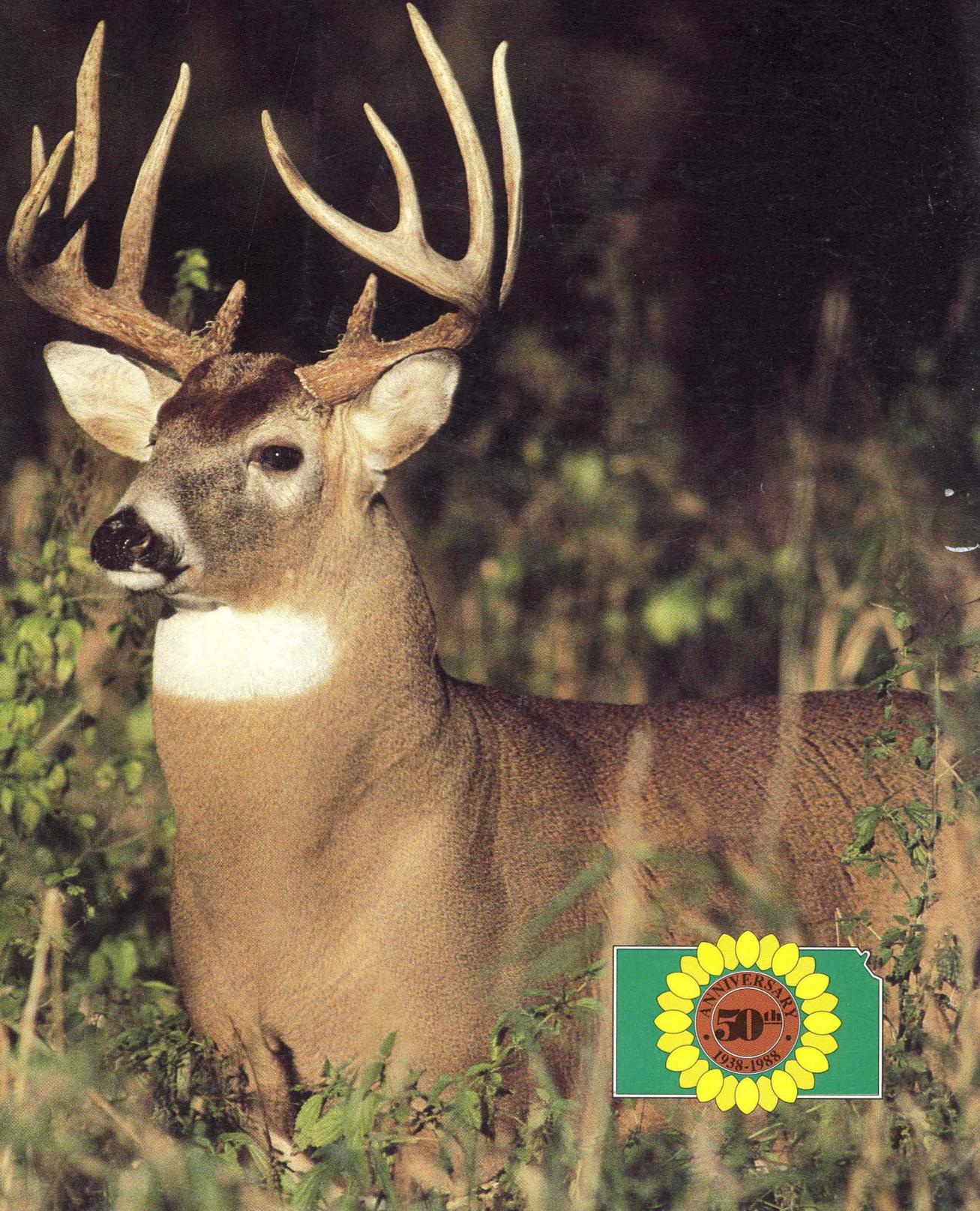


KANSAS

Wildlife & Parks

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1988

\$1.75



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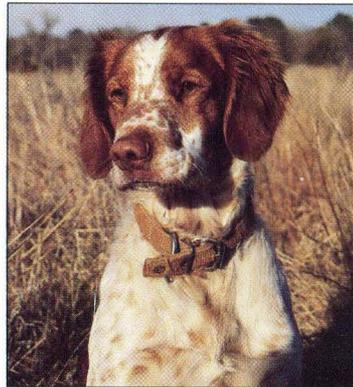
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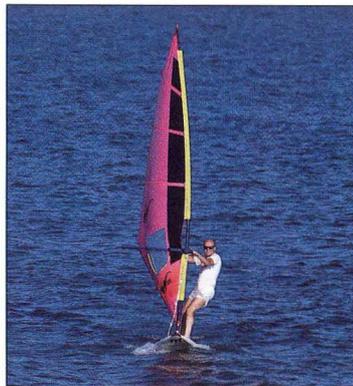
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About The Covers

Front: Mike Blair took advantage of the rut to photograph this 10-point buck. Shot with 400mm, f/11, 1/125. See related chart on Page 35.

Back: Coyotes are abundant in Cheyenne County's rugged terrain. Here, two pups play near their den. Mike Blair used a 600mm lens with settings of f/5.6 and 1/250. See related story, Page 30.

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

The Big 5-0

50th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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Editorial Creed: To promote the conservation and wise use of our natural resources, to instill an understanding of our responsibilities to the land.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 900 Jackson St., Suite 502, Topeka, KS 66612.

THE BUCK STOPS HERE



The Big 5-0

Welcome to the 50th anniversary issue of KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS magazine. Actually, welcome to the fifth issue of KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS magazine and the 50th anniversary issue of the agency publication. Picky, picky . . .

The magazine you see today began as a seven-page newsletter in the spring of 1938. The first issue we know of, published in April 1938, was titled *Outdoor with the Forestry Fish & Game Commission of Kansas*. The publication was typed on legal-size paper, not including the cover and credit. A reproduction of a newsletter cover from that first year appears at right.

A little more history . . . The publication kept that long title until the June 1939 issue, when the name changed to KANSAS FISH & GAME.

For the next 41½ years, the title — KANSAS FISH & GAME — stood atop each issue even though the logo (the cover insignia) changed at least five times during that period. The name changed to KANSAS WILDLIFE with the January/February 1981 issue and kept that name until the March/April 1988 issue, when we became KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS to reflect the merging of the Kansas Fish & Game Commission and the Kansas State Park and Resources Authority.

The first half of this issue is but a small reflection of the stories that appeared in our first 50 years. We hope you enjoy the stroll through history.

* * *

A few words about the man who illustrated the July 1938 cover (at right) in our first year of publication.

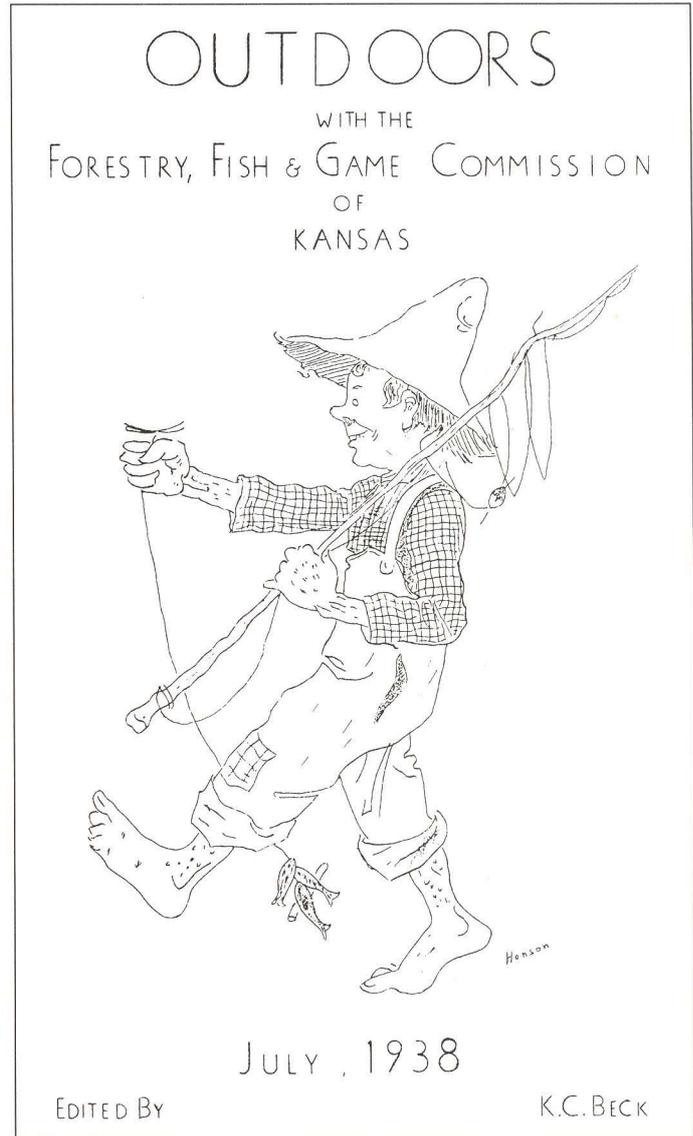
J. Luther Hanson was a 34-year-old freelance artist when he produced the farm-boy cover at the request of then-director Dave Leahy. Hanson was living in Greenleaf, Kan., when he inked that cover and, today at 84, still calls Greenleaf home.

A freelance artist most of his life, Hanson has lettered commercial signs, catalogs and “hundreds of trucks” in addition to the other covers he did for this agency in the late 1930s. When we talked with him recently, he was in the middle of lettering for the local swimming pool.

“It’s hard to get away from commercial artwork. There’s always somebody needing something,” Hanson says. The freelance work keeps him busy, but he still has time for a daily walk to downtown Greenleaf (pop. 462) with Laveda, his wife of 54 years.

* * *

Page 35 is home to the Kansas state deer records, which include the top 20 bucks in each of eight categories. This new listing reflects not only records we have on file in the Pratt office, but also Kansas records that are on file



J. Luther Hanson illustration

with the Boone & Crockett Club (B&C) and the Pope & Young Club (P&Y) offices. If there is any question as to the validity of one of our records, we consult with B&C and P&Y and follow their score or ruling.

Paul

Paul G. Koenig
Editor

1958 FOREST 1957

STATE OF KANSAS
FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

No. 4864

PERMIT TO CAMP

Name *Burgman Co State Park*
Paul Van Holst
P.O. *Wichita Kan*
No. *3* Date *Aug 31 1957*
Expires *Sept 3* at *6:00 P.M.*
Extended to _____ M.
Make of car *Ford*
So 67235



KANSAS FISH AND GAME

Vol. V May 30, 1943



The First 50

A collection of short stories from the first 50 years of this agency's magazine, which began as a seven-page newsletter in 1938.

The Hunter As Conservationist

November/December 1978

by **Chris Madson**

Recently, a mid-day radio announcer in eastern Kansas had as his guest a representative of Ducks Unlimited. The two were promoting an upcoming DU banquet designed to raise money for marsh development and preservation in Canada — the longstanding goal of DU. During their discussion, they repeatedly made the comment that DU money not only benefited the hunter by protecting vital waterfowl breeding habitat but also helped protect the wildlife interests of “conservationists.” Neither the host or the DU rep (probably a hunter himself) seemed to see any problem with a distinction between the two.

I'd dismiss the whole incident as a harmless slip if this distinction weren't the cornerstone of the rhetoric of half a dozen major anti-hunting groups. It seems to be an accepted part of the American view of wildlife conservation that a sportsman with a vested interest in abundant wildlife can't possibly be interested in protecting it, even though the future of hunting depends on healthy wildlife populations.

This attitude is beginning to wear a little thin with me. The hunter-conservationist has done more for North American Wildlife than any other group — spent more money, imposed more self-restraints, demanded more professional management. He hasn't looked for any praise for his actions; he recognized a long time back that wildlife management is an integral part of his responsibility as a hunter. He has taken that responsibility seriously.

All but a handful of the great American conservationists have been hunters or fishermen. Here are a few names of sportsmen-conservationists: Henry David Thoreau; George Bird Grinnell, founder of the Audubon Society; C. Hart Merriam, founder of the agency that eventually became the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Eliot Coues, a giant in the field of ornithology and a 19th century environmental activist; Gifford Pinchot, founder of the National Forest Service who was instrumental in setting aside 140 million acres of forest land for the public; Teddy



Roosevelt; George Perkins Marsh, another 19th century naturalist, scientist, and environmental philosopher; Aldo Leopold, author of *A Sand County Almanac* and the man who first expressed the concept of a land ethic; John Lacey, Iowa congressman who introduced bills that eventually protected all wildlife in national parks and stopped interstate commercial dealings in waterfowl. The list is much longer and includes nearly all of the country's best wildlife researchers and environmental thinkers.

Most historians have cited the Sierra Club as the first private group to take up conservation issues on a national scale. Actually, the Boone and Crockett Club began the organized conservation movement in 1887. Membership was limited to 100 big game hunters who were required to adhere to a rigid code of hunter ethics. The club was the first group to defend the nation's first park, Yellow-

stone, from commercial exploitation and hunting; it led the crusade that eventually outlawed wasteful hunting techniques like night lighting and running deer with hounds; it spearheaded the drive to give the President the power to set aside timber lands in the public interest; and it led the campaign that eventually resulted in protection of the Key deer, an endangered species, and helped pay for a warden and for land acquisition while the federal government tried to get authorization for the deer refuge.

The Boone and Crockett Club's concern for wildlife is far from being exceptional; it simply reflects the concern nearly all hunters have for conservation. About the only difference between conservationists who hunt and those who don't is that sport hunters have been in conservation longer — and have taken it a little more seriously.

At this season of the year when hunters have come for thousands of miles to Kansas to train their dogs in the quail hunting season, the following "Elegy to a Dog" by Senator Vest of Missouri, is quite appropriate. The story behind this is that a client of the Senator's had a dog that was killed in a neighbor's sheep fold by the neighbor. The Senator's client sued the neighbor for \$50.00 for his dog. After this plea to the jury, it is needless to say who won the case.

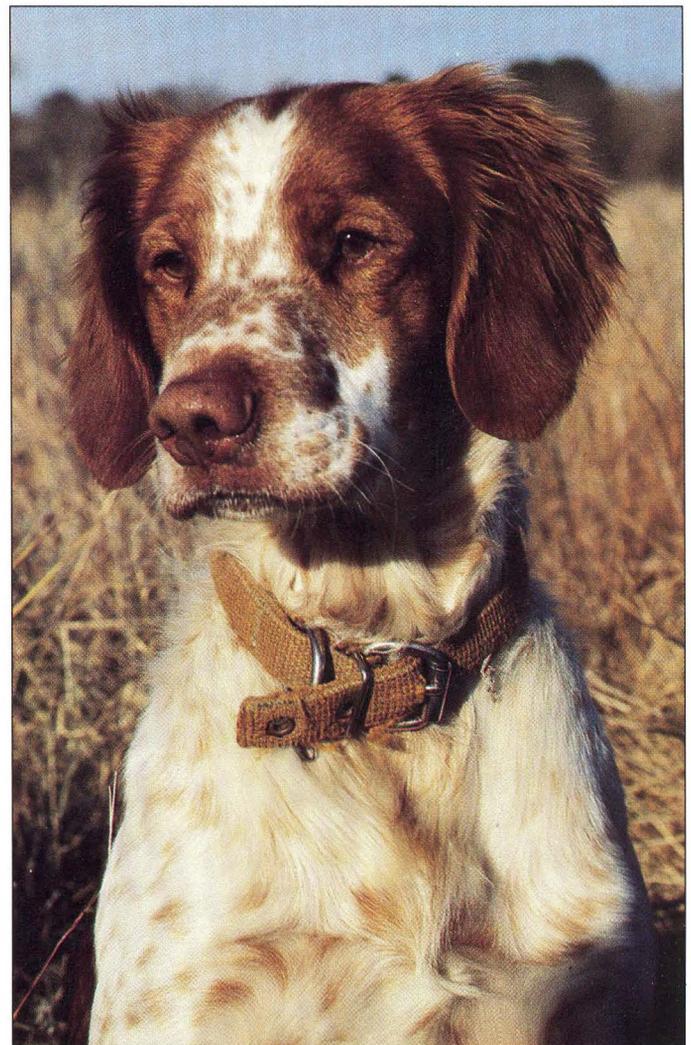
Elegy To A Dog

December 1939

Gentlemen of the Jury: The best friend a man has in this world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son and his daughter, whom he has reared with loving care, may prove ungrateful. Those nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name, may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has he may lose. It flies away from him when he may need it most. Man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees and do us honor, when success is with us, may be the first to throw the stone of malice, when failure settles in clouds upon our heads. The absolutely unselfish friend a man may have in this selfish world, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog.

Gentlemen of the Jury: A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, when the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he may be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer. He will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince.

When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens. If fortune drives his master forth an outcast in the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him, to guard against danger, to fight against his enemies, and when the last



Mike Blair photo

scene of all comes, and death takes his master in its embrace, and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there by his graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws and his eyes sad, but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true even to death. — U.S. Senator George G. Vest of Missouri.



Mike Blair photo

Pheasants

October 1939

A three day open season on pheasants in the three northwestern tier of counties has been set by the Fish and Game Commission for November 1, 2 and 3 in the following counties: Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton, Phillips, Smith, Jewell, Republic, Thomas, Graham, Wallace, Osborne, Logan, Gove, Trego, Ellis, Russell, Sherman, Sheridan, Rooks and Mitchell.

From all reports sent in by the game protectors from that section of the State, the hunter will enjoy an unusually good pheasant season this year; due in part to the restocking efforts of the Commission and to the ideal game conditions that have existed in that section of the State during the past year.

Noodlers Caught

July 1941

Down in south central Kansas, two men have been persistently taking fish with their hands for many years, and bragging that they would "out smart" the game protectors. They are now very humble, contrite, and have a greater respect for the ability of the game protectors. Jim Andrew and Joe Concannon, working that territory, heard the complaints of the sportsmen of south central Kansas and decided to bring these noodlers before the court. This they did. The judge assessed heavy fines and costs against the defendants, who are not likely to ply their illegal trade for many days.

Keep Them Fishing!

July 1954

"I have been Juvenile Court Judge in King County, Washington, for over twenty years. During that time I have handled some 45,000 juvenile cases. As a result of that experience, I have come to the conclusion that most youngsters go wrong simply because they do not have anything else to do. City kids do not have the chores that most of us had when we were growing up. It is more difficult for them to get out into the hills nowadays. Paved streets and alleys are not very wholesome places in which youngsters can give vent to their abundant energies and their hunger for adventure. Many of them turn to stealing cars and burglary for their outlets.

"It has also been my observation, however, that the same kids respond naturally when given an opportunity to hike and fish and climb, and I cannot recall a single case, in 20 years, of serious juvenile conduct involving a youngster whose hobby and recreation outlet was fishing. — Judge William G. Long, Superior Court, Seattle, Wash.



Gene Brehm photo

Deer On the Increase

October 1959

The Kansas deer population in 1959 has been placed at 8,768, up 39 percent from the 1958 population of 6,315. A count was made by game protectors of the fish and game commission during the annual late summer game survey.

All counties, except Stanton and Stevens, were reported to have deer populations.

Fast Company

May/June 1980

KANSAS FISH & GAME happened to come out the same day PLAYBOY magazine did. Just to let you know where you stand, I read your magazine first. . . .

Jim Gravenstein
Topeka

A Brave Man

January/February 1983

We're all wrong at one time or another, but how many of us will admit it?

Game Protector Arch Moberly knows and respects one man who did. A sportsman from Wamego who wrote the following letter:

Dear Officer Moberly:

On the afternoon of Nov. 14, 1982, my friends and I were returning home via Highway 18 after hunting pheasants at Nakota. We were stopped at the outskirts of Lincoln for a game check. After a search, a pheasant breast was found and taken as contraband by the Kansas Fish & Game Commission. During this time I was acting unbecoming of a hunter and in general raising hell with the officers in charge. For this I extend my most sincere apologies and hope to keep another incident like this from happening in the future.

*Name withheld
at editor's discretion*

Recreational Value

January 1939

The recreational values inherent in wildlife are too well recognized to need further emphasis to point out that more than a quarter million persons in the State of Kansas, from carefree country boys to nerve wracked peopled from all walks of life, turn to this source of recreation for relaxation and inspiration each year, and that the need for such opportunity will increase as the advance of civilization further encroaches upon the very source of wildlife today.

Hunting Companions

by John Madson and Ed Kozycki

*Conservation Department, Olin
Mathieson Chemical Corporation*

Your hunting partner is the most important single element of a successful hunt. Hunting is for fun, and fun is impossible with a selfish, boorish or dangerous companion.

Choose your hunting partner with great care and rate yourself by the same measures.

If he is a casual friend who sometimes irritates you at home, you can bet that this irritation will really blossom out in the boondocks when the going gets rough. A hunting companion should be a close friend whose natural virtues are known to you, and whom you know to be durable under stress.

Choose a hunting partner according to the depth of his interest. Some men do most of their hunting over a cup of coffee. Others are eager, go-for-broke types who'll hang tough until dark. Determine the degree of your own interest and match it with your companion's.

Gun sense is vital in a hunting partner. You can hand a gun to a man and evaluate his total experience in

a few minutes. The real hunter handles a gun with assurance, ease and respect. He knows the gun. You owe it to yourself and your family to side with such a man, and you owe it to him to return in kind.

A shoot may be a grim trial to be endured together, or a dream hunt to remember. In either case, it is a mutual enterprise to be shared without selfishness — sharing shooting opportunities, hunting techniques, food, equipment, water, and something of each other. It must never be seriously competitive, and no good thing should be hogged by one man. The only place for selfishness on a hunt is in taking more than your share of work, discomfort or disappointment.

There'll be times when Mother Nature and Lady Luck — a pair of fickle old jades, at best — team up against you. A predicted sprinkle becomes an all-day rain, you hunt every covert but the right one, or your dog acts up badly. A good partner expects such things and accepts the unchangeable with grace. He can endure adversity and grin off a case of creeping irritation.

And in his eyes, how do you stack up?

Maybe you're cold, hungry or tired. You needn't dwell on it; your

partner probably feels the same way. If you honestly feel you shouldn't or can't go on, face it frankly and cheerfully. But don't whine. Whining will ruin everyone's day, and stamp you as a gutless wonder who has no business afield.

One of the gravest offenses against a companion is to betray his confidence and spread the word about his personal game coverts. If a man thinks enough of you to share his prized hunting secrets, respect that confidence. Such places are meant to be shared between you and him, and not be usurped by others.

Nearly as bad is the "claimer" who shoots and grabs, and hotly denies ever missing a shot. There will be times when you're not sure who killed the game. If so, waive your claim and say you missed. No game, not even a trophy, is worth risking a friendship.

A real hunting partner is one who shares without asking a share in return, who gives without thinking, who places your well-being and pleasure above his own.

