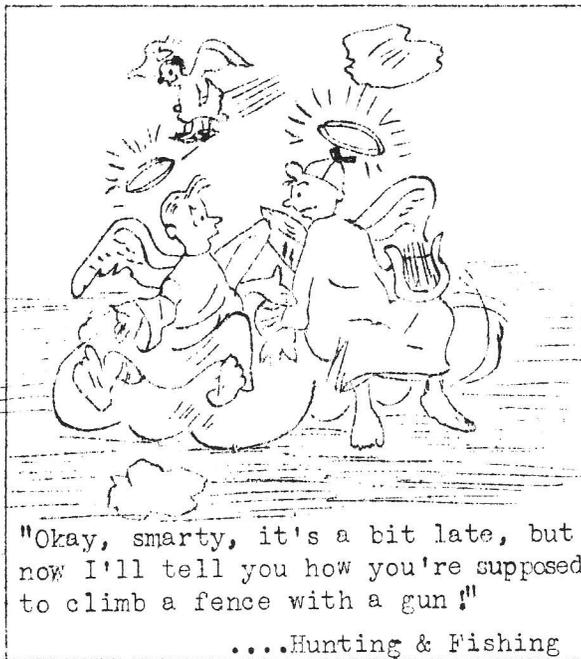
Thanks for your letter.

Reno County sportsmen have, during the past month, organized under the name of The Reno County Fish and Game Development Association. The following men were elected officers: Bert Wilson, President; Joe Bascomb, Vice President; Harold Obee, Secretary-Treasurer.

The organization started with a membership of more than 100 and is expected to increase the membership to more than 300 in a short time. President Wilson named committees on finance, lakes and streams, refuges, by-laws, as well as a committee to contact our farmer friends. It was decided to ask the cooperation of our 4-H and Boy Scout organizations to participate in the work of the organization. From the interest shown in the first two meetings, we predict that things are going to happen and that Reno County will be heard from in the future. Reno County ranks fourth in the number of fishing licenses sold and fifth in hunting licenses sold.

Indian warriors sometimes fastened skunk skins to their heels to tell the world, "I run from no man!" Skunks are valuable not only for their fur but are, with moles, the only enemies of various species of burrowing plant pests. Skunks are, also, great mousers, and destroy the eggs of snapping turtles. Some species of the skunk is found in almost every state.

The first conservation law was published by the lawgivers of Israel about the year 650 B.C. and is recorded in Deutonomy 22-6. It reads as follows: "If a bird's nest chance to be before thee in the way of any tree, or on the ground, whether they be young ones or eggs, and the dam be sitting upon the eggs, thou shalt not take the dam with the young!"



vation law was givers of Israel and is recorded in reads as follows: to be before thee in or on the ground, ones or eggs, and the young or upon the take the dam with the

The Nemaha County State Park will be opened to the public this spring. While the new Commission has not given the date of opening, we feel inclined to believe that it will be about May 30. Notice of the exact date will be published in the newspapers. A. O. Ward, Nemaha County Clerk, has asked for an additional lot of fishing licenses.

The Lyon County State Lake, near Reading, is also to be opened this spring.

Some more highlights of a speech made by Jay N. Darling, Honary President of the National Wildlife Federation.

"We have already distilled a surprisingly large part of our natural resources into money. This money we have drained off into great financial reservoirs and the problem of what to do with it is giving all our economic doctors a headache. If anything further were required to emphasize these facts it has been tragically eloquent, in these late years of great economic distress, to discover suddenly that the people of this continent can no longer turn back to our waters and wooded hills, which have heretofore served to sustain us with food and profitable employment."

The distribution of quail, chukar partridge and pheasants from the two state hatcheries has been completed for this season. There were many applicants who were disappointed. This is to be regretted, as the Department is desirous of supplying as many applicants as possible provided the locations are suitable habitat for birds. The two farms produced between 15,000 and 16,000 Bob White Quail and 1,000 Chukar Partridge the past season, but had received twice that many applications, consequently, there were bound to be disappointments. This was also true of the fish distribution, in fact, there were applications for 5 times the number of fish raised.