Such a man may be rich and well-born, or a smelly old gaffer in bib overalls. But mark him well, wherever you find him. He is a gentleman, and a proper man to share your fire with.

Highly Successful

July/August 1974

PRATT—Kansas turkey hunters scored high in the state's first turkey season, April 20-28, with about one-third of the hunter's bringing home a bird.

From questionnaires returned by hunters to the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, as of May 1, about 120 turkeys were harvested. A total of 400 persons received permits to hunt turkey in a limited area of south-western Kansas.

With more reports coming in, and accounting for a number of hunters who didn't hunt, it is estimated the total harvest may reach 130. According to Ken Monte, Hays, turkey biologist of the FF&G Commission, the hunter success rate in Kansas may be one of the highest in the nation.



Gene Brehm photo

In southeastern U.S. where unlimited turkey permits are usually available, hunter success is generally 10 to 15 per cent.

Monte noted several reasons why Kansas hunters were so fortunate.

"The terrain in our turkey hunting areas is easy to hunt," he explained. "It is not difficult to stalk turkey along a river bordered by just a few trees from which the birds can be flushed into the open.

Monte added that opening morn-

ing of the season found many of the turkeys less wary than they should have been, but this feature, according to a number of hunters, changed dramatically by the second day.

Monte said the hunting season was good for the overall turkey population. He said it put "wildness" back into the birds which were protected for many years and in some areas were tending towards becoming domestic. He said hunting also will disperse large flocks into smaller ones, decreasing chances of disease and increasing turkey range.

The biologist speculated the turkey harvest accounted for less than 10 per cent of the tom turkey population, most of the harvested birds being old and nonproductive. He said since this was the first season the FF&G Commission decided to start out with a conservative number of permits in hopes of increasing it in coming years.



Gene Brehm photo

Big Bass

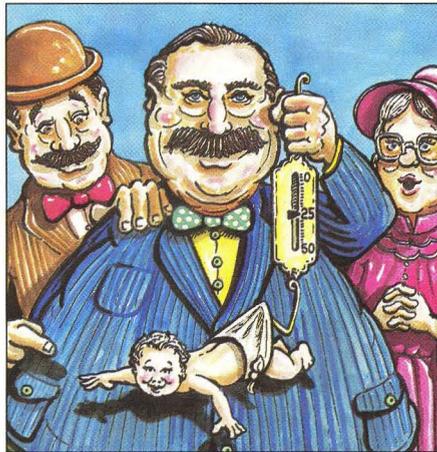
June 1938

C.M. Fitzwilliams, of Wichita, was successful in connecting with a six pound bass at the Rainbow Lakes in Barber County on the fifteenth. The strain was too much for Dick Lee, two days in bed was the result.

Big Baby

October 1938

When President Cleveland's second child was born, no scales could be found to weigh the baby. Finally the scales used by the President to weigh fish were brought up from the cellar, and the child was found to weigh 25 pounds. — *Iowa State Conservation Bulletin*



Gary Davison cartoon

Good Advice

July 1949

FISHING HINT: Simply be in the right place at the right time with the right bait.

State Park Visitors

July 1941

Why not plan to spend your weekends at a state park? Many others are taking advantage of these near-to-home vacation spots. Last year nearly 400,000 visitors spent a day or more at the state parks. Arrangements have been made to entertain many more visitors this season. Most of the state parks have facilities designed especially to provide you with the relaxation you need. More camping areas have been built, more shelter houses have been erected, swimming beaches have been improved generally, and the open lakes heavily stocked with fish.

Canoe Access

July/August 1977

When a Midwestern canoeist starts looking for a river to float, Kansas waters aren't generally the first that come to mind. He has visions of the wild, clear-water streams of southern Missouri, northern Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota and rightly so. The beauty of these rivers and the country they flow through has brought them national recognition, but they aren't always the best solution to the problem of where to canoe. Many are crowded during the summer and too far away for a weekend trip. As a result, many floaters have looked for streams closer to home and they're often, pleasantly surprised. Corn and wheat belt states like Kansas have attractive, if not wild, canoeing streams. The problem for most Kansas canoeists isn't finding the right stream; it's getting permission to float.

There are two issues involved. The first is whether or not a stream is navigable. The second is whether a non-navigable stream can be closed

to the public by a private landowner. A navigable stream is public highway, and like any other highway, it can't be blocked, fenced or posted without state approval. Landowners on non-navigable streams can legally dam or fence the channel, but can they post the water against trespass?

Wisconsin decides the whole canoe access problem simply. If the stream will carry a canoe or kayak at some time of the year, it's navigable. A canoeist can legally float it, and it can't be dammed or fenced over without a state permit. Wisconsin courts also seem to sympathize with the view that "the enjoyment of scenic beauty along a stream is a public right" no matter how much water it carries.

Missouri's laws concerning canoe access aren't as well defined or as sweeping as Wisconsin's, but they do allow the canoeist to use most streams for floating. The Missouri canoeist can legally portage his craft over private property if he's forced out of the water by a fence or other obstruction. Nebraska's stream use laws are similar. The stream bed itself is private property, but the water

is public. Again, a canoeist can portage over private property if he has to.

Kansas has three navigable streams — the Arkansas, the Kansas and the Missouri. All the others are privately owned. According to Kansas law, they're off-limits to canoeists who don't have permission from the stream owners to float.

If most Kansas streams aren't considered very scenic, it's because few people have taken the time to get acquainted with them. Few people have the time to check with all the stream owners to find out if floating is alright. None of these streams flow through any real wilderness; few of them run in the shade of Ozark bluffs or take their water from limestone-bottomed springs. They're different than the more popular Midwest float streams. They're prairie rivers, clean and tanned, spread out on broad sand bottoms between low banks, unique, and in their way as pretty as any stream in the Ozarks or north woods. It's a shame that they're also the only streams in the Midwest that are posted against trespassing. — *Chris Madson*

An Era Ends...

Seth Says "So Long"

Remembering "Catfish" Way
and his contribution to fisheries culture.

Winter 1968

by George Valyer

Seth Way, genial superintendent of the State Fish Hatchery, is retiring. After 46 years of continuous service to the fishermen of Kansas, Seth plans to hang up his boots in the fish house for the last time on December 31, 1968, two months after he reached age 65.

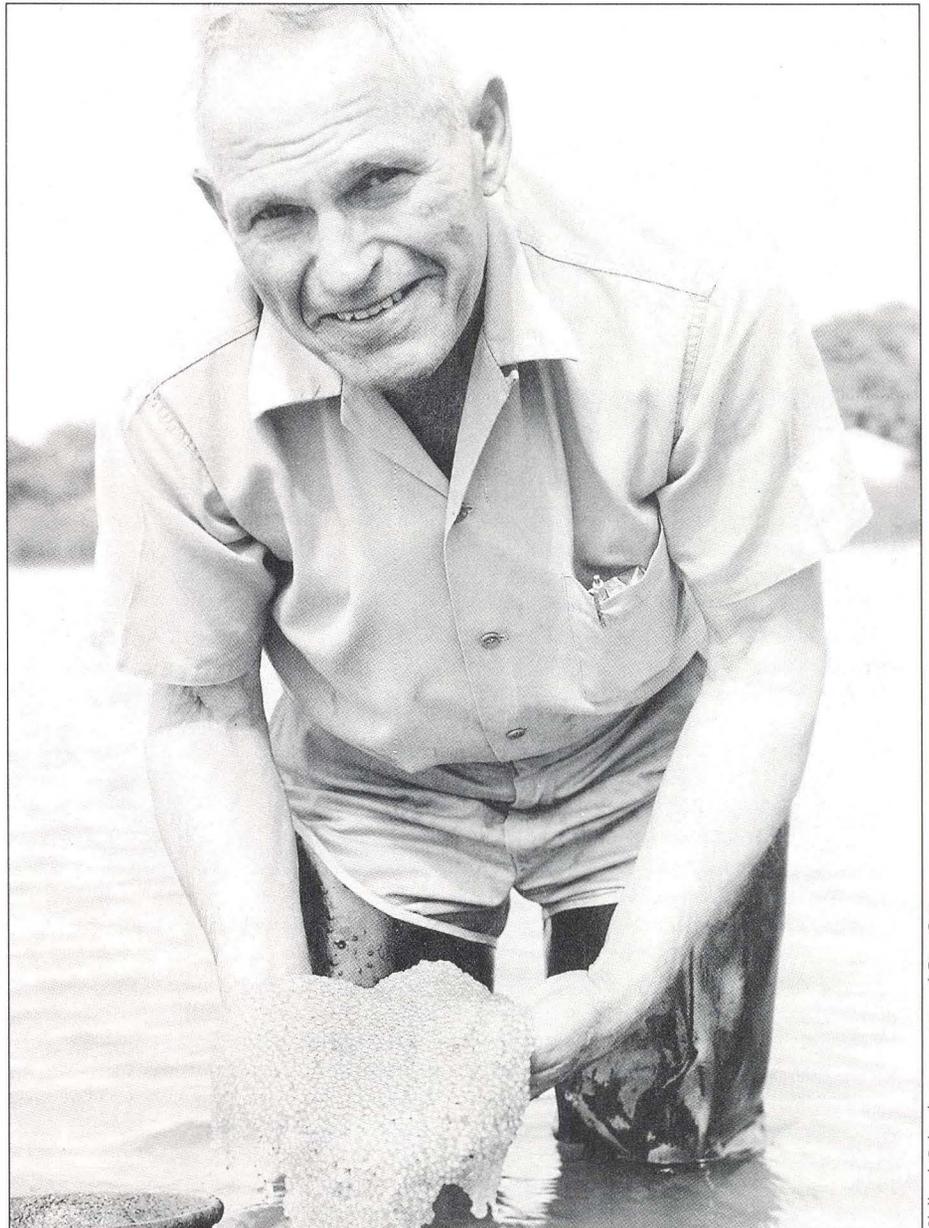
There is one thing you can count on, Seth has another pair of boots in reserve. Although he won't be working for the Fish and Game Commission, he'll still be busy doing the thing he knows best — raising fish.

He has been a silent partner in a commercial fish operation for some time and you can bet he'll find plenty to occupy him at the Hartley Fish Farm near Kingman on U.S. 54. He is also in demand as a consultant for fish farming operations over a wide area of the country, so chances are you won't find him occupying a rocking chair for any period of time.

What about this man Seth Way? How did he come to occupy the revered position as an expert in the business of fish culture? Why is it that persons in high positions in the realm of fishery work have sought him out to benefit from his experience?

The answers are not simple, but must be tied in closely with the man himself, his dedication to an effort, his ability to put facts together and come up with a solution, his innate scientific ability coupled with a common sense approach. Along with these abilities and virtues, a sense of public service has kept him motivated through the years.

Regardless of position, a visitor to



Seth Way, the man who developed the first practical method of artificially hatching channel catfish eggs, smiled for the camera near the end of his 47-year career.

Clelland Cole photo; courtesy of Don Patton



the fish hatchery always received cordial treatment and a sympathetic ear from Seth Way. He was just as concerned over a farm pond and its owner's problems as he was with a visiting foreign dignitary seeking improved methods for pond fish culture in his native land.

Although Seth never had many of the opportunities of formal education, his powers of observation and a remarkable ability for retention of facts placed him far above the ordinary man. He was hired by the Fish and Game Department as a fish culturist in 1922 and on January 1, 1926, became superintendent of the Pratt hatchery. The biennial report of the Kansas Fish and Game Department for 1926 leaves no doubt that Seth had inspired the confidence of his superiors and, upon the resignation of John Murphree as superintendent, he was immediately appointed to the position.

The most outstanding of Way's accomplishments and the one which brought him national and international acclaim was the development of the first practical method of artificially hatching channel catfish eggs.

The importance of this development can hardly be overstated. Of course, the average angler has received a great deal of benefit through the increased availability of channels for stocking public and private waters, but the process has also been the basis of the rapidly-growing fish farming industry throughout the southern half of the United States as well as abroad.

Although carp have been grown commercially for centuries, primarily in the Orient and central Europe, the channel catfish holds the bulk of popularity in North America because of its superior flavor and texture. This popularity is spreading to many other spots around the globe, further accenting the importance of Way's discovery.

Seth's invention is principally a trough with screen baskets to hold the spawn and a system of moving vanes over each basket to keep the

water circulating through the egg mass. The vanes are propelled by a water wheel at one end of the trough and a constant stream of water is kept flowing from one end of the trough to the other. When Seth was first designing the system, his initial thought was to use an electric motor to power the vanes. However, the Fish and Game Department was essentially broke at the time. Funds were not available to purchase the motor. As an alternative, Seth designed and built the small waterwheel to power the mechanism and the same design is still used today.

Literally hundreds of these channel catfish "incubators" have been constructed throughout the country since 1930 and are used in many state and federal fish hatcheries as well as commercial fish farms. The result has been high hatchability of the spawns and higher survival rate of the young fry.

Seth's work with channels earned him the nickname of "Catfish" Way and thus he is known among some of the sportsmen of Kansas. Nearly every ardent fisherman and farm pond owner in Kansas is well acquainted with the name and all who know him respect his knowledge.

When talking about his retirement, Seth frankly admits he is looking forward to it with pleasant anticipation. For years he has accepted the responsibilities of his position with a dedication seldom found among public employees. When the fishing was best, then Seth was the busiest. Now he plans to go fishing when he wants and you can be sure he knows how to harvest some of the crop he has been planting for so many years.

For his retirement years, Way and his attractive wife, Viola, have purchased a home in Kingman, not too far from Seth's fishery interests. There, he expects to live at a little more leisurely pace than has been his for the past 46 years. There's no doubt that the good wishes of all sportsmen will be with him as he closes his career of public service and opens the door on a different way of life.



Photo courtesy of Ellis Way

Seth Way of Pratt hefts a brood channel catfish in this 1939 photo.

Nice Job, Mr. Way

January 1940

Fish Culturist, Seth L. Way, has had the very pleasurable task of instructing the housewives of Pratt and adjacent communities in the art of cleaning, boning and cooking carp. He has given to the residents of Pratt and neighboring counties nearly nine tons of carp which he and members of the fish crew rescued from frozen waters bordering the hatchery property. Those who were fortunate enough to get carp, and profited by Seth's teachings, have stated that they now prefer carp to many of the other fish.

The Straight And Narrow

July/August 1972

by Ross Manes

Ask a hundred outdoorsmen from across the country to describe their favorite river or creek and you'll get almost that many answers, but each stream will share some common elements. Each will have a tree-shaded pool, or an undercut bank where the current carries the bait in a certain way, and perhaps a fallen log or concealing rock where there always seems to be a big'un. Not a person will describe a watercourse with high, barren, steeply sloped banks, a smoothly rounded mud or sand bottom, and a trickle of water that moves at an even speed and even depth as far as the eye can see.

In the past, when a man was said to walk the "straight and narrow," it implied certain commendable characteristics. Today, however, when a man travels the straight and narrow it may once have been a tiny trout stream in Tennessee, or a meandering, snag-studded catfish creek that has been straightened and narrowed by channelization. For conservationists, there is absolutely nothing commendable about it.

A channelized stream is an insult to nature. It's like a site that has been prepared for construction. Scraped bare, gouged and crushed, waiting nudely embarrassed for creativity that never comes. Instead of stately cottonwoods, elms, black walnuts, and hackberry, only smoldering piles of ashes remain. Instead of buckbrush, ragweed and native grasses, only the crumbling soil, beginning the steady erosion that typifies new channelization.

When accomplished without restraint and consideration for the wildlife resource, channelization amounts

to total disaster for the aquatic life of a stream. During periods of heavy run-off the man-made channel carries away water so quickly and efficiently that the current scours and smooths the already ruined bottom, eliminating the last vestiges of spawning habitat for larger fishes. In dry weather, when runoff becomes nonexistent, the stream flow may be so low that water temperatures exceed tolerance levels for most game fish, and no deep pools remain to protect them. Mud from eroding banks clogs the stream, severely limiting populations of small aquatic organisms, destroying the delicate food chains required to maintain a fishery.

In Mississippi, a stream that contained five bass of about two pounds each prior to channelization was found to have only four bass with a total combined weight of less than one-quarter pound after treatment. A study conducted by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission involving 123 channelized streams showed that 90 percent (by weight or numbers) of the game fish were lost. Even after 40 years no appreciable improvement has occurred. Similar studies in another state have indicated no more than a ten percent recovery 75 years after channelization. Only continuous, severe pollution over a long period of time can produce comparably detrimental effects on game fish populations.

Fish and fishermen aren't the only ones to suffer from channelization. Hunters, naturalists, photographers, game animals, and non-game animals are equally serious losers in the war on waterways.

In large areas of central and western Kansas, streamside vegetation provides the only suitable nesting sites for squirrels, hawks, owls and many songbirds. The success of attempts to establish the Rio Grande turkey in arid southwestern Kansas depends largely on streamside habitat. In areas where the land is intensively farmed, and that includes most of the state, Bobwhite quail, pheasant and cottontail rabbits find some of the best nesting and escape cover along undisturbed creeks.

While it is true that channelization and the removal of trees and brush are followed by seeding the area, replacement species of vegetation are usually poorly suited for wildlife hab-

itat. In fact, because the new grasses are selected more for their compatibility with rapid water transport, the area frequently has only slightly more appeal for wildlife than a paved parking lot.

Many of the channelization projects being implemented in states other than Kansas are under the authority of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Numerous large areas of prime wildlife habitat have been, and will be destroyed for the expressed purpose of conserving or improving water, or to increase the amount of tillable farmland by draining wetlands. Both purposes appear to be worthwhile goals until you consider that while destroying fish and wildlife habitat, at the taxpayer's expense, the projects are designed to increase farmable land to grow crops that are already considered to be in surplus.

Kansas has not escaped the blight of channelization. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with congressional authorization, has taken dead aim at Big Creek, Wet Walnut Creek and Gypsum Creek. Corps flood control projects have already left their indelible mark on some Kansas streams, such as Mud Creek. The small, northeastern Kansas stream has been partially channelized, and additional work has been delayed only because of a last ditch stand by conservationists. In the same part of the state, Stranger Creek was stripped bare of cover for 50 feet on both sides of a 50 mile stretch. The Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission strongly objected to the Stranger Creek project to no avail. Instead, the Corps suggested mitigation.

Boiled down, mitigation means to lessen the severity of a project, usually by reducing the amount of habitat destruction originally planned. Wildlife conservationists have found it difficult to understand how mitigation of this type helps wildlife in the remaining affected area.

The Soil Conservation Service, under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, also initiates channelization projects. While Corps of Engineers projects are intended to protect life and property, S.C.S. projects are designed primarily to protect the soil.

Most channelization work conducted by the Soil Conservation Service is made up of relatively small

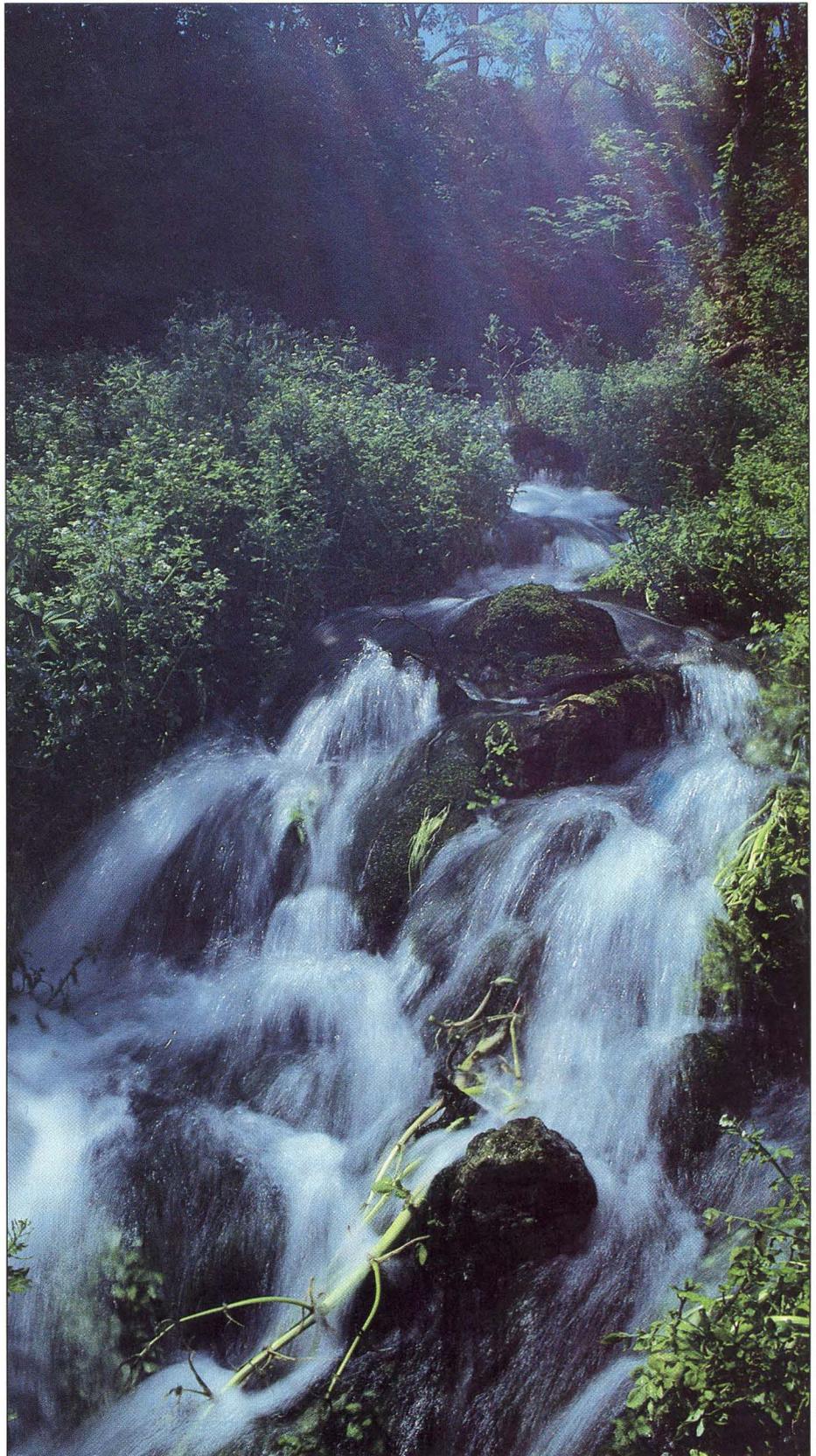


projects, compared to those of the other two federal agencies. This does not necessarily mean that the projects have any less impact on wildlife since they frequently involve many small drainages totalling an enormous amount of habitat when combined. Currently in Kansas projects are planned, underway, or completed on several small watersheds including Bee Creek, Twin Caney, Walnut Creek, Big Sugar Creek and the Vermillion River.

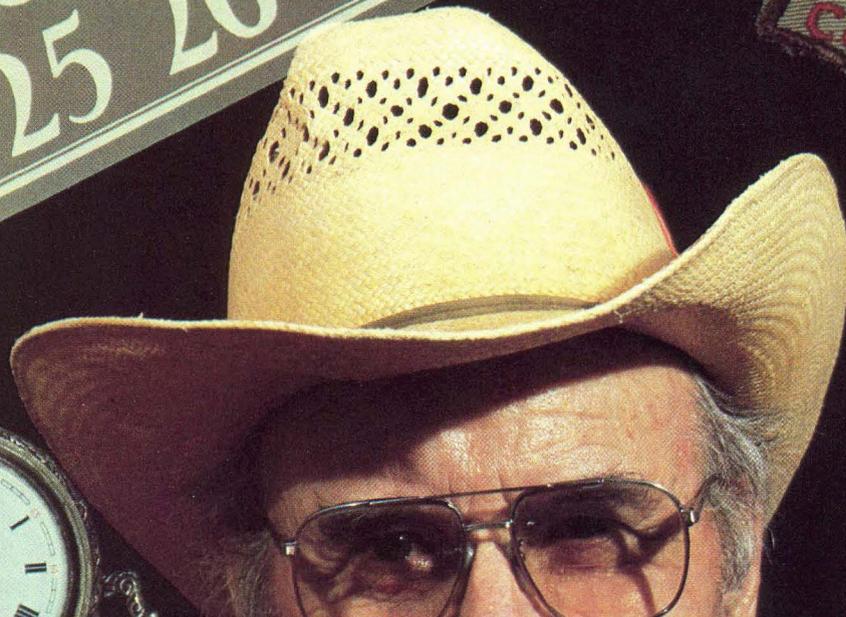
The S.C.S., following newly established federal guidelines and regulations, has begun to show an encouraging inclination to consider the wildlife resource on projects being undertaken in Kansas. Mitigation has taken on a new, if somewhat limited meaning. Hopefully, other agencies will follow suit, and eventually all will recognize that other methods and new priorities must be found which will permit man to live in harmony with his wild environment.

Federal agencies are not alone in their involvement with channelization. State highway departments frequently play a major role in reducing wildlife habitat. In Kansas the Highway Department is one of the larger contributors to habitat loss. Each time a road or highway crosses a stream, a bridge must be constructed; and each time a bridge is constructed, a small portion of the stream is channelized to protect the structure. When a highway parallels a stream, close to the bank, channelization is often used to protect the roadway from being undercut. When considered alone, each of these projects is insignificant, but the cumulative effect is devastating.

There are bright spots in the channelization picture. Each day brings an increasing public awareness of the environment, forcing more responsiveness from the government agencies. But the war of the waterways is far from won. Conservationists must remain constantly alert to the threat of channelization, or one day find themselves up the straight and narrow creek without a paddle.



Mike Blair photo



BYRON WALKER
 AREA MANAGER
 SERVING 1942 SINCE

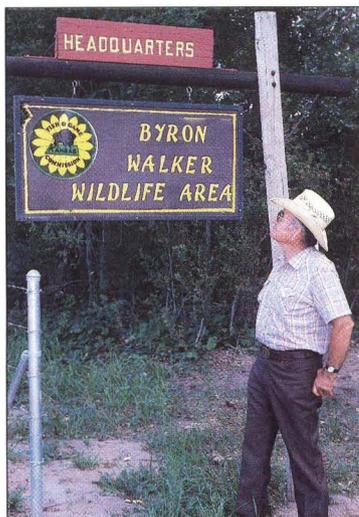
1957

STATE OF KANSAS
 FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

No. 4864

PERMIT TO CAMP

Name *Brigman Co. State Park*
Paul Van Salah
 Wichita State Kans.
 Date *aug. 31* 1945
 Expires *Sept. 3* at *600 P.*
 Extended to *Byron Walker* Park
Ford
62235



Byron Walker, outside the Byron Walker Wildlife Area.

Meet Byron Walker



Editor's Note: When Byron Walker retired in May 1987 after more than 40 years of service with this agency, his co-workers threw him a retirement party. One of the highlights of the evening was the playing of a videotape focusing on Byron's long, dedicated years of service. The tape chronicled Byron's work on what had been known as the Kingman Wildlife Area. Toward the end of the tape, Byron, reminiscing over his career (and not knowing how the tape would be used), said:

"I couldn't have asked for a better way to spend my life than what I've been doing for the past 40 years. I guess I'm eternally grateful to the (old) Fish and Game Department for giving that opportunity."

Seems the Department felt the same way about Byron and the job he did taking a piece of undeveloped public property and turning it into the productive wildlife area it is today. In honor of Byron's work, which began in 1942, the Kingman Wildlife Area was renamed the Byron Walker Wildlife Area. We caught up with Byron Walker in August and toured the Walker area. An edited version of the interview follows.

KW&P: You worked on this area for a few months before you entered the service in 1942. So most of your area management began in 1946, after you returned from the war. What were those early years like?

WALKER: The old Fish & Game Commission made a resolution in the early '30s that they'd spend all the money from fishing licenses sold in Kingman County and surrounding Sedgwick, Reno, Pratt and Harper counties and use that money to build the lake.

People in Kingman County were promoting it by going door-to-door selling fishing licenses in order to get additional money. That's one way they got the local people to really promote it. The Commission also got WPA (Work Projects Administration) involved, in addition to a few other things, and that's the way the lake was financed. They said it was going to take a year and a half to build it, but they got so many people coming in with horses and slip scrapers that they actually built it in the summer of '33.

made neat shade. And a neat-looking area for camping. So I decided that cottonwoods would do the same on this area. That's one reason we started planting more cottonwoods.

KW&P: How was construction of the area lake financed?

WALKER: The old Fish & Game Commission made a resolution in the early 30's that they'd spend all the money from fishing licenses sold in Kingman County and surrounding Sedgwick, Reno, Pratt and Harper counties and use that money to build the lake.

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KW&P: What species of wildlife were on the area when you returned to work in 1946?

WALKER: This area was what? — 14 years old by then — and the 1,600 acres was probably in its prime as a quail producer. There weren't many pheasants down in here, except in dead winter. But one time I started right here at the north end of the lake and followed the old road about a mile and a half or so back to the highway. I counted 80-some pheasants on the neighboring land. The quail situation was good in this valley, the old park area, back in those days. The area was opened for hunting in the fall of 1964, and a lot of hunters came that first season. You'd have to say it was a mob. There were that many people hunting here. It would surprise you the number of quail they took, just in this little dinky area. With this extensive vegetation down here, the area has turned into deer and turkey habitat — good for squirrel and rabbit — but the quail are down from those years.

KW&P: You mention the deer and turkey on the area. How did these two species come on in the early years?

WALKER: Well, I can't give you the exact dates, but the first deer I ever saw on the area was a buck. That had to be in the middle '50s, maybe even early '50s, and of course, from then on for three months I hit that same spot every day trying to see deer again.

KW&P: Did the wait pay off?

WALKER: No, he never did come back in that same spot, but it wasn't too long after that we started seeing does and fawns. From then on it was just a matter of time till the population really started growing. When did they open the first deer season in Kansas? '65? I'd say that in 10-12 year's time the deer population really exploded. Even today the deer harvest on the area is amazing to me. The real sad part of it is that generally the road kill through the area is as great as the legal take.

The first turkeys I ever saw on the area were in the spring of 1966. That was after the state bought the Sears Ranch. We were planting trees over on the west side,

and two lone young gobblers came in. They were wild turkeys, but they weren't afraid of us. We got up pretty close to them before they spooked and ran off, but it always seemed to me that when turkeys moved into an area they just weren't as spooky as they are now. Back then you could watch them for 30 minutes to an hour.

KW&P: How have Kansas sportsmen changed, if at all, over the years? Particularly, in their outlook toward their sport.

WALKER: The sportsman today, the guy that's obsessed with hunting and fishing, isn't any different than he was 50 years ago. There's just as many people interested in the hunting and really interested in conservation and habitat improvement. But there's still that percentage of people that just plain don't give a dang for wildlife. The biggest, absolutely the biggest concern that I've got as far as sportsmanship is concerned, or wildlife conservation or promotion of hunting and fishing, is the farmer's attitude. In one sense, I don't blame the farmers a bit; there's no farmer that can afford to turn land over to public hunting. But it seems that the farmer is pushed so dang hard by government regulations and the feed-grain program and so on that he's got to where he resents every little idea that the government throws out. And this is reflected back on the fact that they'll farm right up to the edge of the road just to keep from having somebody wanting to hunt on their property. They'll resent every inclination of someone even asking if they can hunt on their place, even to the point of destroying cover just because they want to keep people off. To me that's a crime. It shouldn't be that way.

KW&P: What were some of the early steps you took to establish wildlife habitat on the area?

WALKER: Most of the plant procession and wildlife habitat on the area has been with our help. The first two years we planted 20,000 trees annually, then 15,000 the third year and after that we tapered off — just 1,000 to 2,000 — because we thought we had enough cover. On top of that we sowed grass on so many areas. But most of the areas where we let natural succession occur and didn't sow grass we found that the grass has increased. At the same time, this ground held a good weedy situation, which makes the edge effect we try for. If someone really wanted to study plant succession, all they had to do was keep their eye on this place. I don't know how many pounds of Indiangrass seed we harvested off this last year. It's just almost a pure stand of Indiangrass, but if you'll get out there and look you're going to see an invasion of even the native forbs, like roundhead lespedeza. We've encouraged that with our forbs program.

The cedar trees are important, too. If you don't have cedar trees when that storm hits, you won't have anything to break the wind action. Once the storm is over, the dark cedar tree starts melting the snow and ice quicker and the ground becomes exposed. And if you've got a bunch of weeds growing right there then you've got a good source of feed for that quail if it's still alive.

KW&P: Your thoughts on the widening of Highway 54 (which cuts through the area)?

WALKER: It should help the deer population. At least when a deer comes down there with nothing but a doe on his mind, the driver along that highway is going to be able to see better than when it was two-lane.

KW&P: A lot of deer are hit on Highway 54?

WALKER: Right on 54. I can't help but think that the right of way as wide and as open as that is will be a benefit to the area's deer population. I don't know how many deer have been killed on this section right here behind this shelterbelt because deer are on the highway before they even realize there's any danger.

KW&P: Have people complained about the widening of the highway?

WALKER: It really isn't a complaint. They're interested, really. The idea of putting a superhighway through the game area isn't the best thing in the world. But the alternative — the old 54 — is a lot worse.

KW&P: What are your thoughts on the importance of the Byron Walker Wildlife Area to south-central Kansas and the importance of public land to Kansas sportsmen, birdwatchers and nature lovers in general?

WALKER: Well, it isn't any different, really, in my mind than it was when I first started working for Fish and Game. I think the wildlife areas are important simply because that's where the wildlife is No 1. A wildlife area has to be protected from any kind of money-making projects such as farming and big business. It has to be developed in such a way that it's going to produce the optimum number of pheasant and quail for the hunters to take. And when you manage an area for wildlife species, you can't help but make it a wildlife area for every other bird or creature that comes along. There's no reason why people that just plain like to observe and study nature shouldn't have access to it the same as anybody else.

Regarding public land, the more you have, the better it is. This area, for example, is five miles long, lays for five miles right along the Ninnescah River and it's one of the best sources of water for the land. There isn't any better sponge for that river than this five miles of land that isn't farmed — practically no run-off on it, but it's all sandy soil, deep clays and with deep grass on there. Let alone the fact that you can actually get out and see the birds and animals and hunt and fish. Enjoying public lands is good for the soul, really, and if most people would realize that they'd use these lands more than they do.

You'd be surprised at the attitudes of most folks who habitually camp here. They've got that idea that it's just nice and peaceful out there. We've got a law against fireworks of any kind on the 4th of July. But we get a heck of a crowd of people out here because we *don't* allow fireworks. They want to get away from that; they want a peaceful place where they can just sit and have their own thoughts. One of the best sports in the world is studying nature year-round. I mean, just learn it yourself. If I were to have a constant prayer, the thing I would ask for would be understanding. Understanding nature would be the first thing I'd want. If I'm upset or worried or down, I take a drive through this wildlife area, watch for birds, watch for animals, it doesn't matter.

KW&P: Just forget about your cares and ...

WALKER: That's right. Put the whole thing out of your mind and see what's out here. There's a little bit of Daniel Boone in every one of us. Whether it's just sitting on a lake shore fishing, going hunting or just plain birdwatching, being outdoors is a pacifying recreation. It can calm your nerves, relieve your everyday pressures. That's what I think about the importance of wildlife areas. W&P



...And On Down The Road

The Department and the years ahead.

by **Robert L. Meinen**
Secretary — Wildlife & Parks
and
W. Alan Wentz
Assistant Secretary

The Department of Wildlife and Parks is a public service agency. We provide two types of service, and our primary challenge is to provide these services effectively and efficiently.

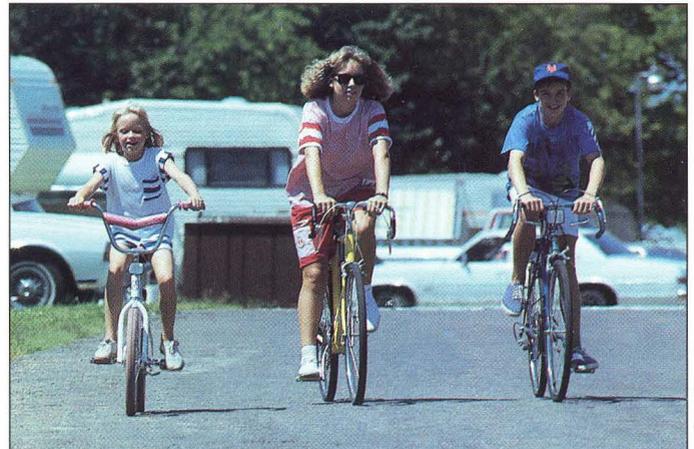
Our first and most important service is the protection and enhancement of the state's natural resources. The second type of service is to provide for public use of those natural resources. Use takes on many forms including observation, appreciation, education, harvest and a variety of participatory activities.

The need for places to enjoy recreation is ever-increasing. We must find more places for people to camp, hike, hunt, birdwatch, boat, canoe and fish, to name a few popular outdoor activities.

We also must improve the quality of our environment. Intensifying agricultural practices plus increasing urban growth and housing demands can result in further deterioration in environmental quality. This makes for a continuing loss of habitat for both wildlife and people. Every acre of habitat we save is an acre we don't have to replace.

Significant changes are occurring in Kansas agriculture. More than 2.5 million acres of cropland have been returned to permanent cover through the Conservation Reserve Program, and that acreage is increasing rapidly. Federal farm programs require farmers to develop and implement conservation plans to protect soil and water resources. Surface and ground water become more scarce each year. Also dwindling is the number of farmers and ranchers as economics force people away from agriculture. These changes, among others, will continue to change the Kansas landscape as well as the quality of our environment and our recreation.

As urban areas prosper, Kansans are becoming increasingly concentrated in cities and large towns. Outdoor recreation needs are shifting to sites in and near these urban areas. It's impossible to predict the future, of course, but the Department is planning to continue our dual mission:



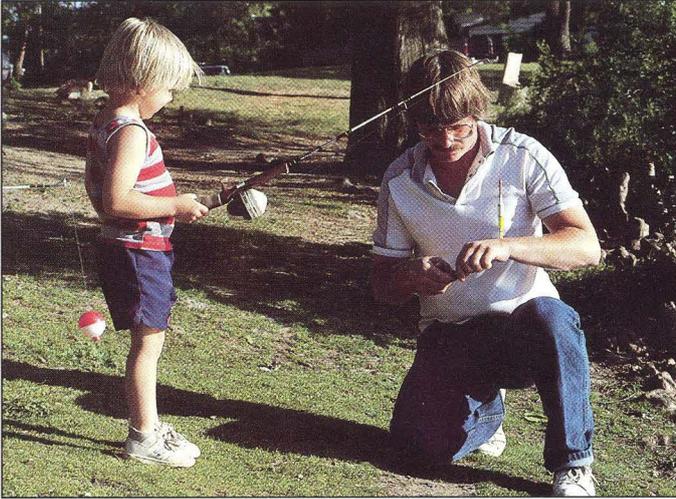
Mike Blair photo

Outdoor recreation needs are shifting to sites in and near urban areas, where bicycling remains a popular form of recreation.

protect environmental quality and provide for the use of natural resources well into the 21st century.

One of our primary objectives is to provide access to more recreational lands. Our agency is seeking agreements with communities, watershed districts, corporations, and private landowners to open lands for fishing, hunting, camping and other outdoor sports. This will intensify over the next several decades as Kansans need more areas to visit. The agency will acquire certain types of lands such as wetlands because of their high environmental values. Other lands will be leased, or easements will be established to protect their essential character or to provide public access. Streams and rivers will be prime candidates for easement protection.

Because of the concentration of people in urban areas, the Department will establish more programs there and enhance our working relationship with urban park and recreation departments, convention and tourism bureaus and private organizations. We'll emphasize urban fishing developments, backyard "watchable" wildlife, nongame



Mike Blair photo

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will enhance fishing opportunity and encourage strong ethics and less competition.

wildlife, recreational trails, greenway corridors and a variety of urban outdoor education efforts.

The urban influence will spill over into nearby state parks, wildlife areas and fishing lakes. Some of our state parks will become even more urban-oriented than they are now. El Dorado, Cheney and Hillside state parks are among those that will see increased visitation and demand for more services. Our agency will develop and initiate plans to increase the amount of public land near these urban areas. Many visitors to our park system already arrive in large mobile homes and trailers with large power boats in tow. These visitors require a high level of service; our goal is to provide that service.

All of the demands on our state park system will probably increase significantly over the next few decades. As a result of this increased attention, we'll be providing a computerized reservation system for all our parks. This system will allow us to better serve Kansans and the many visitors to our state. We'll provide a broader range of services in all of our parks. These services will range from resort complexes to primitive winter camping areas. All of our parks must have a broad range of interpretative and educational programs. We'll work to establish new parks that will focus on some of the unique natural areas, history and culture of Kansas. Our rich and colorful history needs to be better represented in our state park system. In short, our state park system needs a complete face lift.

Increasing emphasis on urban areas doesn't mean we'll decrease emphasis on the state's rural areas. We'll also be increasing our efforts in rural areas. We expect to put more emphasis on helping private landowners improve their land for wildlife. By helping landowners establish native grass and forb stands, plant trees and shrubs, develop wildlife enhancement plans and provide technical advice, we'll help to improve the quality of the environment and increase the land's capacity to support recreational use. The Department will give more attention to the increasing number of people who own small parcels of land. These landowners often want wildlife — not profit — as the primary product of their land.

Our Department can offer some unique rural devel-

opment opportunities to small towns and rural areas. These opportunities would attract hunters, fishermen, birdwatchers and other outdoor enthusiasts into an area. Joint efforts to enhance an area's songbird population can attract birdwatchers from many miles. Promotions of unique natural features such as the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area can attract tourists from around the world. Our Department will be developing innovative approaches to rural development.

While much of our traditional work has focused on game species, we expect to increase our emphasis on those species that are not harvested. Our approach will be to manage all wildlife rather than just a few species. Our agency is responsible for all types of wildlife, and we'll devote more effort to all components of the environment.

And our efforts to provide some of the best hunting in the nation will continue. We'll manage our deer herd to provide high success rates and big deer. Maintaining and improving Kansas upland game bird hunting also will be a high priority. We'll continue to work toward restoring native game species and providing more hunting opportunity.

Fishing opportunity should continue to improve as new management techniques are applied and new species are introduced. New technology such as that at Milford Fish Hatchery will greatly enhance our Department's capability to produce fish. Fishing itself is undergoing a rapid transition into high technology and competitive events. Our agency will work to enhance angler opportunity, but we'll also encourage improved ethics and less competition in fishing itself.

As we work to improve hunting, fishing and other recreational opportunity, we must continue to tackle the problem of maintaining good relations between landowners and recreationists. Most recreation in Kansas occurs on private lands, and this will continue to be so in the future.

The lands our Department owns or controls, however, will be more intensely managed. We'll work to improve all wildlife populations, provide a variety of recreational uses and establish new areas.

One of the most profound agencywide changes is that we'll be putting increased emphasis on education throughout the state. We're now completing the first of a network of education centers that will be focal points for our agency's education programs. These programs will be designed to enhance understanding of the natural world and to provide people with the background to safely enjoy the state's natural resources. By providing educational materials, places to visit and people to assist in education, we'll enhance knowledge and understanding in these areas. All of our employees will take an active role in educational efforts by speaking to school groups, leading interpretative programs on parks and assisting the media with information.

The Department's new direction requires that we be a dynamic agency, one that can aggressively explore new approaches. We will have a greater presence in education, in urban areas, in environmental arenas and in other non-traditional areas. At the same time, we'll increase our efforts in those areas where we've had strong programs in the past.

W&P

the center section

Edited by Mike Miller

LETTERS

LILY PAD CONTROL

Editor:

I own land in eastern Kansas with access to a private lake. The problem is the lake is almost impassable due to the lily pads.

How can I control the lily pads without harming the fish or changing the balance of the ecosystem? Are there chemicals available that would be safe for this purpose? Also, would killing the lily pads create too much debris on the bottom of the lake?

Jim Orange
Wichita

Dear Mr. Orange:

There are several ways to control lily pads, including removing them by hand and chemical treatment. Lily pads are rooted to the lake bottom so removal by hand requires some effort. If the area covered is large, the only reasonable control may be chemicals.

There are a number of herbicides that are approved for aquatic use to kill lily pads. Most of them have a 2,4-D base, and it is recommended that they be applied with a detergent that breaks down the protective wax coating on the leaves. It's important when using chemicals that you only treat a portion of the pond at a time, preferably in the spring before the water warms. It's also best to use a wick application method so that as little chemical as possible is dispersed. A common mistake is to kill too many aquatic plants at one time,

which can deplete oxygen in the water as the dead plants decompose. This can literally suffocate fish. But if adequate precautions are taken, and label instructions are followed, there will be no threats to your fish or the pond ecosystem. You may be able to find a suitable herbicide through your local grain elevator or you could call your local Department of Wildlife and Parks district fisheries biologist for assistance. *Ken Brunson, stream investigator*

CHEAPER LICENSE

Editor:

I would like to thank you for doing such a great job with your magazine. I am 14 years old, and the greatest thing to me is hunting and fishing.

One question I have is why can't Kansas offer a short-term nonresident hunting or fishing license? The reason I ask is that it's hard for a 14-year-old to buy an all-year license.

Bret Herman
Santa Fe, N.M.

Dear Mr. Herman:

I can empathize with you, as I can remember how hard it was to come by \$50 when I was 14. We do offer short-term fishing licenses and a 48-hour waterfowl hunting permit. However, under our current fee and license structure, there is no provision for a short-term regular hunting license. You may get more out of a

license if you could plan a trip to Kansas in January. A license purchased then would be good through the next December. If you made it to Kansas to hunt the next fall, you'd get two seasons out of one license. I know \$50 is a lot of money, but when you consider the amount of hunting fun and recreation you can get in Kansas in just several days, it really isn't that expensive. You might, for example, spend \$50 in just one day at an amusement park.

Miller

LASTING IMPRESSION

Editor:

I was more impressed with Cheyenne Bottoms at the peak of shorebird migration than I was with the Grand Canyon.

Larry Herbert
Joplin, Mo.

MARVELOUS MAG

Editor:

I must take the time to let you know how much we enjoy "our" marvelous magazine. We are farmers in eastern Kansas (Linn County) and, of course, nature lovers.

We now have about 40 geese coming to feed across the road both night and morning. We live only eight miles from the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area. It is a thrill to hear and see them!

Many thanks for the magazine and the outstanding photography of Mike Blair!

Mrs. Clinton Baugh
Pleasanton

OUTDOORSMAN

Editor:

First of all, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all those who do such a splendid job with the KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS magazine. I am crowding the end of my eighth decade in life and have avidly hunted and fished since I can remember. I have subscribed to many outdoor publications over the years and enjoyed all of them, but I can honestly say that I enjoy and look forward to your magazine more than any other. I enjoy the articles and the splendid pictures, and I always read the Center Section pages first.

I might also mention that I still hunt and fish, and though I work just as hard at it as I ever did, I don't accomplish as much as I used to. I am much more able to fish than hunt and am a "river rat" — so to speak. I love to fish streams for channel catfish, and my wife and I enjoy eating them more than any other fish.

Gib Robinson
Salina

ANTELOPE DRAWING?

Editor:

This was the fourth year I have applied for an antelope permit and was denied. My money was returned with no explanation of the drawing results. I was hoping you could enlighten me and your readers with a more informative picture of the present drawing procedure.

I think Kansas would do well to take notes from Colorado's permit drawing system. I have never had to wait longer than two years to get hard-to-come-by permits. If I am unsuccessful, Colorado issues me a point accumulation certificate, so at least I know where I stand in future drawings.

Tom A. Martin
Norton

Dear Mr. Martin:

In 1988, just 220 antelope permits were allocated for the three hunting

units. With more than 800 applicants, antelope is easily one of the more difficult permits to obtain. Our process is similar to Colorado's, and although we don't send point certificates, we do give hunters who have not received permits in the previous three years preference in the drawing. You must have been unlucky to have not been drawn this year, but I assure you that the computer drawings are done in a precise manner.

You didn't say how you filled out your application, but you might increase your chances of getting a permit by applying in all three units (assuming you can make several different landowner contacts for hunting permission). *Miller*

FAREWELL

Editor:

On Aug. 6, one of the foremost citizens, jurists and sportsman of our state passed away with an unexpected heart attack.

I refer to United States District Judge George Templar, of Arkansas City, whose favorite recreation was hunting and fishing, especially quail hunting over good bird dogs. In the funeral sermon the minister mentioned prominently the Judge's penchant for outdoor wildlife activities.

I write you this letter because many of your subscribers and Kansas outdoor sportsmen knew Judge Templar well, and because of the fitting and unusual event that occurred at the cemetery in a rural section north of Arkansas City.

Just as the minister concluded his brief graveside prayer and asked that the Judge rest in peace, a nearby quail sounded taps with two "bobwhites." It was quite a topic of discussion as the mourners left, and a fitting farewell to Judge Templar.

Frank G. Theis
Wichita

NATURAL LAKES?

Editor:

I enjoy your magazine very much and read it from cover to cover.

I have a question that I hope you can answer. Are there any natural lakes in Kansas? If so, where?

Roy Morgan
Shawnee

Dear Mr. Morgan:

There are, in fact, natural lakes in Kansas. Although few of them are what you generally think of when you think of natural lakes. Most are oxbows, created when a river changes its course and leaves a bow-shaped section completely landlocked. One well-known oxbow lake is Silver Lake near Topeka.

A more traditional natural lake is Inman Lake near Inman. Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area do have lake-like conditions during wet years, but water levels fluctuate from year to year. *Miller*

CROW SEASON?

Editor:

We want you to know how much we enjoy your beautiful magazine. It's a great way to get acquainted with our new home state.

We noted an article from a Minnesota publication establishing a crow season and wondered why there wasn't one in Kansas. Being from Minnesota, we never knew there was a crow problem until we moved here. Wichita really has a problem.

Dick and Betty Skerik
Wichita

Dear Mr. And Mrs. Skerik:

The hunting of crows is regulated by the federal government. The law states, in effect, that crows may be hunted when they are creating depredation or health problems. In Kansas, especially in winter, there are usually enough crows to cause depredation problems. We have no closed season on them. Crows may be hunted all year, with no daily limit. *Miller*

THE LAW

EXPENSIVE EDUCATION

Lack of an education can keep a fellow from getting a good job or otherwise improving himself . . . but it also can earn him a stiff fine.

That's what happened to a northwest Missouri youth who was caught by Missouri conservation agents hunting without valid hunter education certification.

The Missouri Conservation Department made hunter safety training mandatory two years ago for persons born after Jan. 1, 1967, who wanted to buy a hunting permit.

The agents got a tip that the youngster had hunted and taken a wild turkey during the spring season without safety certification. He had borrowed his younger brother's turkey tag because without safety certification he couldn't buy his own.

The judge fined him \$250 plus court costs for not having a proper tag and suspended his hunting privileges for a year for borrowing the tag.

Now that Missouri has made hunter education mandatory, all of Kansas' border states now require certification in hunter education to hunt. In Kansas, anyone born on or after July 1, 1957, must have completed a hunter education course to hunt.
Missouri Department of Conservation

FEDERAL CRACKDOWN

A special wildlife law enforcement squad issued more than 1,100 citations for illegal hunting during last year's waterfowl season. The task force included 29 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agents and 25 state law enforcement agents from across the country. The agents were assigned to waterfowl hunting hotspots, particularly in the waterfowl wintering grounds. Four Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks wildlife conservation officers spent several weeks in Louisiana through this program.

Special emphasis was placed on enforc-

ing waterfowl hunting regulations in response to increasing concern over the impact of illegal baiting and overharvest. Duck populations are alarmingly low because of extended drought conditions in the Northern United States and Canadian nesting areas.

Overall, special agents issued nearly 4,500 citations for violations of waterfowl hunting regulations during the 1987-1988 season. This does not include citations issued by state wildlife enforcement personnel or those issued on national wildlife refuges.

Most of the citations were written for shooting over bait or taking over the limit. Baiting is the spreading of grain or other food to attract birds to a shooting site, which often leads to over-limits. In one case, three hunters were caught with 168 ducks and in another, one hunter had 53 birds in his blind.

Other common violations were hunting without a license or federal duck stamp, shooting lead shot in a steel shot zone and using a shotgun without a plug in the magazine.

During the investigation, agents found some elaborate systems for breaking the law. One agent, posing as a guest on an exclusive club in California, learned many of the hunters used portable two-way radios. If a message was broadcast saying "Dan's wife is at the clubhouse," it meant the game warden was there. At another club, hunters would go out for a morning shoot over a baited area — virtually assured of at least a limit of birds. Then they would return to the clubhouse, refrigerate the morning bag, change clothes and return to the blinds for an afternoon shoot. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

KNOW THE LAW

November is a busy month for conservation officers. Hunters will converge upon the fields of Kansas after pheasants, quail, prairie chickens, rabbits, waterfowl and

deer. And while the majority of those in the field are ethical, law-abiding sportsmen, there are still those who choose to ignore or don't learn the game laws. It's a hunter's responsibility to be familiar with wildlife hunting regulations. Save yourself from an expensive fine and embarrassing situation by reading through the Kansas Hunting and Furharvesting Regulation brochure, and keep the brochure with you while hunting. Here's a few of the more common hunting violations:

Pheasants in transport must retain a foot, plumage or some part that readily identifies the sex.

If you were born on or after July 1, 1957, you must complete a hunter education course to hunt in Kansas unless you hunt on your own land or land you lease for agricultural purposes. A hunter education certificate must be presented when buying a license, and you must carry the certificate with you while hunting until age 27.

You must have permission to hunt on any private property even if there are no posted signs.

Know the steel shot regulations in the area you hunt. In some counties, steel shot is required for all waterfowl hunting, on both public and private lands. In those counties, you may not hunt waterfowl with lead shot in your possession. All steel shot zones are listed in the regulation brochure.

Use the sunrise/sunset table in the brochure. Shooting hours for most hunting are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. But the waterfowl shooting hours have changed. This year, shooting hours for waterfowl hunting are SUNRISE to sunset.

Hunting along roads is not legal unless you have permission from the adjoining landowners.

All big-game permits include a carcass tag. The carcass tag must be signed, dated and affixed to the carcass BEFORE you transport it from the site of the kill.

It is not legal to shoot at game animals from a vehicle.

It is not legal to pursue game animals with a vehicle.

If you witness any wildlife violations, call Operation Game Thief, 1-800-228-4263, and report them. Stop poachers from stealing your wildlife and ruining your hunting heritage. *Miller*

HUNTING



Gene Brehm photo

1988 DEER SEASON

Keith Sexson, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks deer project leader, is hesitant to predict the results of this year's deer season. He will say, however, that hunting should be excellent. Deer numbers are healthy or growing in most parts of the state, but the number of deer taken will depend on how many of the nearly 60,000 firearms permits are sold. Last year, more than 3,000 permits went unsold, and the total number of permits available for 1988 is nearly 7,000 more than in 1987.

To distribute more permits, the Department's Commission made hunters eligible for two permits this year. They also made the leftover firearms permits legal for use in the bow season and the firearms season. If hunters take advantage of the revised permit system, Sexson predicts a harvest of 35,000 to 36,000 deer this year.

Kansas has consistently provided its residents with some of the best deer hunting in the nation. Sixty-five percent of the 1987 firearms hunters took deer, and 35 percent of the bowhunters were successful. That's hard to beat.

"I expect we will have another good

deer season. But we won't know until we see how many permits sell," Sexson said. "In the western part of the state, it appears that deer numbers are stabilized or growing very little. But in the east, the deer herd is still growing and expanding."

In addition to having a healthy, growing deer herd, Kansas is also home to some mighty big-antlered bucks. In fact, Kansas is fast gaining a reputation as a big-buck state.

Here are some important hunting facts for those hunters who received a permit:

* You are required by law to wear 200 square inches of orange, 100 of which is visible from the front and 100 of which is visible from the back in addition to an orange hat while hunting deer during the firearms season.

* You must have permission to hunt on any private land, posted or not.

* It is illegal to pursue deer with a vehicle or shoot at deer from a vehicle.

* The caliber restriction listed in the shooting orders included with your permit has been changed. The previous regulation required hunters to hunt with a centerfire rifle .23 caliber or greater. There is no longer a restriction on the centerfire caliber.

Miller

GETTING PERMISSION

Bird hunters are looking forward to what appears to be a fantastic upland bird season. There are 200,000 acres of public hunting land in the state, however, most hunting occurs on private land. But Kansas hunters are lucky. Many landowners in the state are generous in granting permission to hunt.

Hunters will find most Kansas landowners courteous and friendly. They appreciate the fact that you've stopped to ask, whether they give you permission or not. Remember, it's a privilege if they say yes. And don't take a chance hunting an area you're not sure of. By law, you must have permission to hunt or fish on private land in Kansas, regardless of whether it's posted.

There are several tips that may help you when you ask to hunt:

First, be honest with the landowner. Don't try to be someone you're not. Tell him of your exact intentions, such as how many will be in your party, what you want to hunt and when you'll be there.

Go by yourself, or with a friend. A landowner may be overwhelmed by five carloads of armed hunters pulling into his driveway. Be courteous and polite even if the landowner says no. He may be saving the ground for friends and family, and who knows, maybe later in the season, he'll say yes.

Visit the landowner in person if possible. You might just make a good friend. And go to the door at a decent hour, not at 5:30 opening morning.

If you receive permission once, never assume that you've got blanket privileges. Always ask before you hunt again. Tell the landowner what kind of vehicle you'll be driving and assure him that your hunting partners will not return on their own.

Always ask if there are any particular rules you should follow while you're on the land, and make sure you follow them.

Hunters in Kansas have enjoyed a long-lasting tradition of hunting by permission. As other states see more high-priced private leases leaving many hunters out in the cold, we see just how lucky we are. Don't abuse our tradition by trespassing or otherwise acting unethically. Miller

UPLAND BIRD UPDATE

The 1988 quail and pheasant brood survey results bring good news for bird hunters. Even though extremely dry conditions prevailed over much of the state, field personnel reported surprisingly good cover conditions, although it won't be as heavy as last year.

Quail numbers increased modestly in all regions. Generally, the survey indicates moderately improved quail numbers, and that means good to very good hunting this fall. Quail hunting will be best in the southeast and northeast parts of the state.

Pheasants also fared well through last winter. Observers reported seeing more birds this summer. The northwest and northcentral regions of the state appear to hold the most pheasants. And generally, pheasant numbers appear to have increased over 1987. This improvement along with lighter cover conditions should produce noticeably more successful pheasant hunting this fall. *Miller*

WATERFOWL SEASONS

Since the waterfowl seasons weren't set until after the September/October issue was sent to the press, we weren't able to include them.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that drought conditions in the Northern duck nesting areas had not improved. As a result, officials predicted one of the poorest fall migrations in history. Record lows were reported for several species including pintails. And mallards, redheads and canvasbacks were also below long-term averages. Blue-winged teal numbers did not appear to rebound after a low in 1987, so the special teal season in September was cancelled. The Fish and Wildlife Service also proposed a 25 percent decrease in the regular duck season length and daily bag limits.

In the Low Plains Duck Zone (that area of Kansas east of U.S. Highway 283), the first segment of the duck season opened Oct. 22 and closes Oct. 28. The second segment will run Nov. 10 through Dec. 4, and the third and final segment will open Dec. 26 and close Jan. 1. The High Plains Duck Zone's (west of U.S. Highway 283)

first segment opened Oct. 8 and closes Oct. 28. The second segment opens Nov. 11 and closes Nov. 28, and the third and final segment runs Dec. 24 through Jan. 4.

The daily bag limit has been changed as well as reduced. For the 1988-1989 season, the point system has been suspended. This season, the daily bag will be three ducks, no more than two of which may be mallards and only one of which may be a mallard hen. The daily bag of three ducks may not include more than one redhead, one hooded merganser, two wood ducks, one mottled duck and one pintail of either sex.

Another important change for the 1988 season is sunrise to sunset shooting hours. In the past, waterfowl shooting hours have started one-half hour before sunrise.

The dark goose, (Canada and white-fronted geese) season opens Oct. 29 and runs through Jan. 8. The daily bag limit is two Canadas or one Canada and one whitefront through Nov. 27. After Nov. 27 the bag limit is one Canada and one whitefront.

The light goose season is long and generous. The state is divided into two units. Unit 1 is in the northeast corner of the state, north of Interstate Highway 70 and east of U.S. Highway 75. The light goose season in Unit 1 will open Nov. 11 and run through Dec. 4, then reopen Dec. 13 and close Feb. 12. In Unit 2 (the rest of the state), the first segment will be Oct. 29-Dec. 4, and the second segment is Dec. 17-Feb. 3. The daily bag limit is five. Possession limit for all waterfowl is twice the daily bag limit, with the exception of the hen mallard, which will have a possession limit of one. *Miller*

QUAIL STUDY

Researchers at Emporia State University, with support from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and Quail Unlimited, recently studied the energy value of various seeds eaten by scaled quail. To accomplish this, investigators first determined the available energy in several seeds, then monitored changes in body weights of captured wild scaled quail when fed these seeds.

Scaled quail absorbed high levels of

energy from sorghums, sunflower, pigweed and millet. In contrast, when fed switchgrasses, canarygrass and Korean lespedeza, birds received lower amounts of their daily energy requirements. The study also suggested that low-energy foods such as switchgrass were more useful to the birds when combined with high-energy foods.

Wildlife biologists can use energetics information to design food plots and better evaluate habitat quality for scaled quail. If sufficient amounts of weeds such as pigweed are available, scaled quail may survive without cultivated crops. Foods with high-energy value will help scaled quail to survive winter and increase their chances of reproducing successfully. *Kevin Church, small-game project leader*

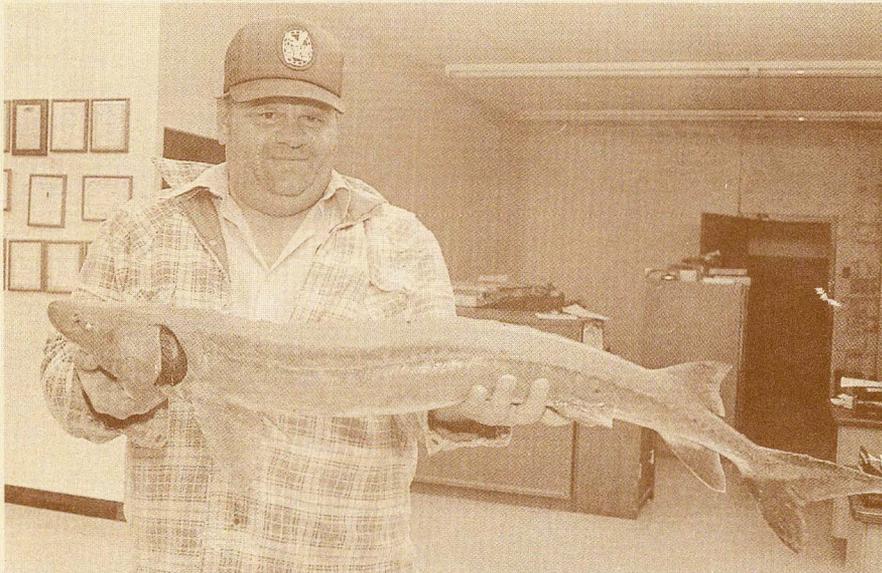
STEEL SHOT REGS

Waterfowl hunters will be required to use steel shot in zones in 46 states this fall. These regulations are the continuation of the program announced in 1986. Steel-shot zones are being phased in across the country according to size of the waterfowl harvest. This year, counties having a harvest of 15 or more waterfowl per square mile are being added to the list requiring steel shot. Steel shot will be required for waterfowl hunting nationwide by the 1991-1992 hunting season.

In Kansas, steel shot is required for waterfowl hunting on the Flint Hills and Kirwin national wildlife refuges as well as all lands administered by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. Steel shot is also required for waterfowl hunting on all lands, both public and private, in Barton, Doniphan, Ellsworth, Cowley, Stafford, Jefferson, Coffey, Montgomery, Neosho, Mitchell and Linn (new for 1988) counties. Steel shot is required for ALL shotgun hunting at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Jamestown Wildlife Area, Texas Lake Wildlife Area, Neosho Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

It is illegal to have lead-shot shells in possession in any of the above situations. Copper-plated lead shot is not a legal substitute for steel shot. *Miller*

FISHING



Atchison Daily Globe

LAKE STURGEON

When Lansing angler Larry Goodman reeled in his line on May 23, he believed he'd caught a Master Angler Award-winning fish. Goodman thought the sturgeon he'd just landed from the Missouri River was well above the 2½-pound minimum weight for shovelnose sturgeon. And it was. Goodman's living fossil weighed 12 pounds, 8 ounces, with a length of 40 inches and a girth of 14 inches.

In the midst of the excitement, Goodman couldn't find a local fisheries biologist nor certified scales to weigh the fish. Finally, he found a local bait shop with scales, then he went to the *Atchison Daily Globe* for photos. After all that, Goodman did something rather noble and sporting: he took the sturgeon back to the river and released it to, in his words, "continue its journey."

And now the rest of the story . . . Carl Goodman's sturgeon did not qualify for a Master Angler Award, but he did receive the heartfelt thanks of fisheries officials. Goodman accomplished something that no other person has done: he caught the first and only lake sturgeon (*Acipenser*

fulvescens) from Kansas waters, and then he released it alive.

The Master Angler Award Program has 29 categories, including one for shovelnose sturgeon. Not all Kansas fish are included. Some species like the endangered pallid sturgeon, also found in the Missouri River, are purposely excluded since it is illegal to possess protected wildlife. Still others, including the lake sturgeon, were left off since no one realized they still occurred in Kansas waters. When Education and Public Affairs Division chief Mike Cox received Goodman's Master Angler Award application, he recognized the unique catch.

This isn't the first mention of lake sturgeon in Kansas. In 1875, Francis Snow reported a lake sturgeon caught in the Kansas River near Lawrence. But the angler didn't have Goodman's foresight to bring it to the local newspaper for photos. According to Dr. Frank Cross, curator of ichthyology at the University of Kansas, there was some doubt about the validity of Snow's catch because of lack of evidence. Cross' gut feeling is that lake sturgeon did occur in the Missouri and Kansas rivers, at least up until the late 1800's. But Goodman's catch is the first real proof.

Lake sturgeon supported a valuable commercial fishery in the late 1800s in the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and in the

Great Lakes. Prized for their eggs (which make superb caviar) and their delectable smoked flesh, which still demands more than \$14 per pound, sturgeons were grossly overfished throughout their range. In 1885, 5 million pounds of sturgeon were caught from Lake Erie. But that figure dropped by 80 percent in less than 10 years. The 1884 U.S. Fish Commission records show that Missouri commercial anglers harvested 50,000 pounds of lake sturgeon from the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. By 1900, the commercial sturgeon fishery was dead in Missouri.

Lake sturgeon face a double-whammy; not only did overfishing take a devastating toll, but water pollution and damming effectively nailed their coffin closed. Pollution such as erosion and agricultural runoff destroyed much of the sturgeon food sources such as snails, crayfish and freshwater mussels. The damming of rivers and construction of lock systems prevent the fish from completing their long migratory treks. Couple these enormous hurdles with the fact that lake sturgeon don't reproduce until age 20, and it's no wonder they are in trouble.

Lake sturgeons are the largest of the freshwater sturgeons, reaching lengths of 8 feet and weights of more than 300 pounds. The Missouri record, set in 1938, is 97 pounds. Individuals 40 years of age have been documented, and the maximum age reported is 152 years. Growth is slow, with five years required to reach a length of 20 inches and 1 pound.

This brings us back to Carl Goodman and his mystery fish. A 12-pound lake sturgeon is probably quite young, just a teenager at most. If wild sturgeon still cruise the waters of the Missouri River near Kansas, just as they did before the dawn of mankind, one would think that another, perhaps larger one would have been caught. One possibility is that Goodman's fish was an escapee from a private Missouri fish farm that raises paddlefish and sturgeons. The more romantic theory is that this fish had cruised through the gauntlet of obstacles and beat the system.

Carl Goodman may have caught one of the last wild lake sturgeons of the Missouri River and released it. *Larry Zuckerman, aquatic biologist*

NATIONAL FISH POLICY

The National Fisheries Policy has been adopted by more than 50 public and private organizations participating in a National Recreational Fisheries Conference in Alexandria, Va. The Policy is a 15-page collection of principles, goals and objectives designed to improve and safeguard sport fisheries in the U.S.

In a statement read to the conference, President Ronald Reagan referred to the new policy as “. . . an important step forward. Its broad acceptance fosters hope that our children's children will be able to enjoy fishing just as we do today.”

During the conference, more than 30 nationally and internationally recognized fishery experts made presentations on ways to enhance and conserve the nation's fisheries resources. Representatives from Canada and New Zealand outlined how their countries developed national fishery policies and the progress of their implementation.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Frank Dunkle said that the policy is national, not federal. Every group, agency and organization that subscribes can tailor it to their situation. Dunkle also said that the Service would put the policy into effect immediately. *Department of the Interior*

RECORDS FALL

1988 was another record-breaking year for Kansas anglers. As this issue went to press, four state-record marks had been bettered. The most recent and perhaps the most dramatic was the blue catfish. On Aug. 18, Preston Stubbs Jr. of Desoto landed an 82-pound blue cat in the Kansas River, breaking the old mark by 23 pounds. Other record-breakers included a striped bass, a warmouth bass and a white amur (grass carp).

Stubbs took the huge blue cat on rod and reel, using 25-pound line and a goldfish for bait. After a two-hour battle, Stubbs and a fishing buddy wrestled the monster catfish into the boat. The fish was 53 inches long and had a 35½-inch girth. The fish may also qualify for two world line-class records.

On April 12, Matt Ainsworth of Shawnee was fishing a jig at Shawnee Mission Park when he tied into a really big fish. After a wild battle, Ainsworth beached a 32.2-pound white amur. What makes the catch even more amazing is that amur are strictly vegetation feeders and Ainsworth caught the fish on an artificial lure. The record grass carp measured 39¾ inches long.

On April 30, Vivian Baker of Pittsburg was fishing with worms on a strip pit in the Mined Land Wildlife Area when a big warmouth bass hit. Her state record warmouth, which is actually a member of the sunfish family, weighed 1.11 pounds and measured 10½-inches long.

Then on May 18, Chester Nily of Silvan Grove bettered the striped bass record with a 43½-pound striper. Nily was fishing from the shore at Wilson Reservoir using heavy tackle and a small white bass for bait. The previous record striper, which was also caught at Wilson, weighed 42 pounds and was caught in 1986. Nily has donated the fish to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The big striper will be mounted and displayed at the Milford Conservation Education Center. *Miller*

NEW FISH STOCKED

In an effort to fill a void left by walleye in some of our eastern Kansas reservoirs, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks began an experimental program last spring. The program involves a smaller cousin of the walleye called the sauger. Almost identical to the walleye in appearance, the sauger is at home in rivers. In fact, the sauger may prefer moving water, while the walleye prefers lakes and still water.

Walleye tend to congregate near the dams of reservoirs in the early spring, where rocky areas provide ideal spawning habitat. But when spring rains swell the reservoirs, the gates are opened and many walleye wash out. In some cases, huge numbers of fish are lost. Programs in other states have found that sauger are less susceptible to wash out, but even if they do under extreme water releases, they will hold in the stilling basins below the dams and provide good fishing there.

Several sauger were collected from the Missouri River. Eggs were stripped, fertilized and successfully hatched at the Milford Fish Hatchery. In addition, 1.8 million eyed eggs (already developed) were obtained from Wisconsin. About 1 million fry were stocked in Melvern Reservoir, while some were kept to be raised for brood stock for the future.

Sauger grow rapidly, reaching 13 inches by age two, 16 inches by age three and 18 inches by the fourth year. In several years, anglers should begin catching sauger if the program is successful.

Another fish that has proven itself in turbid, high-flow reservoirs is the saugeye, a hybrid produced from the walleye and sauger. Excellent saugeye fisheries have been established in Ohio, Oklahoma and Tennessee reservoirs. Saugeyes were obtained in trades with Iowa and South Dakota, and these fish have been stocked in Council Grove Reservoir.

The Department will monitor these fish for the next several years and will develop a dependable brood stock. If the program is successful, additional stockings will be available. *Fisheries Update*

BOAT BOOK

Nearly everything a boat owner may want to know about getting information, particularly on boating safety, is contained in a free “Boater's Source Directory” available from the BOAT/U.S. Foundation.

The 29-page, pocket-size booklet lists names, addresses, telephone numbers and descriptions of services and publications available from more than 100 sources. There are 400,000 of the free booklets available which list sources throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The directory contains such subjects as where to register a boat, where to report a boating accident, how to contact the Coast Guard and more. Handy charts on Coast Guard equipment requirements and the causes of most boating accidents are also helpful to boaters.

For a free copy of the “Boater's Source Directory,” write to: “The Source,” BOAT/U.S. Foundation, 880 S. Pickett St., Alexandria, VA 22304. *BOAT/U.S. Foundation for Boating Safety*

ISSUES

GROUNDWATER BOOK

With a little knowledge, rural homeowners can avoid some pitfalls that often go with wells and septic tanks. A book designed to help you avoid these pitfalls is available from the U.S. Geological Survey.

The book, titled "Ground Water and the Rural Homeowner," describes and illustrates the fundamentals of groundwater occurrence, the common types of household wells and methods of preventing common well-water and septic-system problems.

The booklet deals with a variety of problems including dropping water tables and chemical contamination.

Single copies of the booklet are available free by writing the U.S. Geological Survey, Books and Open-File Reports Section, Box 25425, Denver, CO 80225. U.S. Department of the Interior

WETLANDS PAY OFF

During this year's drought, many American farmers have been hard pressed to turn a crop and keep their livestock in forage. But some far-sighted landowners have fared better than their neighbors. Their secret: they kept their wetlands.

It is especially apparent in North Dakota, a state ravaged by the twin extremes of high temperatures and low rainfall. The price of a ton of hay has shot into the triple digits. Farmers there are turning to wetlands as one of the few remaining sources of forage for hungry cattle.

A spot-check of a handful of North Dakota farmers by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees turned up a number of enterprising farmers. They were weathering the drought of 1988 by keeping a part of their acreage in wetlands.

According to some of the farmers contacted, having wetlands during the drought is like having money in the bank. Slough

hay isn't as good as irrigated alfalfa, but it beats feeding cattle snowballs, one farmer noted.

Farmers in the North American prairie pothole country have discovered that it makes good economic sense to keep portions of their cropland in wetlands to get them through the lean years. Wildlife managers stress the importance of these wetlands to ducks and other wildlife, but keeping them around is good for agriculture, too.

Unfortunately, less than half of America's estimated 215 million acres of wetlands remains. Of these, 458,000 acres are drained and lost to farming, urbanization and other uses each year. In the upper Midwest, where half of America's waterfowl are produced, wetland losses have been proportionately greater: of North Dakota's 5 million acres of wetlands, barely 2 million remain; in Minnesota, 1.4 million of 8.7 million acres are left; and Iowa has only 70,000 of its 1.1 million acres.

The greatest share of wetland loss — 87 percent — is attributed to agriculture. Expansion of agricultural production has promoted the drainage of wetlands and their conversion to cropland. Drought years have allowed farmers to cultivate previously waterlogged potholes, plowing up the margins and removing cover vital to young ducks. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

LICENSE SALES UP

The sale of hunting licenses in the United States rebounded in 1987 after four straight years of declines. Nearly 16 million hunting licenses were sold in 1987, 46,000 more than were sold in 1986.

Hunting license sales generated more than \$345 million in revenue for state fish and wildlife agencies, an all-time record. According to figures from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 29 states posted hunting license gains in 1987. In Kansas, 210,068 licenses were sold in 1987, and

more than \$5 million was generated by the sale of licenses, stamps and permits. National Shooting Sports Foundation

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, recreational opportunities will expand for hunters and fishermen on national wildlife refuges with the addition of five refuges to those offering hunting and fishing programs.

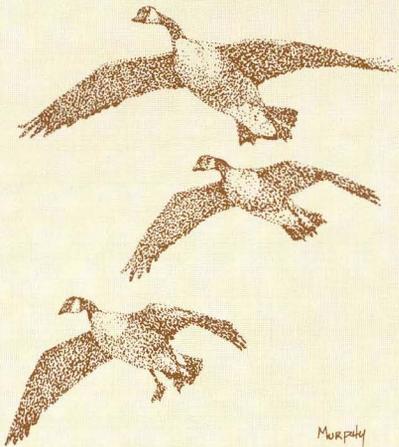
A final rulemaking, published in the Sept. 6, 1988, *Federal Register*, will permit the hunting of migratory game-birds, upland game, big game, and sport fishing on the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas. It also will enable the hunting of migratory birds and upland game on the Salt Plains Refuge and sport fishing on the Little River National Wildlife Refuge, both in Oklahoma. Finally, the rulemaking will allow big game hunting on Edwin B. Forsythe and Supawna national wildlife refuges in New Jersey.

In making the announcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Frank Dunkle said, "Adding hunting and fishing to the activities allowed on these refuges will help meet the ever-growing public demand for quality places to participate in these popular outdoor pursuits. Our refuge hunting and fishing programs also help us spread the word about overall conservation purposes of refuges and foster an appreciation of outdoor ethics."

The regulations governing administration of the National Wildlife Refuge System permit hunting and fishing on refuges if these uses are compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established. The hunting and fishing programs reflected in this final rule have been found in accord with refuge purposes and will provide expanded opportunities for these important recreational pursuits.

Persons interested in hunting or fishing on these areas should contact the individual refuges for information on what species can be taken, by what means and when and where these activities will be allowed. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

NATURE



GEESE RELEASED

A total of 1,826 adult and young geese were released throughout eastern Kansas in 1988. That brings the total number of giant Canadas released during the restoration program to 5,936. The program is designed to bring a local breeding population back to Kansas. To do this, biologists have been raising geese, catching the goslings just before they learn to fly and releasing them on remote ponds and lakes. The young Canadas learn to fly and migrate in the fall, but instinct brings them back to nest where they learned to fly.

In areas where the goose restoration program is emphasized, the dark goose hunting season has been closed. Two such units are the Flint Hills Unit north and south of Emporia and the Strip Pits Unit in the southeast corner of the state. The Marais des Cygnes Unit in eastern Linn and Miami counties, which was closed in 1982, has recently been reopened to limited Canada goose hunting. Last year, 100 hunters were allowed special permits that let them shoot one goose during the 23-day special season. About 40 geese were taken, but only eight were banded geese from the restoration program.

Because of the success of the program, the number of geese produced naturally in the area and the number of migrating geese attracted by the local birds, 300 permits will be allowed this year. Hunters will again have to hunt with a special permit.

Adult geese used in the restoration are received from Colorado and Wisconsin. But all the goslings are raised at Department facilities. In 1988, 698 goslings were produced and released.

Natural reproduction has also been verified. In the south part of the Flint Hills Unit, landowners surveyed reported seeing 138 nests, of which 90 were known to have hatched with 260 goslings observed. In the Marais des Cygnes Valley Unit, landowners reported 23 nests, 13 of which were known to have hatched. Sixty-one goslings were seen. *Miller*

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH AND GONE IS AUTUMN



by Mike Blair, photographer

The earth's coat has grown prime, awaiting winter's season. Like the thick pelt of a coyote, bluestem and Indiangrass stretch up the draws, tawny and coarse with ripened seedheads. The prairie grass is a warm cloak, promising protection from coming snows. Like so many fleas, a hundred species of birds and animals move deep into its cover.

The sky, once vast and blue and full of sunlight, becomes a marching ground for winter's gray soldiers. Drab and grim they come, mopping the last bright colors from the land's uplifted arms. Their somber patrol holds no joy for those who view their passing. To the cadence of their footfalls, dry leaves scuttle away.

There is a smell of snow in the air. Leaves blanket the earth, awaiting slumber from which they'll never rouse. Fingers of frost massage their spines, relaxing them, softening their arched resistance to the soil. Gradually they yield.

Trees wave barren limbs, creaking and groaning in protest against the cold. The sun has grown distant now, changed from

the friendly hiker that daily left warm footprints through their canopies only months before. Unclothed, the wooden skeletons beckon its return. Their sighing fills the land.

Woodland streams, once free to murmur through rocky chutes as they chose, now wait in quiet pools for winter's sure sentence. Soon they'll be locked in a frozen prison, unable to entertain their sylvan guests. Blown leaves float like galleons, racing to graveled reefs strewn with autumn shipwrecks. The water mirrors a leaden sky.

Beneath parent plants, acorns and walnuts provide a bounty for wild reapers. On clearance are shriveled persimmons and the berries of sumac and poison ivy. Trails to woodland stores are worn telling their importance to natural communities. In the face of winter, food becomes paramount.

Frost flowers greet each chilly dawn, born of languid oozes from the roots of dittany and carpenter's square. Their frozen crystalline forms — delicate as vapors — bejewel the woodlands, fleeting and beautiful secrets of a waning season.

In nighttime blackness, the Little Dipper pours its frigid contents on the Great Bear, and cold roars out of the north.

Gone is the oriole and wren. Gone is the night song of the katydid, the meanderings of the monarch. Gone are the sunflowers and gayfeathers, valiant plants that carried the season's banners as long as they could.

And gone is autumn.

NOTES

NRA HUNTER ED.

The Hunter Services Division of the National Rifle Association has sponsored a publication titled "David's First Hunt." The story coloring book is the first in a series centered around hunting themes.

The coloring book was written and produced by outdoor writer and sportsman Doug Harbour. It is intended to be an innovative, entertaining approach to educating tomorrow's hunters and fishermen about the beauty and fun of outdoor adventures.

The book features the exploits of young David and his dad and teaches ethics, safety, sportsmanship and conservation. The book is illustrated by artist Doug Pifer.

To obtain your free copy of "David's First Hunt," contact the Hunter Services Division, National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 or call (202) 828-6240.
National Rifle Association

FARMER/SPORTSMAN

Each year the Kansas Wildlife Federation (KWF) and the Wichita Sports, Boat and Travel Show present a Kansan with the Farmer/Sportsman of the Year Award. The 1988 recipient will be honored at the 35th Annual Wichita Sports, Boat and Travel Show, Feb. 15-19 at the Kansas Coliseum.

What is the Farmer/Sportsman of the Year, and why is he or she important to wildlife enthusiasts in the state? Private landowners hold the key to wildlife survival in Kansas. Nearly 98 percent of Kansas is in private ownership. Many landowners are consciously and conscientiously managing their land to benefit wildlife. And many of these landowners are sportsmen vitally interested in the wildlife resource. The award is a way of thanking the farmer/sportsman for a job well done.

The honored individual and his family will be treated to an expense-paid weekend at the sports, boat and travel show. The

award will be presented on Saturday evening, Feb. 18. The event is a unique opportunity for all Kansans to show their support of the landowner/sportsman partnership. Nomination forms can be obtained from any Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks office, Soil Conservation Service Office or from the Farmer/Sportsman Award Committee, P.O. Box 331, Mound City, KS 66056. Or call (913) 266-6185. *Miller*

NATURE CENTER

The Chaplin Nature Center is a 200-acre natural area owned by the Wichita Audubon Society. The area is located three miles west and two miles north of Arkansas City on the Arkansas River. The center has nature trails that lead visitors through habitats ranging from hardwood forest to prairie. The center has a full-time naturalist to give tours and teach visiting youngsters about nature. But the center does not have suitable classroom facilities, so the Society has proposed building an interpretive center.

The proposed center will cost \$200,000 to build and equip, and another \$200,000 is needed to establish an endowment fund for annual operations. The center would house natural displays and provide classrooms for indoor teaching. The Society is seeking donations to help build the center. For more information contact Gerald Wiens, Chaplin Nature Center, Rt. 1, Box 216, Arkansas City, KS 67005, or call (316) 442-7227. *Miller*

WATERFOWL LEGACY

One of America's oldest and most enduring folk traditions — waterfowling — is highlighted in an exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. The exhibition follows the history of the Federal Duck Stamp program and the waterfowl conservation movement.

The exhibition, open to the public through December, will include rare glimpses of more than 200 objects, photographs and documents that illustrate the story of waterfowl in America. In addition, sportsmen will be able to examine a century's worth of hunting artifacts ranging from antique fowling guns to handcrafted decoys. The focus of the exhibit will be conservation efforts made possible through the sale of duck stamps, many of which will be on display. *Department of the Interior*

ANOTHER MOOSE?

Remember the moose we reported in the May/June issue? Well he apparently spent the spring and summer on the Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge. But last spring there were a few reports of another moose. Could there be two moose in Kansas?

Yes. We're 99 percent sure that in September there were two bull moose in Kansas. A large, perhaps three-year-old bull was spotted along the Saline River. Within hours, a young (two-year-old) bull was spotted just south of Kirwin Reservoir. It is not known if there are still two moose in the state, because the larger bull was heading south in a big hurry. On Sept. 24, he was reported south of Ashland. Only three days before that, the Wildlife and Parks videographer took video of the moose north of Kinsley.

The only logical theory on the two wandering moose is that they wandered out of Montana, following the Missouri River. There were reports of them as they crossed the Dakotas and Nebraska, moving south last winter.

Why? Nobody knows. One theory is that the two animals were stricken with a parasite called brainworm. It is fatal to moose and in the last stages it actually works into the animal's brain and affects its behavior. But these two bulls appear healthy and vigorous. The older animal reportedly stood 7 feet tall at the withers and had antlers nearly 40 inches wide. Young bulls commonly move out of their home ground when they become sexually mature, searching for a new, less crowded area. Why these animals kept moving is still a mystery. *Miller*

NATURE'S NOTEBOOK

by Joyce Harmon Depenbusch, Wildlife Education Coordinator

CHIPPIE, THE STRIPED TREASURER



The Latin name, *Tamias striatus*, truly describes the eastern chipmunk. *Tamias* means “a treasurer” because of the chipmunk’s ability to store food in its pouches. *Striatus* describes the black stripes down its back, tail and near its eyes. The upper fur of the chipmunk is reddish brown or gray, while the under fur is cream-colored.

Chipmunks are active during the day, or **diurnal**. These small animals search for a variety of nuts found in their oak-hickory forest home. Acorns, hickory nuts, hazel nuts, berries, grain, seeds and even a few insects make up the chipmunk’s meals. The little treasurer packs food into its cheek pouches using its front feet. Once the chipmunk is in the safety of its home, the pouches are emptied. The food is stored in **caches**, underground chambers connected to the nest by a series of tunnels. The underground home of the chipmunk has an entrance that’s often hidden by rocks, leaves or a log. Alternate exits and extra chambers to store soil left from building or rebuilding tunnels are also a part of the burrow. Chipmunks often have a lookout point where they watch for predators, such as owls, hawks and foxes. Besides hiding in their burrow, chipmunks are able to climb trees and swim to avoid predators.

The nickname “Chippie” was earned from the nervous, high-pitched “chip-chip” sound signaling alarm. Tail flipping from side to side and a trill “chip-r-r-r-r” signals surprise.

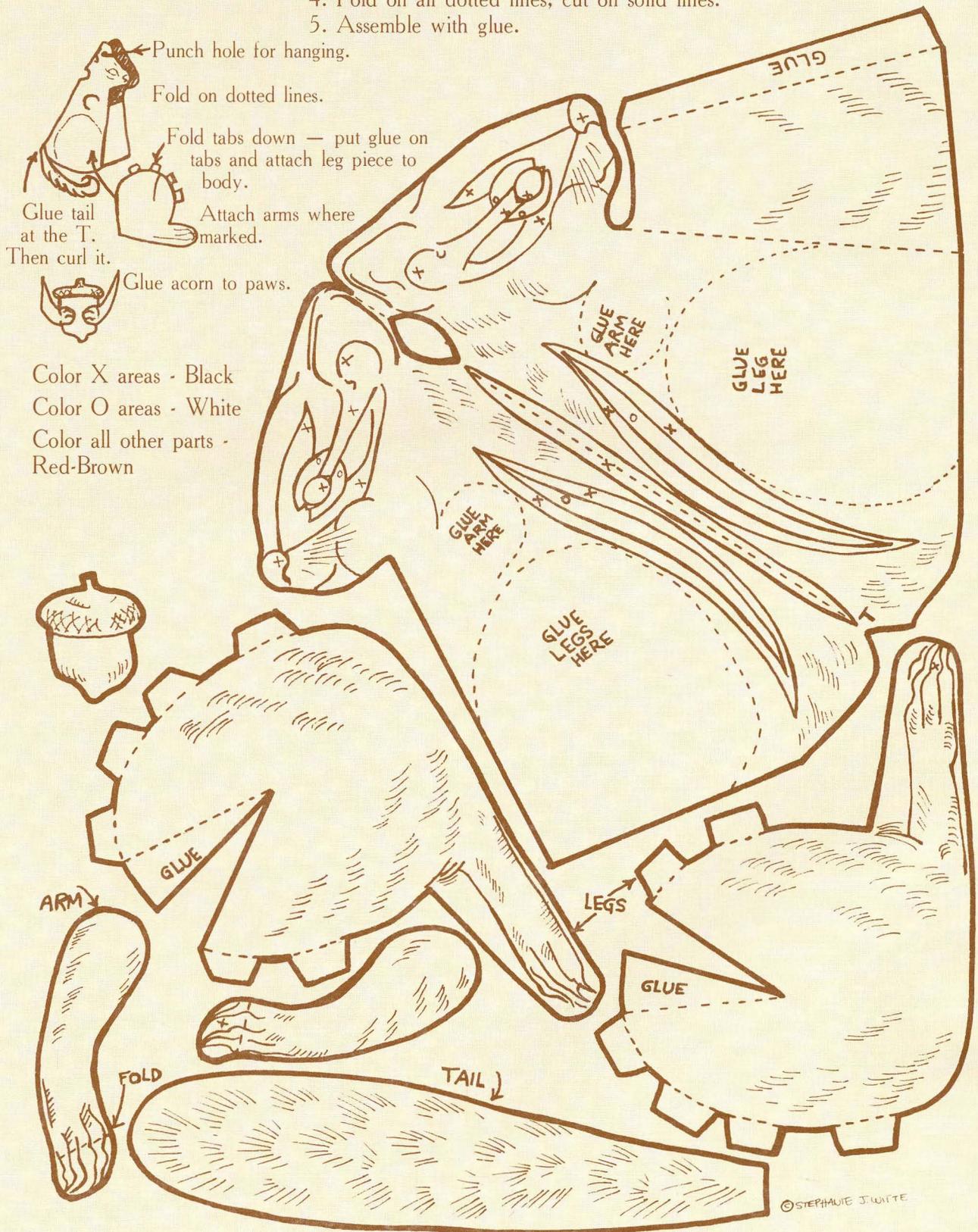
Male chipmunks court females in March and sometimes again in early summer. Generally four or five hairless young are born a month after mating occurs. Six weeks after birth, the young will venture out of the burrow and begin to feed on their own.

In Kansas, chipmunks once lived only in wooded areas in the east. Due to a **reintroduction** program by the Department of Wildlife and Parks, these small **mammals** can now be found in parks in Lawrence, Emporia, Wichita and at Big Hill Reservoir. Eastern chipmunks were released in these sites by the Chickadee Checkoff Nongame Wildlife Program. The chipmunks were released from 1983 through 1986 and are doing well in their new homes.

CHIPMUNK

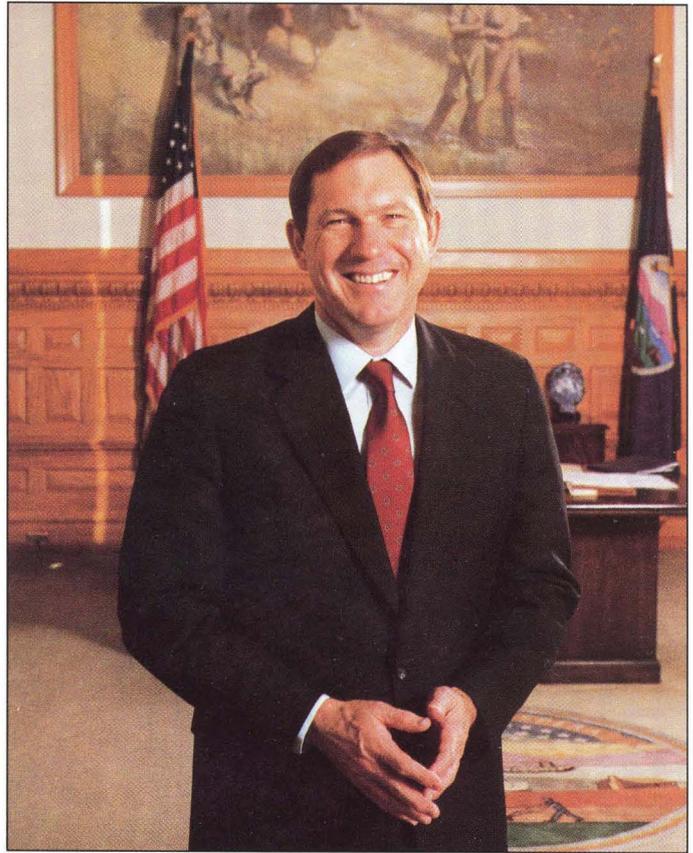
Directions to make a chipmunk model.

1. Trace or make duplicate copies of the model.
2. Color the model with crayon or marker.
3. Reinforce the back of the model with construction paper if necessary.
4. Fold on all dotted lines, cut on solid lines.
5. Assemble with glue.



WANTED: *More Public Lands*

by Mike Hayden
Governor of Kansas



It's a pleasure for me to recognize the 50th anniversary of KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS magazine. Over the years I've enjoyed the magazine and its diverse articles. The many awards won by the magazine and its staff are well-deserved indeed.

It's been just over a year since I reorganized the Fish and Game Commission and the Park and Resources Authority into the Department of Wildlife and Parks. The new agency is blossoming under its new leadership and challenges. This magazine is only one example of what we can expect from the agency as it moves forward.

One of the goals I asked the new agency to undertake is an in-depth analysis of the need for more public land and access within our state. Kansas is blessed with abundant resources that result in a bountiful agricultural harvest. We also enjoy abundant fish and wildlife resources. But Kansas' most important resource is its people.

Kansas needs to focus more attention on its human resources. That's why I have supported education enhancements throughout the state and why I support the development of more state and local parks, more lands for hunting and fishing and other recreational activities. While our forefathers looked on the utilitarian values of our soils, waters and wildlife, the modern-day Kansan has grown to see broader uses of our natural resources.

As Americans continue to migrate toward our cities and towns, it becomes harder for them to maintain a close relationship with farmers and ranchers. And the amount of time both rural and urban people have for recreational pursuits has increased dramatically. These factors have led to a greater demand on our public lands and a greater need for lands to be open to public access.

In contrast to many other states, Kansas is about 97 percent private ownership. This sometimes makes it hard

for individuals to find areas to hike, fish, hunt, camp, bike, canoe and enjoy other recreational pursuits. Even much of the limited public land in the state is dedicated to limited public uses.

Rural lands have become concentrated in fewer hands as farmers and ranchers have found that it takes more land to make a living these days than a generation ago. The agricultural producer must make more dollars per acre to stay solvent. Some landowners have turned to leasing or charging a fee for access to their property.

The challenge we face is to allow more recreational access to land without infringing on the right of private landowners. In most cases, this can be accomplished with a combined program of leasing, easements, acquisition of land and water and improved landowner relations.

Wetlands provide a prime example of the type of land we need to better protect and make available for public enjoyment. The Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area in Barton County is one example of the value of wetlands. Kansas has other valuable wetlands, and we must ensure they are protected from drainage or other damaging actions. In fact, Kansas wetlands are rated as the No. 1 habitat type for wildlife in the state, and they provide many hours of recreation enjoyment for birdwatchers, hunters, fishermen and other outdoorsmen. These valuable lands must be maintained for future generations.

I've encouraged the Department of Wildlife and Parks to look at new ways to make more land available for outdoor recreation. This challenge must be met if we are to provide all Kansans with the quality of life they have a right to expect.

W&P

The Great Northwest

Cheyenne County has an abundance of beautiful scenery, including hills, wildflowers, streams and wildlife.

by Leonard R. Hopper
*District Wildlife Biologist
Colby*

photos by Mike Blair

One Friday evening I received a phone call from Roy Schoonover, who was then my division chief. Roy told me I had a choice of either quitting my job or moving to northwest Kansas. Roy was polite and really hated to have to tell me this, but due to budget cuts that was the choice I was faced with. I remember telling him I'd have to think about it since I knew what that part of the state was like. I'd traveled down Interstate 70 on my way to the Rocky Mountains, and I knew all that was there was a big wheatfield. I received that

call 12 years ago, and I soon learned northwest Kansas, particularly Cheyenne County, has an abundance of beautiful scenery in the form of hills, wildflowers, streams and a variety of wildlife. In addition, the county has a rich and fascinating history. The traveler going down the superhighway is missing a whole world by not exploring the side roads and taking different routes to his destination.

According to the Cheyenne County Conservation District Long Range Plan, there are three geologic periods





Mike Blair photo illustration



Cheyenne County, in northwest Kansas, supports a variety of crops including winter wheat, corn, soybeans, pinto beans and sunflowers.

evident in Cheyenne County. The Cretaceous Period (136-65 million years ago) is represented by the Pierre shale formation of the Gulfian Epoch. It underlies the entire county and is exposed in some areas in the north. The Pierre shale is generally thicker than 1,000 feet and does not yield any water to wells. The Tertiary Period (65-2.5 million years ago) is represented by the Ogallala formation. This is the water-bearing formation and most wells, including municipal water, are drilled through this to Pierre shale. The Ogallala varies in thickness throughout the county, but averages 200-250 feet in the nearly level area southeast of the Republican River.

This formation is composed of sands, gravels, clays and soft limestone and sandstone rocks. The origin of this formation was the outwash material that gushed from the Rocky Mountain region during the early Tertiary times. The Quaternary or Recent Periods (2.5 million years ago to the present) is represented by the Sanborn formation and the alluvial deposits along the major streams. The Sanborn formation is the deep, windblow soil (or loess) that is light gray or buff-colored silt and very fine sand. It ranges in depth from more than 150 feet in the north through 100 feet in the Bird City area to lacking in the area south of Wheeler, where the chalky rock of the Ogallala is exposed on the surface of the ground. One curious geologic formation is a pinnacle in the northern part of the county. This pinnacle or high point is a rock formation like most others, but what makes this one interesting is there is soil on its top. In the 1950s the soil was about 1 foot thick, but today it's only about 6 inches thick with grass growing in it. The question is, how did the soil get there?

Since Cheyenne County ranges in elevation from 3,452 feet to 3,876 feet, this part of the state is a little closer to heaven. The highest point in Kansas, Mount Sunflower, is only two counties away at 4,025 feet. The major drainage, the South Fork of the Republican River, dissects the

county from the southwest to the northeast. Cherry Creek, Hackberry Creek and others form crevasse-like drains to the Republican River and comprise nearly one half of the surface area. This rough, broken land, referred to as the Loess Breaks, is a result of geologic erosion. This loess or wind-blown silt soils have up to 50 percent slope. The land may be nearly level but suddenly drop off into a steep ravine or canyon. Only about 20 percent of this area is farmable, the rest is in grassland and rangeland. The far northwest corner of the county has probably the shortest river in Kansas and some more rugged and beautiful country. The Arikaree River enters Kansas and Cheyenne County from Colorado, travels only about two miles in Kansas and leaves the state for Nebraska.

The southeast part of the county is nearly level and has a general slope to the north and east of about 10 feet per mile. The area is broken only by ill-defined drainageways that eventually lead to the North Fork of Beaver Creek or the South Fork of the Republican River. This area is also dotted with shallow depressions or lagoons that serve as catch basins for runoff water in the area. During wet periods these lagoons offer valuable stopover areas for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Occasionally sandhill cranes and even the endangered whooping crane will stop on these lagoons.

Cheyenne County is blessed with rich farmland and ample water for irrigation. This makes it possible for farmers to grow a variety of crops such as winter wheat, corn, soybeans, pinto beans, sunflowers and, until recently, sugar beets. The sugar processing plant was recently closed, and there is no market for this farm product. The county is 60 percent farmland and 40 percent rangeland, making livestock (primarily cattle) another important farm product. The major soil in the county is loess. Along the river, sand has deposited over the loess soils.

Cheyenne County has a variety of vegetative cover. A sand-sage prairie ecosystem thrives in the southwest as does a



shortgrass prairie (consisting of little bluestem and sideoats gramma, for example) in other parts of the county. Yucca, or soapweed, provides low ground cover on this prairie ecosystem. The Republican River supports a savanna-type timber with good grass in an open understory of cottonwoods and other trees. Some taller native grasses such as Indian grass, big bluestem and others grow along the river and in draws. Plums, chokecherry and a variety of other shrubs also occupy this ecosystem. Rabbit brush is a rare shrub in Kansas and may exist in Cheyenne County. Other shrubs and plants may only be found along the Arikaree River in northwest Cheyenne County.

With this diversity of vegetation, terrain features and water supply, Cheyenne County supports a variety of wildlife species. There are good populations of pheasant and deer, both white-tailed and mule. Pheasants are most numerous in the county's wheat and corn stubblefields. Mule deer tend to stay in the weedy draws of the uplands, and whitetail deer tend to stay close to the timbered areas. The river, sandpits, tailwater pits and lagoons draw a variety of waterfowl including ducks, geese and shorebirds. Doves and other upland birds such as lark buntings, meadowlarks, and horned larks are abundant in the areas.

Wild turkey populations are on the increase, too. Because of stocking efforts by the Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado conservation agencies, the Republican River and other areas now have a good turkey flock. Since turkeys travel considerable distances, the birds stocked by Nebraska and Colorado have contributed to the establishment of the flock in Cheyenne County. It's not uncommon to go to the edge of St. Francis and see 30, 40 or more turkeys in one flock.

One local resident told me it would be easy for me to

Mule deer (above) tend to stay in the county's weedy upland draws. Photograph below records a root-level view of a soybean field.



capture wild turkeys for our transplanting program. Since the river and the best turkey habitat is directly behind the local grain elevator, operators allow the turkeys to feed on some waste grain. All that I needed to do was wait until the turkeys were in the shed, then close the door. Other gamebirds found in the county are an occasional prairie chicken seen in the upland areas and bobwhite quail found along the river bank. Beaver, raccoon, fox and coyote are also found in the area. Fishermen are not left out from this part of the state. There are numerous sand pits along the river, three of which are publicly owned or operated. These pits contain largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. This county offers ample opportunity for the hunter, trapper and shutterbug or for the folks that like to just view wildlife.

Another area of interest in northwest Kansas is its history, and Cheyenne County is no exception. The early settlement itself is interesting. According to the St. Francis Chamber of Commerce, the county's first settlement was a trading post called Wano, located about 1½ miles northeast of St. Francis. Since this was an island town, everything was freighted in by horses, mules and oxen from Haigler and Benkleman, Neb. When the Burlington railroad was built, it missed the trading post. Land was given to the people of Wano if they would move to the new location. It was assumed that the railroad would go on to Pueblo, Colo., but this never materialized. Present-day St. Francis is at the end of a spur line. In March of 1885, the county population was 204, and it was about this time that people from the East became interested in northwest Kansas. By March of 1886, the population stood at 1,256, an increase of 615 percent in only one year.

Visiting with a member of the local historical society can be very interesting. As you may have guessed, the county was named for the Cheyenne Indians, who were the first residents. The famous aviator Charles Lindbergh spent the winter of 1922-1923 in Bird City. He was about 20 years old at that time. When Black Kettle's band of Cheyenne Indians were attacked at Sand Creek, Colo. (known as the Sand Creek Massacre), the surviving Indians fled to Cherry Creek, which is near St. Francis.

Traders' trails and stage lines crossed the county. The Ancient Traders Trail extended from Mexico to Minnesota and passed through Cheyenne County. This trail was used by Indians as a trade route before European settlers arrived. After the arrival of the white man, the military used this trail. Near Bird City is a lagoon that once held water most of the time and was a watering stop for the military including old west figures like Gen. George A. Custer.

A little-known stage line called the Leavenworth and Pikes Peak Stageline and Express went from Leavenworth, Kan. to Denver, Colo. This line only operated one year (1859) and carried mail, passengers and light freight. In 1984 a re-run of the L&PP line was organized by two Cheyenne County residents. They left Leavenworth on April 18 and arrived at Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* office on May 18. A caravan of horseriders and eight stagecoaches carried commemorative greetings to the governor of Colorado and the mayor of Denver to help them celebrate their one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary.

Another interesting site is Horsethief Cave, located about one mile from Nebraska in the Loess Breaks north of St. Francis. The cave appeared to be man-made and was inhabited up to 1890. A gang of four thieves lived here and could hide up to six horses in this cave. Residents of the area lived as close as one mile to this cave and didn't know of its existence. Today the cave has collapsed but the narrow



Each July, the town of Bird City is home to the Tri-State Antique Auto Show. Bird City is also noted for attracting aviator Charles Lindbergh to the area in 1922. During his stay, Lindbergh, then 20, got to know pilots and airplane owners. Five years later, Lindy flew solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

passageway that led to the cave is still there. The site is marked by a disc from a farm implement with welded lettering. Travel the county's country roads and you'll find more than 250 of these discs marking post offices, schools, churches, forgotten cemeteries and other points of interest.

Probably the biggest event in Cheyenne County is the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thrashers Association and Tri-State Antique Auto Show. This event takes place for four days beginning on the last Thursday of July. The 1988 show was the 35th annual event. The show started in 1953 on the Roy Kite farm near Bird City and later was moved to its present location about one mile east of Bird City in 1976. The show features four separators, 30 steam engines and about 200 antique gasoline engines. Demonstrations consist of sawing, plowing, thrashing and steam engine races. From 8,000 to 10,000 people come to this small Cheyenne County community for the event and most of Bird City's residents help put on the show. Only one other thrashing machine engine show is larger in the United States. The steam engines date back to 1890, but most are around 1910- to 1915-era models. The event has grown over the years — in 1983 a schoolhouse was added, in 1984 a church and in 1985 a sod house. The association has several acres and several buildings on its permanent site. The show demonstrates life as it was on the western Kansas prairie.

Another celebration observed in Cheyenne County is the Kansas Day Celebration. This may seem commonplace since this is Kansas, but what may make this unique is Cheyenne County residents started the celebration in 1930 and for many years it was the only Kansas Day Celebration outside of Topeka. Recently other communities have started observances of the birth of Kansas.

The superhighways provide easy access to our great country. Unfortunately with the fast-paced lifestyle that many of us live, we're missing out on life by not "smelling the roses." If your time permits, take a few extra days and explore what backroads and small communities have to offer. The scenery is often breathtaking, the history fascinating and the events educational. W&P

Kansas Deer Records

White-tailed Deer

Rank	Score	Name & Address	Year	County
Top 20 Typical (Firearms)				
1.	198 ² / ₈	Dennis P. Finger, Netawaka	1974	Nemaha
2.	194 ⁷ / ₈	William Mikijanis, McLouth	1985	Leavenworth
3.	191	Michael A. Young, Cedarvale	1973	Chautauqua
4.	189	Milton Wellbrock, Victoria	1968	Russell
5.	188 ⁴ / ₈	Robert E. Luke, Riley	1984	Ft. Riley
6.	186 ³ / ₈	Garold D. Miller, Delavan	1969	Morris
7.	185	Mike Gatlin, Liberal	1987	Seward
8.	184 ⁴ / ₈	Thomas D. Mosher, Emporia	1984	Chase
9.	184	James R. Bell, Derby	1985	Saline
10.	182 ³ / ₈	Norman Anderson, Alma	1966	Wabaunsee
11.	181 ⁹ / ₈	Kenneth C. Haynes, Emporia	1969	Lyon
12.	180 ³ / ₈	Douglas Stensaas, Concordia	1983	Cloud
13.	180	David Cross, Lewis	1985	Edwards
14.	179 ⁴ / ₈	Lowell Howell, Colwich	1973	Elk
15.	178 ³ / ₈ (tie)	Ronald F. Ware, Blue Mound	1977	Linn
15.	178 ³ / ₈ (tie)	Dennis Workman, Leavenworth	1981	Leavenworth
17.	177 ⁷ / ₈	Eddie Lotridge, St. Marys	1985	Pottawatomie
18.	177 ³ / ₈	William A. Simshauser, Lakin	1986	Kearny
19.	177 ² / ₈	Kelley D. Gulker, Milford	1983	Geary
20.	176 ⁷ / ₈	Craig Waltman, Topeka	1982	Butler

Top 20 Non-Typical (Firearms)

1.	269 ³ / ₈	Joseph Waters, Topeka	1987	Shawnee
2.	258 ⁶ / ₈	John O. Band, Courtland	1965	Republic
3.	251 ¹ / ₈	Theron E. Wilson, Asherville	1974	Mitchell
4.	239	Don Roberts, Emporia	1987	Lyon
5.	229 ² / ₈	Merle Cleve Beckman, Mound City	1984	Linn
6.	229	Ron Wilt, Pratt	1986	Barber
7.	227	Gary A. Smith, Paola	1970	Miami
8.	218	Dale Samuelson, Oakley	1967	Logan
9.	216 ⁶ / ₈	Robert L. Rose, Kiowa	1972	Barber
10.	209 ⁶ / ₈	Tim Schaller, Larned	1984	Edwards
11.	206 ³ / ₈	Jay Talkington, Cottonwood Falls	1984	Chase
12.	205 ⁹ / ₈	Gary G. Pingel, Beloit	1982	Cloud
13.	204 ⁴ / ₈	Thomas Jakopic, Woodston	1982	Rooks
14.	203	Dale Heston, Oskaloosa	1982	Jefferson
15.	202 ¹ / ₈	Kurt A. Thompson, LaHarpe	1987	Woodson
16.	201 ⁷ / ₈	Leon Smith, Sedan	1973	Chautauqua
17.	201 ⁴ / ₈	Joe Ash, Medicine Lodge	1975	Barber
18.	199 ⁷ / ₈	John L. Bryant, Cherryvale	1987	Labette
19.	198	Joe A. Rose, Jr., Carbondale	1977	Osage
20.	197 ³ / ₈	Lloyd Wenzl, Vermillion	1983	Marshall

Top 20 Typical (Archery)

1.	182 ² / ₈	John Welborn, Meriden	1982	Jefferson
2.	182	Michael J. Rose, Topeka	1982	Jefferson
3.	181 ⁷ / ₈	Boyd Schneider, Madison	1984	Greenwood
4.	180 ³ / ₈	Ron Artzer, Topeka	1987	Jefferson
5.	178 ⁴ / ₈	Tim Ross, Meade	1985	Meade
6.	178 ³ / ₈	Larry Daniels, Wichita	1967	McPherson
7.	176 ⁶ / ₈	Ray Mosher, Frankfort	1966	Marshall
8.	176 ² / ₈	Gerald Stroot, Colwich	1981	Kingman
9.	176	Rayford Willingham, Manhattan	1985	Clay
10.	175 ³ / ₈ (tie)	Gary L. Brehm, Pratt	1984	Pratt
10.	175 ³ / ₈ (tie)	Gary Stroda, Hope	1985	Dickinson
12.	175 ³ / ₈	Gary Gans, Bennington	1985	Ottawa
13.	173 ² / ₈	Dan R. Moore, Olathe	1982	Miami
14.	172 ⁹ / ₈	Bruce Brown, Salina	1986	Saline
15.	172 ³ / ₈	Ronald G. Box, Wichita	1974	Wilson
16.	171 ⁷ / ₈	Clinton Wasson, Altoona	1987	Wilson
17.	171 ⁵ / ₈	Michael Snyder, Winfield	1985	Cowley
18.	171 ⁴ / ₈	Jim Willems, Windom	1985	Ellsworth
19.	170 ⁷ / ₈ (tie)	Jacob Dragieff, Leavenworth	1987	Republic
19.	170 ⁷ / ₈ (tie)	Carroll Couture, Belleville	1986	Republic

Top 20 Non-Typical (Archery)

1.	249 ⁶ / ₈	Clifford G. Pickell, Wichita	1968	Greenwood
2.	237 ⁵ / ₈	Gilbert Boss, Cherryvale	1986	Wilson
3.	231	Virgil Henry, Kirwin	1987	Phillips
4.	227	Royce E. Frazier, Haviland	1987	Kiowa
5.	220 ⁶ / ₈	Mike Shull, Dighton	1986	Gove
6.	210 ⁶ / ₈	Bruce Schroeder, Hillsboro	1985	Marion
7.	209 ² / ₈	Lonnie Ensminger, McPherson	1968	McPherson
8.	205	Johnnie Jameson, Pittsburg	1987	Crawford
9.	202	Dennis L. Rule, Wichita	1982	Clark
10.	199 ³ / ₈ (tie)	Kirby A. Clifton, Atchison	1973	Atchison
10.	199 ³ / ₈ (tie)	Phillip Kirkland, Dodge City	1981	Comanche
12.	198 ³ / ₈	Greig Sims, Abbeville	1987	Reno
13.	197 ⁶ / ₈	Mike Patton, Pratt	1987	Pratt
14.	197 ⁴ / ₈	John R. Clifton, Emporia	1984	Lyon
15.	192 ⁶ / ₈	Jim Snyder, Belleville	1986	Washington
16.	192 ³ / ₈	Don Dejmaj, Munden	1983	Republic
17.	192 ⁴ / ₈	L. E. Shobe, Conway Springs	1987	Sumner
18.	192 ¹ / ₈	Randall Koehn, Montezuma	1985	Gray
19.	191 ⁴ / ₈	Wayne Herron, Cimarron	1983	Gray
20.	190 ⁷ / ₈	Leon J. Bidinger, Perry	1983	Douglas

Mule Deer

Rank	Score	Name & Address	Year	County
Top 20 Typical (Firearms)				
1.	188 ⁵ / ₈	Marvin Dechant, Ness City	1986	Lane
2.	1978 ⁴ / ₈	Edward Karnes, Studley	1965	Sheridan
3.	184 ² / ₈	Fred Gilbert, Colby	1966	Rawlins
4.	182 ⁷ / ₈	Glenn I. Meyers, Deerfield	1984	Kearny
5.	181 ³ / ₈ (tie)	Michael Moses, Colby	1986	Rawlins
5.	181 ³ / ₈ (tie)	Stan Smith, Garden City	1981	Finney
7.	180 ⁴ / ₈	Roland Dupree, Natoma	1966	Russell
8.	180	Deloris Miller, Garden City	1982	Logan
9.	179	Paul L. Wilson, Glasco	1967	Cloud
10.	178 ⁵ / ₈	Lawrence Schauvliege, Jetmore	1986	Finney
11.	178 ¹ / ₈	Rex Murray, Goodland	1982	Sherman
12.	177 ³ / ₈	Darrel Drees, Garden City	1986	Finney
13.	176 ³ / ₈	Terry Lee Murphy, Alton	1973	Osborne
14.	174 ¹ / ₈	Leroy Baalman, Goodland	1970	Sherman
15.	173 ⁷ / ₈	Charles Barnett, Colby	1983	Rawlins
16.	172 ⁵ / ₈	Evelyn Hoeting, Morland	1967	Graham
17.	171 ⁴ / ₈	Floyd H. Truetken, Park	1966	Sheridan
18.	170	Raymond Dienst, Lakin	1983	Kearny
19.	169 ⁷ / ₈	Raymond Dienst, Lakin	1985	Kearny
20.	169 ² / ₈ (tie)	Kenneth Marshall, Norton	1967	Decatur
20.	169 ² / ₈ (tie)	Wade M. Porter, St. Francis	1986	Cheyenne
20.	169 ² / ₈ (tie)	Oren Donovan, Tribune	1986	Greeley

Top 20 Non-Typical (Firearms)

1.	260 ⁶ / ₈	Lee Odle, Stockton	1966	Rooks
2.	239 ⁷ / ₈	Thad J. Douthit, St. Francis	1965	Cheyenne
3.	229 ⁷ / ₈	Herman Lang, Garden City	1969	Finney
4.	229 ⁵ / ₈	Kenton Ray, Medicine Lodge	1981	Butler
5.	222 ² / ₈	Terry L. Spresser, Hoxie	1984	Sheridan
6.	217 ¹ / ₈	John Horton, Kendall	1986	Hamilton
7.	214 ⁵ / ₈	Marlene M. Riley, Wichita	1974	Sheridan
8.	212 ² / ₈	Richard Kelly, Oberlin	1985	Decatur
9.	210 ⁴ / ₈	Jon S. Wheat, Lakin	1986	Kearny
10.	209 ¹ / ₈	Danny R. Fenton, Bucklin	1982	Clark
11.	207 ³ / ₈	Debbie Stormont, Scott City	1986	Lane
12.	206 ³ / ₈	Randall Timm, Ludell	1977	Rawlins
13.	206 ¹ / ₈	Barton L. Crow, Medicine Lodge	1983	Barber
14.	205 ⁶ / ₈	Charles Uhl, Wilmore	1977	Comanche
15.	205 ² / ₈	Dwayne Mays, Ogallah	1971	Cheyenne
16.	204	Wayne Sager, Bird City	1982	Rawlins
17.	202 ⁴ / ₈	Wayne Fredrick, Pratt	1982	Comanche
18.	197	Dennis J. Pianalton, Atwood	1965	Rawlins
19.	196 ⁴ / ₈	Joseph R. Richardson, Garden City	1985	Finney
20.	194 ⁶ / ₈	Pete Kinen, St. Francis	1985	Cheyenne

Top 20 Typical (Archery)

1.	178 ³ / ₈	Larry Ochs, Dodge City	1968	Ford
2.	177 ¹ / ₈	Thomas B. Standard, Winona	1967	Logan
3.	176 ² / ₈	Roger Davis, Meade	1986	Meade
4.	175 ¹ / ₈	Merle Schulte, Dodge City	1974	Ford
5.	173 ⁶ / ₈	Alfred L. Weaver, Wichita	1970	Butler
6.	173	Bob Barnes, Dodge City	1966	Gray
7.	172 ³ / ₈	Greg McCall, Greensburg	1985	Norton
8.	171 ⁷ / ₈	Mike Stoppel, Scott City	1986	Scott
9.	171 ³ / ₈	Delmer Foster, Hoxie	1966	Sheridan
10.	171 ⁴ / ₈	Dan Fenton, Bucklin	1980	Clark
11.	171	Keith Whitney, Fowler	1986	Meade
12.	170 ¹ / ₈	Dick Masters, Dodge City	1968	Gray
13.	170 ¹ / ₈	Gerald Paxton, Goodland	1987	Thomas
14.	169 ⁴ / ₈	Harlan L. Gilbert, Topeka	1982	Hamilton
15.	169 ³ / ₈	Joseph E. Schroeder, Wichita	1979	Norton
16.	168 ⁴ / ₈	Dana Lupton, Montezuma	1984	Gray
17.	167 ¹ / ₈	William W. Manning, Hays	1973	Rawlins
18.	166 ² / ₈	Mel Jamison, Scott City	1986	Scott
19.	165 ⁷ / ₈	Allen D. Bailey, Montezuma	1985	Gray
20.	165 ⁶ / ₈ (tie)	Steve Baird, Brewster	1984	Rawlins
20.	165 ⁶ / ₈ (tie)	Joe Schroeder, Wichita	1979	Norton

Top 20 Non-Typical (Archery)

1.	224 ⁶ / ₈	Robert W. Brock, Goodland	1974	Sherman
2.	220 ⁷ / ₈	Michal J. Shull, Dighton	1986	Gove
3.	212 ⁶ / ₈	Ralph Stum, Ness City	1966	Ness
4.	212 ² / ₈	Kent E. Davis, Meade	1986	Meade
5.	209 ⁴ / ₈	Jerry Skellenger, Sterling	1978	Rice
6.	198 ³ / ₈	John R. Coblenz, Topeka	1966	Franklin
7.	197 ⁴ / ₈	Kevin White, Elkhart	1982	Morton
8.	194 ⁷ / ₈	Jay Sloan, Garden City	1967	Finney
9.	194 ⁴ / ₈	Brent Hurst, Johnson	1987	Stanton
10.	193 ⁷ / ₈	Robert J. Price, Deerfield	1985	Kearny
11.	191 ¹ / ₈	Linton Haresnape, Lebanon	1981	Smith
12.	190 ⁶ / ₈	Dennis Schroeder, Dighton	1977	Lane
13.	189 ¹ / ₈	Greg Feist, Sharon Springs	1979	Wallace
14.	188 ⁴ / ₈	Craig Knobbe, Jetmore	1984	Hodgeman
15.	185 ⁷ / ₈	Terry L. Martin, WaKeeney	1974	Trego
16.	185 ² / ₈	Richard Spencer, Scott City	1986	Scott
17.	181 ² / ₈	Stacy Hoeme, Scott City	1986	Wichita
18.	176 ⁶ / ₈	Aaron Feist, Sharon Springs	1974	Wallace
19.	176	Vince Strickler, Scott City	1975	Scott
20.	175 ³ / ₈	Pete McBee	1969	Ness

BLAZE ORANGE

And Why You Should Wear It

by Rob Manes
Wildlife Education Coordinator
Pratt

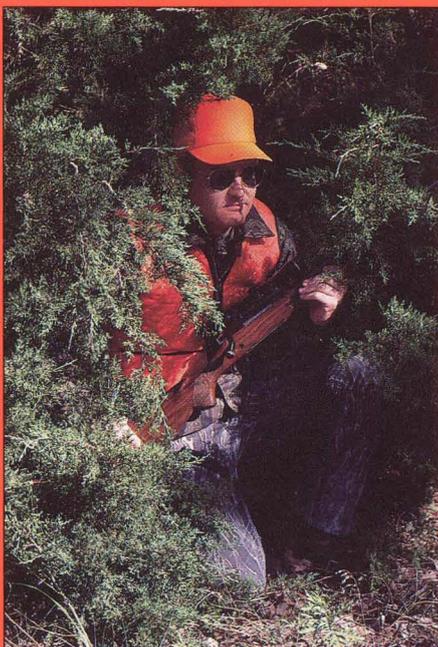
photos by Mike Blair

Blaze orange clothing,
which shows up in the woods like a traffic light,
helps prevent many hunting accidents.

Pre-Christmas hunting had become a tradition of the two friends. There weren't as many quail in their favorite Mitchell County hunting spots during the 1986 season, but they went as much for the fellowship as for the birds. At age 39, Dale had been hunting since he was about 8. Mark, three years younger, had only been at it since he met Dale five years earlier.

Because the birds were scarce, Dale, Mark and their English pointer worked the heaviest cover. They figured the chilly mid-December weather would make the quail stay in the brush and timber.

Kansas law requires only firearms deer and elk hunters to wear blaze (or hunter) orange clothing, but bird hunters are encouraged to wear the fluorescent clothing. The photograph below shows how blaze orange can protect a deer hunter even in heavy cover. The man at right knows the importance of wearing blaze orange while bird hunting.



When the pointer's tail signaled birds were nearby, Dale and Mark paused to let the dog work. They stood only about 30 yards apart, but their brown hunting gear made them almost invisible to each other.

Suddenly the pointer lunged, and quail filled the air. Dale and Mark picked their birds. Mark dropped one, and the dog went to retrieve. Dale missed his first shot and then swung back to his left, following another target. When his bead was on the mark he fired . . . then Mark's screams filled Dale's ears. He had shot his friend.

At the hospital, doctors found

shotgun pellets in Mark's abdomen, chest, arm and testicle. Though intense, Mark's pain soon subsided. Dale's, however, may never be completely gone.

When they look back at the incident, both men are puzzled about how it happened. They were standing relatively close to one another—only about the distance from home plate to first base. The brush was fairly dense, but not impenetrable. And though Dale was looking directly at his friend when he pulled the trigger, he didn't see him.

So what could have prevented such an accident?



Orange . . . blaze orange. Also called "hunter orange" or "daylight fluorescent orange," this color is among the most vividly unnatural. It shows in the woods like a traffic light. Scientists define the color as emitting a light wavelength between 595 and 605 nanometers. (Every color has its own specific wavelength.) Even the dim light of early morning or late afternoon can hardly subdue the overt visibility of blaze orange. Small openings in the brush probably would have let Dale see Mark's bright orange hat or jacket, if he'd been wearing one. Instead, Mark wore drab colors of yesterday's traditional hunting clothes, and both men became part of Kansas' hunting accident statistics.

Blaze orange probably could have prevented Kansas' first turkey hunting accident last spring. It was nearly dark, and Bob and Jerry had been waiting two or three hours for their spring gobblers to come by. Jerry saw some turkeys moving through a distant clearing, and he decided to move toward his partner and plan an ambush. Jerry had left Bob hidden in the brush nearby, but he was having trouble finding him in the dusk light.

Unaware Jerry had seen the birds, Bob was about ready to quit as the day's final moments passed. Then something caught his eye—a gobbler's bright red wattle about 40 yards away. Bob concentrated on the turkey's swaying head as it drew nearer. He squeezed the trigger, anticipating his first successful turkey hunt.

Bob's No. 4 shot slammed into Jerry and sent him spinning to the ground. Jerry's right shoulder and side of his face felt as if they were on fire. Then the ringing in his ears brought reality. He'd been shot.

Bob's hope of having a gobbler to show his hunting companion vanished as he fought the knowledge of what he'd done. His concerns for Jerry were mixed with disbelief, anger, remorse and conviction that he'd never hunt again.

No one will know for sure, but the red wattle Bob thought he'd seen was probably a small patch on Jerry's hat. Though there was no true red color on the patch, the rosy light of the setting sun could have

tinted it. The rest of Jerry's hat, like his shirt and pants, was brown and green camouflage. Wild surroundings, low light and a hunter's desire to succeed can distort an image until it takes on the sure appearance of game. It happened to Bob. Such accidents, because they involve one hunter aiming and firing at another, are often deadly.

Turkey hunters are beginning to tout the importance of using blaze orange. Many stash orange caps or vests in their coat pockets while sitting in blinds but wear the protective color anytime they move. Turkey hunters have also begun to carry bright-colored surveyor's tape to tie in the trees about their blinds. The bright tape signals other hunters, telling them that the call they hear is not a turkey. Some turkey hunters are actually wearing blaze orange full-time in the field. They say the sharp-eyed birds don't seem to notice if the hunter remains motionless.

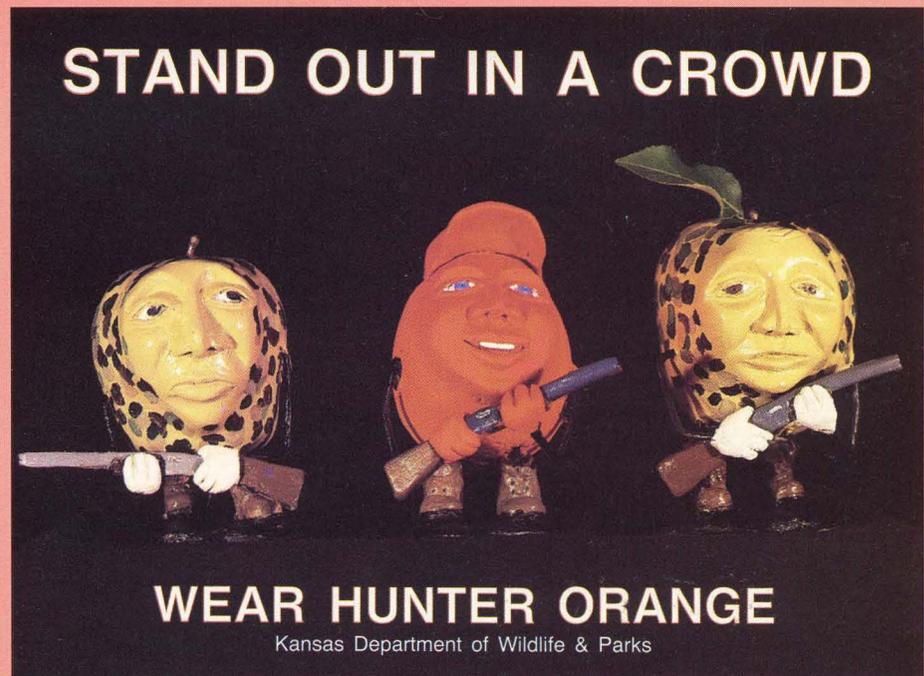
Another instance where blaze orange was painfully absent occurred when Darrel and his

buddies were hunting pheasants in rural Gray County. They decided to use blockers on one narrow quarter section of milo stubble. Darrel and two other hunters would stand ready at the field's end, and five others would walk abreast toward them.

It was a hunt plan that had worked many times before, one that often fooled some of the wily old roosters that normally ran ahead and flushed out of shotgun range. Darrell was happy to block; the hunting coat he'd put on early that morning had grown quite heavy during the unseasonably warm November day. He crouched in the road ditch tumbleweeds that bordered the field. Darrel heard a volley of shotgun blasts as the first pheasants took flight. The next shots were closer, and he knew birds would soon be flying his way. He stayed hidden, waiting for the walkers to get closer and flush pheasants over him.

Darrell was just thinking that the walkers were nearly in shooting range. Then, with the sharp report of a nearby shotgun, dizzying pain ripped through the right side of his head. Instinctively he grabbed for

This poster (which measures 23 inches wide by 17 inches deep) will be displayed by many Kansas hunting license vendors this fall. The poster is part of the Department's effort to promote safe hunting through the wearing of blaze orange clothing. The poster is yours by sending \$2.50 to: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Hunter Education Section, RR 2, Box 54A, Pratt, KS 67124. Order as many posters as you like.



Mike Miller artwork/Mike Blair photo

his eye and fell to the ground.

No one knew for sure who fired the shot that blinded Darrel's right eye. It could have been any of the five walkers, none of whom knew exactly where Darrel had been hiding. The accident will taint every future hunting experience of every man in that party. Darrel may someday learn to shoot using his left eye.

Had they been wearing bright orange clothing, Darrel and his friends probably would have remembered that outing only as another good day among good friends. The walkers most likely would have been able to see Darrel and the other blockers, even though they crouched in the weeds. Blaze orange glares through even the smallest of openings.

In each of these three regrettable, true-life situations, the hunters involved—shooters and victims—made other serious mistakes besides not wearing blaze orange. Still, the single greatest factor in each one was that the shooter didn't see the victim.

In the first case, Dale and Mark failed to maintain communication in the heavy cover. They should have constantly apprised each other of their locations. Also, Dale clearly shot out of his zone of fire when he allowed his aim to follow a quail in such a wide arc. This type of accident, classified as "shooter swinging on game," is the most common in Kansas and other states where upland birds are the most hunted game. Even though they generally occur during moments of action and excitement, experts agree the wearing of blaze orange would eliminate most such tragedies.

In the second accident, Bob obviously didn't obey a basic rule of hunting—he didn't fully and clearly identify his target. He certainly didn't see a bearded turkey. Nationwide, dozens of hunters are accidentally shot every year, some fatally, because reckless shooters use only bright red, blue or white as indicators of tom turkeys. An elementary rule of turkey hunting is that these colors never be worn in the field. If Jerry had been wearing a blaze orange hat while walking to meet Bob, the accident might never have happened.

In the third example, Darrel is the victim of another accident common

in bird hunting states. Blocking is never a truly safe hunting method, but Darrel and his friends probably could have avoided the terrible event by simply wearing blaze orange caps and vests. Even hidden in the weeds, Darrel would have likely been seen by fellow hunters if he'd been wearing this life-saving color. Of the three examples given, this one most common-sensibly demands blaze orange. Also, Darrel should have called the other hunter's attention before they were in shooting range, making sure they knew his exact whereabouts. The walkers, likewise, should have located Darrel and the other blocker before firing the first shot.

Kansas law requires only firearms deer and elk hunters to wear blaze orange. Due to the long-range, lethal nature of big-game hunting firearms, it only makes sense to require these hunters to be seen. But this rule ignores the fact that most (almost three-fourths in 1987) of Kansas hunting accidents involve pheasant and quail hunters. The reasons behind this statistic are many.

First, there are more than three times as many pheasant and quail hunters as deer hunters in the state each year. Second, a bird hunter pulls the trigger numerous times during each hunting day, while the deer hunter shoots only once or twice in a season; and the upland bird season is 12 times longer. Third, pheasant and quail hunters are more apt to hunt in large parties. (The author does not advocate this.) Perhaps most importantly, though, deer hunters wear blaze orange and they see each other. Unfortunately, many pheasant and quail hunters do not.

Most of the 30 or so people who will be accidentally shot this year while hunting in Kansas will later say they should have been wearing blaze orange. They'll wonder how much pain might have been saved by a cap or vest made of the 600-nanometer cloth. The unfortunate people who become "shooters" in the accident statistics will wonder, too. They'll wonder if a blaze orange hat, vest or both, would have kept them from firing their most regrettable shots . . . shots they can never call back.

W&P

Blaze Orange And Shooting Sports

In any discussion of hunting accidents, it should be understood that hunting and all the shooting sports are very safe. Indeed, hunting is far down the hazardous activities list. Insurance experts rate it safer than football, snow skiing, swimming, basketball, skating, bicycling, horseback riding and many other common recreations. For every 100,000 man-days of Kansas hunting, the number of hunting accident victims is slightly more than two.

Still, 38 hunters were injured afield last year in Kansas, including those who accidentally shot themselves. Fortunately, 1987 tallied no hunting accident fatalities, but the physical scars of the victims and the shooters' emotional scars are harsh enough.

In more than half of the accidents, the shooter was swinging on moving game, or the victim simply was not visible to the shooter. Experts agree blaze orange would prevent most such accidents. The first nine days of the 1987 pheasant and quail season accounted for nearly 50 percent of the accidents. Shotguns were involved in almost 80 percent of the total shootings.

The North American Association of Hunter Education Coordinators gives its full endorsement to the wearing of blaze orange by hunters. Every state and Canadian province wildlife management agency advocates the wearing of blaze orange, and private conservation organizations are involved in public educational efforts to get hunters to use it.

A brochure, "Live By The Law," details the blaze orange requirements of all North American states and provinces. To obtain one and a blaze orange sample cloth swatch free of charge, write to: Hunter Education, Department of Wildlife & Parks, RR 2, Box 54A, Pratt, KS 67124.

KANSAS

& The President's Commission On Americans Outdoors

The President's Commission
on Americans Outdoors
based its report on the experiences
of thousands of Americans.

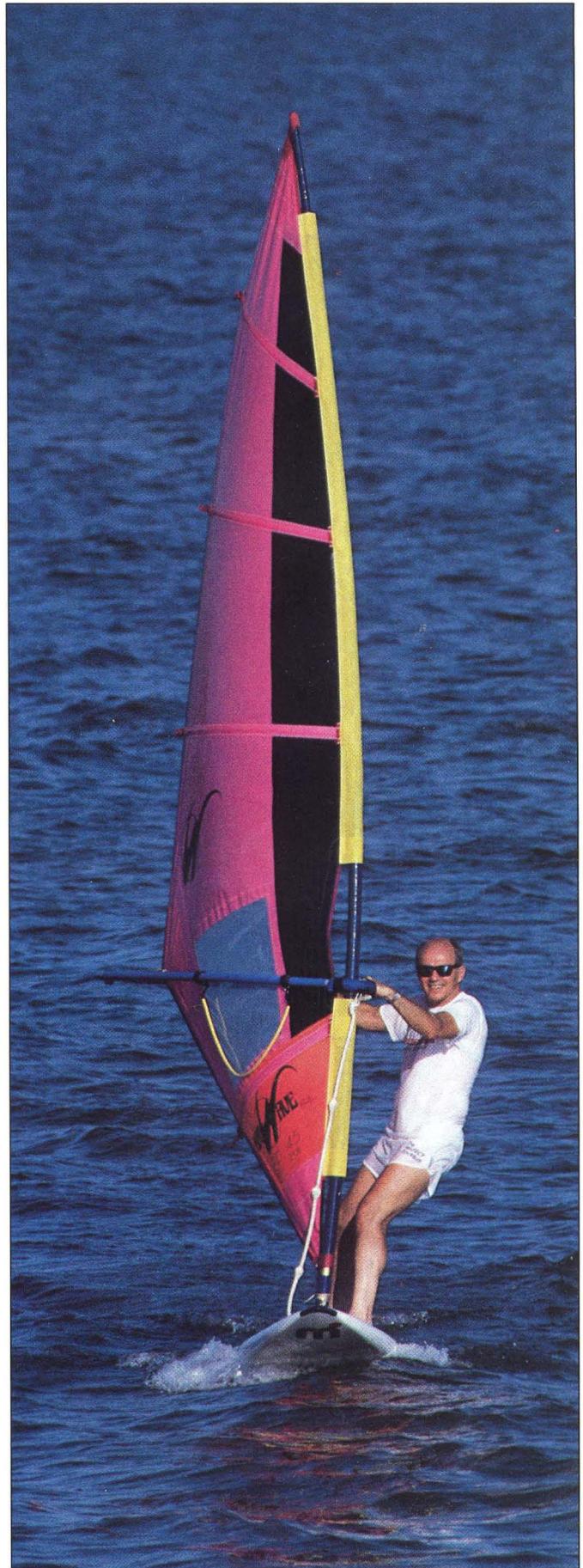
by **Mary Kay Spanbauer**
*Wildlife Information Representative
Kansas City*

photos by **Mike Blair**

Why do you participate in outdoor recreation? That's just one of a host of questions posed to Americans by the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors. The Commission's goals in 1985 were to find out what outdoor recreation means to the American people and to recommend ways to make sure we "meet our outdoor recreation needs, today and in the future." The Commission polled thousands of Americans on their views of the great outdoors. Here are just a few of the Commission's findings:

- * Americans place a high value on the outdoors; it is central for our lives and the quality of our communities.
- * Outdoor recreation provides significant social, economic and environmental benefits. Because these benefits are difficult to assess in dollars, recreation and resource protection suffer in competition with other programs for public and private dollars.
- * We're losing available open space on the fringe of fast-growing urban areas and near water.
- * Wetlands and wildlife are disappearing.

With more Americans enjoying outdoor sports, competition for available lands and waters is increasing.





LaCygne, a KCPL and KG&E power plant, provides both power and good bass fishing in eastern Kansas.

- * **Wild and free-flowing rivers are being dammed, while residential and commercial development is cutting off public access to rivers in urban areas.**
- * **With more people doing many different things outdoors, competition for available lands and waters is increasing. To accommodate these pressures, we'll have to better manage what we have.**
- * **Perhaps the biggest problem is that we take the outdoors for granted. We assume it will always be there, but its maintenance depends on each of us.**

"The Commission report was a review of what Americans wanted," says Robert L. Meinen, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. "And there are significant implications in that report as it relates to Kansas. Mainly that outdoor recreation is not only important now but will become increasingly so in the future. We must adapt to changing trends in outdoor recreation. Probably the most important recommendation from the report was that we needed a stable, long-term funding source. The funding proposal that's being considered in Congress may be the most significant action to come out of the President's Commission report."

WHY do people go outdoors? Because it's good for us. One of the major reasons American adults say they participate in outdoor recreation is to improve their health. The Commission reports growing agreement among physicians and medical researchers that active exercise programs greatly contribute to our physical and mental health. "Parks and recreation areas are 'escape valves' that improve mental health for harried city dwellers. Close-to-home recreation facilities and programs encourage active exercise that improves the physical health of urban America," the report states.

Another reason Americans recreate is to spend time with family and friends. Teen-agers tend to be the most active outdoors, and children are the motivators of the family. With the changes taking place in society, espe-

cially the make-up of the family, recreation as a means to get together with others will become more important. The co-chairman of the Kansas Governor's Commission on Children and Families acknowledges this.

"Enjoying the many outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities in Kansas is one of our family's favorite activities," says Patti Hayden, wife of Gov. Mike Hayden. "Whether it's camping, fishing, bicycling or a simple picnic, outdoor activities are a great way for families to enjoy one another and relax together."

WHAT do people do outdoors for recreation? Lots of things. Almost 90 percent of us enjoy outdoor recreation. And, according to the 1980 natural survey of fishing- and hunting- and wildlife-associated recreation, nearly half the U.S. population watched, photographed or fed birds and other wildlife. The Commission reports that in 1984, outdoor recreational trips generated business receipts of \$225.1 billion and 4.7 million jobs. Additionally, \$13.6 billion was generated in federal revenues, \$8.9 billion at the state level and \$2.7 billion in local economies.

The activities vary as much as the participants themselves. From walking to gliding and hoops to camping, the opportunities are diverse. The fastest-growing outdoor activities include canoeing, swimming, boating, bicycling and snow skiing.

WHERE do people go to recreate? Natural beauty is the No. 1 attribute we look for in an area. The degree of crowding is second, followed by restroom facilities, parking availability, public information and picnic areas.

The places we go include private and public land. We're fortunate that our forefathers had great insight; America has more public land than any other country. There are 708 million acres in federal hands and an additional 62 million administered by state governments. Of key importance is location and access to these public lands. The three major factors that influence recreation demand are the amount of leisure time, income level and mobility.

Many of the trends, issues and recommendations discussed in the report apply to Kansas. The 1985 Kansas State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) addresses the existing resources and the recreational needs of the Sunflower State. SCORP's purpose is to pursue multi-level government cooperation to plan, acquire, develop and maintain the lands and waters needed to satisfy the state's present and future recreational needs.

"There is a demand and need not being met in the area of recreation, and it's our agency's mission to meet this need," says Alan Wentz, Assistant Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. "As the state's major recreation agency, we need to provide the public with facilities and information about the outdoors."

Some of the key issues, trends and topics Kansans face in the next decade include:

URBAN CENTERS

By the year 2000, 80 percent of all Americans will live in metropolitan areas. The population continues to decrease in rural areas while it increases in some cities and suburban areas. The Commission reports that the location of recreation areas and facilities will become more important since travel time will become more of a factor in determining recreational choices. Almost 80 million Americans observed and enjoyed wildlife within one mile of

their home, according to the 1980 national survey. Urban areas have more people, so competition for recreational areas can be keen.

These trends are evident in Kansas. Population bursts have occurred in the metropolitan areas while rural areas are losing people. SCORP elaborates: “. . . the steadily increasing urbanization of Kansas is presenting recreational planners with the decision of how much to increase urban recreational opportunities. Second, urban living also necessitates different outdoor recreational requirements and facilities. Urban facilities will be used more frequently by an increasing number of Kansas residents.”

ORVs

Conflicts can arise when land is open to the public. One of the most controversial issues in Kansas is the use of off-road vehicles (ORVs). The use of these motorized vehicles has increased significantly in the past 10 years. Indiscriminate or uncontrolled use of ORVs can harm the natural land and resources. SCORP recognizes that the ORV and motorcycle industries have a positive effect on the Kansas economy but also indicates that a problem exists. “We need to get the ORVs out of the bottom of the Ark River and into designated areas where they won’t damage natural resources,” says Alan Wentz. “Some of our state parks already have designated motorcycle and ORV areas, but more are needed.”

A study on ORV recreation in Kansas recommends that a special tax be levied on certain recreational equipment and sporting goods to develop ORV recreation areas. SCORP acknowledges that off-road vehicle use will continue to be one of the major issues confronting state, regional and local government through 1990.

Day trips are growing in popularity. A one-day field trip is an ideal way to show students what they’ve been taught in the classroom.



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Funding, or lack of it, is an issue that demands attention. No longer can we expect the few to fund for the many. “User fees will continue to be very important, but there is a need for more general funding for recreational development,” says Alan Wentz.

One creative venture that’s evolved is partnerships with corporations. The Commission report stresses we must look to corporate America as a partner, not simply as a source of handouts. Corporations have an array of skills and resources that go beyond outright donations. These assets can be used successfully in forging partnerships to protect and conserve our natural resources.

In Kansas there are several examples of corporate partnership. The Coleman Company of Wichita, for example, has been a longstanding promoter of outdoor recreation and has contributed to organizations furthering that goal.

The late Sheldon Coleman Sr., Coleman’s chairman of the board, and Charles McIlwaine, vice-president of corporate communications, attended about 20 meetings across the country while serving on the President’s Commission on Americans Outdoors. “If nothing else,” says McIlwaine, “the Commission brought (outdoor) recreation onto the national agenda. It brought a level of consciousness to the government and tens of thousands of cities that this is something important to the U.S., not only to the people but as an economic impact and deserves tremendous attention. It doesn’t have the sex appeal of a treaty with Russia, it doesn’t solve the Central American problems, and it doesn’t solve the drug trade but (outdoor recreation) impacts every man, woman and child in America.”

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks also works with Kansas utility companies. LaCygne, a KCPL and KG&E power plant, lies in eastern Kansas about 35 miles south of Kansas City. While the plant churns out power, the 2,600 acre-cooling lake provides fishing opportunities. The KPL Gas Service Jeffery Energy Center near Topeka has recently entered into a partnership with Department. KPL has opened 6,800 acres for public use and designated a third segment as a wildlife refuge.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Section two, part three of the Commission report is titled "Schoolchildren Should Learn About the Outdoors." It calls for school boards to provide educational programs about natural resources in schools reflecting the 4Rs: Reading, 'Riting, 'Rithmetic and Resources.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is taking an active role in educating citizens about the environment by providing the following tools: preschool through high school curriculum, a free-loan wildlife reference center of wildlife related audio-visual materials, the "Nature's Notebook" section of this magazine, aquatic education instructor and student manual, and a variety of additional resources.

The Department's long-term commitment to education also shows up in the in-service and pre-service presentations available to all Kansas teachers, administrators, librarians and student teachers. The presentation demonstrates the available materials as well as how to use them in all aspects of education. For more information about the Department's Wildlife Education Service, write: Joyce Harmon Depenbusch, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, RR 2, Box 54A, Pratt, KS 67124.

DAY TRIPPIN'

We now tend to take shorter vacations. The longer two-week vacations have been replaced with popular day trips. Recreational close-to-home activities (or close to a camp-

site) are in high demand. There are many opportunities for day trips in Kansas. A little over an hour from Pomona State Park sits historic Council Grove. This eastern Kansas town is home to the famous Post Office Oak, the Last Chance Store and the Council Oak Shrine — the birth-place of the Santa Fe Trail.

Mike Cox, Education & Public Affairs chief for Wildlife and Parks, recommends Pratt as a day trip from Wichita, Hutchinson and Dodge City, to name only three cities within a short drive of Pratt. Currently under development is a nature trail in Lemon Park. When finished, this three-quarter-mile trail will include two swinging bridges over the Ninnescah River. After a morning in the park, a visit to the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Museum will cap your day.

TRAILS

More than 10 million Americans use trails (greenways and scenic drives, for example). "According to 13 natural surveys conducted between 1959 and 1978, trail-related activities consistently rank among the ten most popular outdoor recreation activities," cites the Commission report. One of the fastest-growing segments of recreational activities includes trail-type activities such as canoeing and biking. More than 600,000 Americans took a complete biking vacation in 1985.

SCORP indicates that Kansas is deficient in all categories of trails except historic (although most state parks have at least one trail). Trails are usually limited to specific uses (nature trails, for example). SCORP recommends more attention be directed toward comprehensive trail systems. Emphasis should be placed on trails for bicyclists, canoeists and backpackers.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The quest to secure new recreational areas is important, but existing facilities also must be kept in good condition. The Commission recognizes the need to deal with the

The Department will establish a long-term capital improvement account. Here Department employees work on a dock at Cheney Reservoir.





The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is committed to improving facility access for handicapped citizens.

problem of deterioration now, before it worsens and becomes more costly to remedy. "By neglecting our existing parks and recreation areas, we rob future generations of their use," says the report. Theodore Roosevelt once said that nothing short of defending this country in wartime "compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us . . ."

The report also recommends that public agencies improve their budgeting practices to allow for capital rehabilitations. The efforts to protect existing public recreation facilities should go beyond one-time funding and address the more fundamental problem: failure to recognize the value of existing investment.

Some state parks have begun the process of replacing 25- to 30-year-old sewage systems. Another capital improvement in this year's budget includes \$122,500 for the repair of the dam at Lake Meade State Park.

The Department plans to establish a long-term capital improvement account. "Kansas needs a source of funding that will allow us to maintain and improve the public investment in our state parks, state lakes and other lands and facilities," says Department Secretary Bob Meinen.

HANDICAPPED FACILITIES

For millions of handicapped Americans, access to public recreation is the key.

According to Norm Davis, chief engineer for Kansas Wildlife and Parks, the 21 Kansas state parks all have at least one handicapped-accessible restroom; some have ac-

cessible marinas and restaurants. A handicapped-accessible parking lot and fishing dock are under construction at Douglas State Fishing Lake near Baldwin. Other state parks have handicapped-accessible fishing docks and additional facilities. The Department's Action Plan on handicapped facilities detailing both existing and planned facilities was to be published by late September.

LAND ACQUISITION

Other trends and issues that will be addressed in Kansas in the next decade include land acquisition, reservoir resorts, multiple-value lands, community acres, user fees and several others.

While 97 percent of Kansas is held in private ownership, the Department manages less than .6 percent of the state for recreation. And there is considerable need for more parks and wildlife areas, to name two areas in need of attention.

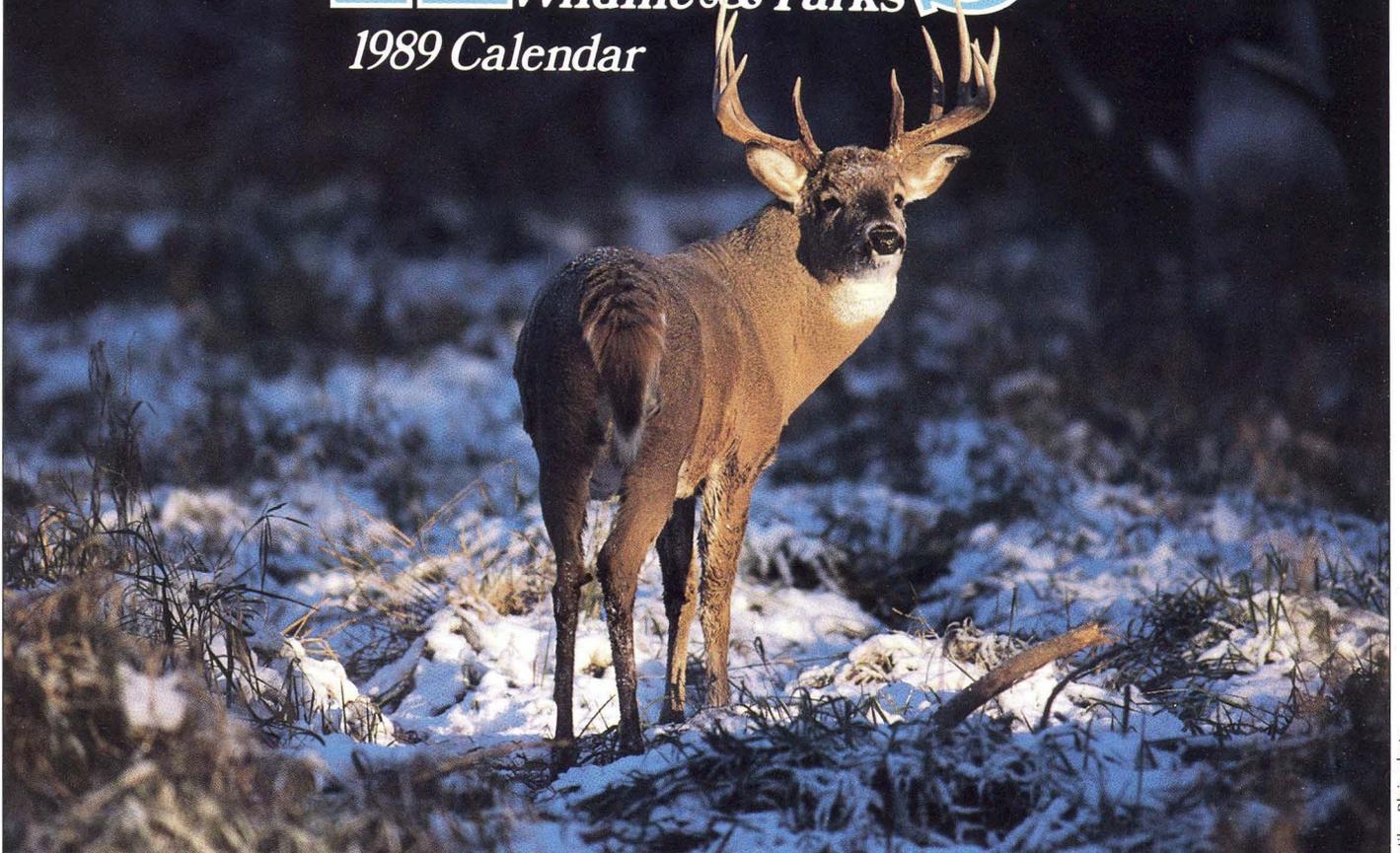
"Every week people approach the Department to sell us land," says Alan Wentz. "Some of these areas are high-value marshes, others are ranches of significant historical and cultural value, and almost all have a high recreational potential. Unfortunately, without additional funding, we're able to purchase only a tiny fraction of the areas offered."

The President's Commission on the outdoors reminds us that we must cherish and maintain what we have and look to the future with realistic expectations and compromise. The stewardship of the great outdoors is the duty of each American. W&P

KANSAS

Wildlife & Parks

1989 Calendar



Mike Blair photo

Christmas Gifts For 1988

Here's the perfect gift for the outdoor person on your Christmas list: the 1989 KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS calendar. It's loaded with beautiful color photographs of the Kansas outdoors taken by two of the nation's best photographers: Gene Brehm and Mike Blair. From a stunning sunrise shot of a displaying prairie chicken to the elegance of a huge white-tailed buck in velvet, it's all here.

But the calendar is also full of interesting information about seasons, record fish, the best times to see migrating birds, permit application periods and more. At \$5 each, the calendars make the perfect gift for the hunters, fishermen, campers and outdoor enthusiasts on your list.

And don't forget about KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS magazine as yet another ideal Christmas gift. Whatever your outdoor interests, this award-winning magazine has something for you: conservation issues, nature subjects, hunting and fishing topics, state parks information and nongame species, to name a few



Mike Blair photo

areas regularly covered in this bimonthly publication.

To order magazines, send us your name and address and a list of your recipients along with their mailing addresses. Subscriptions are \$6 for one year, \$11 (two) and \$15 (three). To order calendars, send us your name and address and the number of calendars you want, and we'll send them directly to you. Make your check or money order payable to Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.



by Bruce Taggart

Gimme That

Working for a governmental agency for 14 years, I hear the tune “Gimme That” more than I’d like to. The more I think about the “gimme that” attitude, the more concerned I become.

Hidden away in everyone is that little bit of something that wants something for nothing. Some of us call this a bargain, a windfall or a good deal. A good job with great pay, for example, little work and as much free time to do whatever it is we want to do. This attitude has almost become a goal of our society and has even infiltrated the likes of hard-working, independent people.

This attitude goes against everything we were ever taught. Our parents always encouraged us to give more of ourselves than we took from others. We were all taught that only through the toil of our labor could we achieve life’s real rewards. Yet, even though it’s illogical to think that something can come from nothing, I keep running into people who expect just that from our wildlife resources.

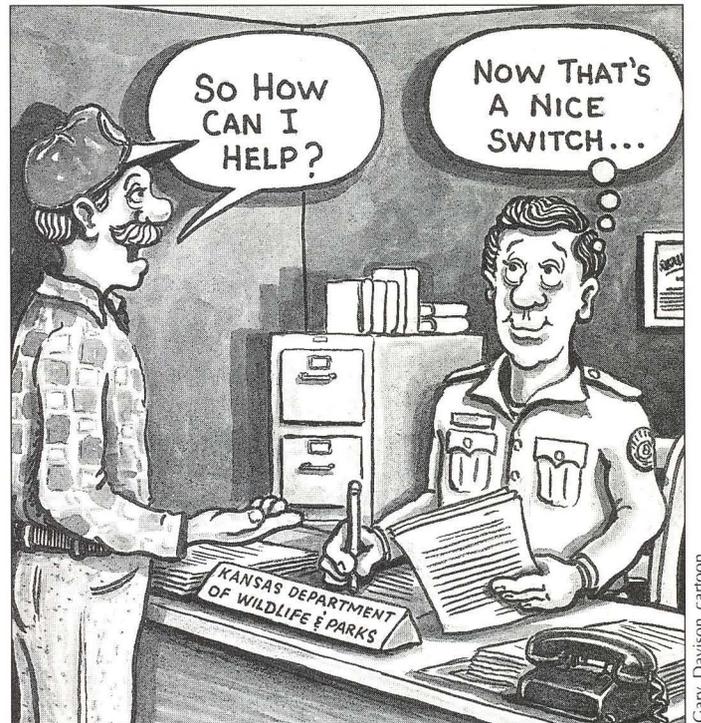
The “gimme that” attitude of a few sportsmen is hard to understand. Nearly 97 percent of the money put into hunting and fishing activities goes toward accessories. Only 3 percent actually goes to replenishing and enhancing wildlife populations.

Recently, a self-proclaimed sportsman was complaining that license fees were too high. I told him I could understand a sportsman questioning where license monies go, but not that they’re too high. This same sportsman went on to say he had a great season harvesting more than 20 drake mallards, 50 quail and 10 pheasants. That sportsman got a real bargain, and the only money that went back to ensure future seasons like the one experienced came from a \$10 hunting license, a couple of duck stamps and a small tax on some of his accessories.

Please don’t misunderstand me. The contributions sportsmen make are very much needed and appreciated. In fact, these small contributions and a little tax on hunting and fishing equipment are all the support most wildlife conservation programs have had to draw from.

There are also other Kansans who say they care about wildlife and yet contribute nothing. There are still too many poachers who take wildlife resources relentlessly and contribute nothing. If there is to be a wildlife future that resembles that of today, poaching must be greatly reduced, everyone who cares about wildlife has to contribute and yes, even sportsmen will have to think about giving more than they take.

Money is only a part of the support that’s needed. More involvement in conservation organizations will make Kansans better informed and create a stronger, more knowledgeable voice. In fact, it’s through such involvement and



Gary Davison cartoon

education that Kansans can ensure the money they do contribute is put where it does some good.

But why should Kansans have to give more than they take? Missouri licenses are lower than Kansas; look at the program they have. In reality, Missourians contribute five times the amount Kansans do to their conservation agency. In addition to using license fees, Missouri has a small public tax to support its wildlife resources. So all citizens give to maintain Missouri’s natural resources.

What’s it going to take to make Kansans really evaluate what they give and what they take? It’s going to take an awakening of everyone concerned with natural resources and some bold new approaches. If Kansas’ natural resources are going to be maintained into the 21st century, all Kansans are going to have to pull together and give more than they take.

Many of you reading this are already some of the best contributors of time, effort and money toward Kansas’ wildlife resources. But we need more of you; we need an army. We must get the message out to others and get more involved ourselves. Wildlife is not free but is only worth the value we place upon it. If we keep expecting something for nothing, someday we may end up with just that — nothing.

W&P

