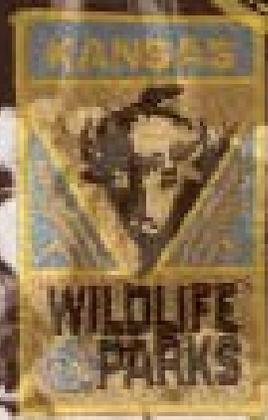
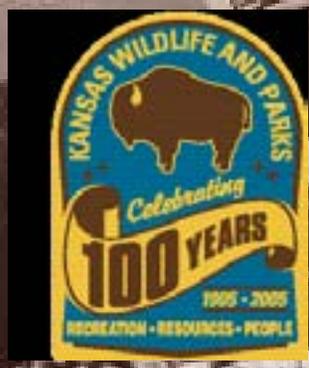
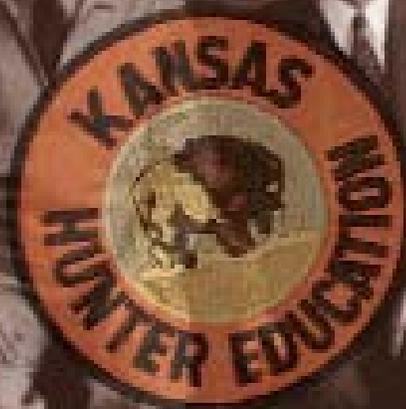
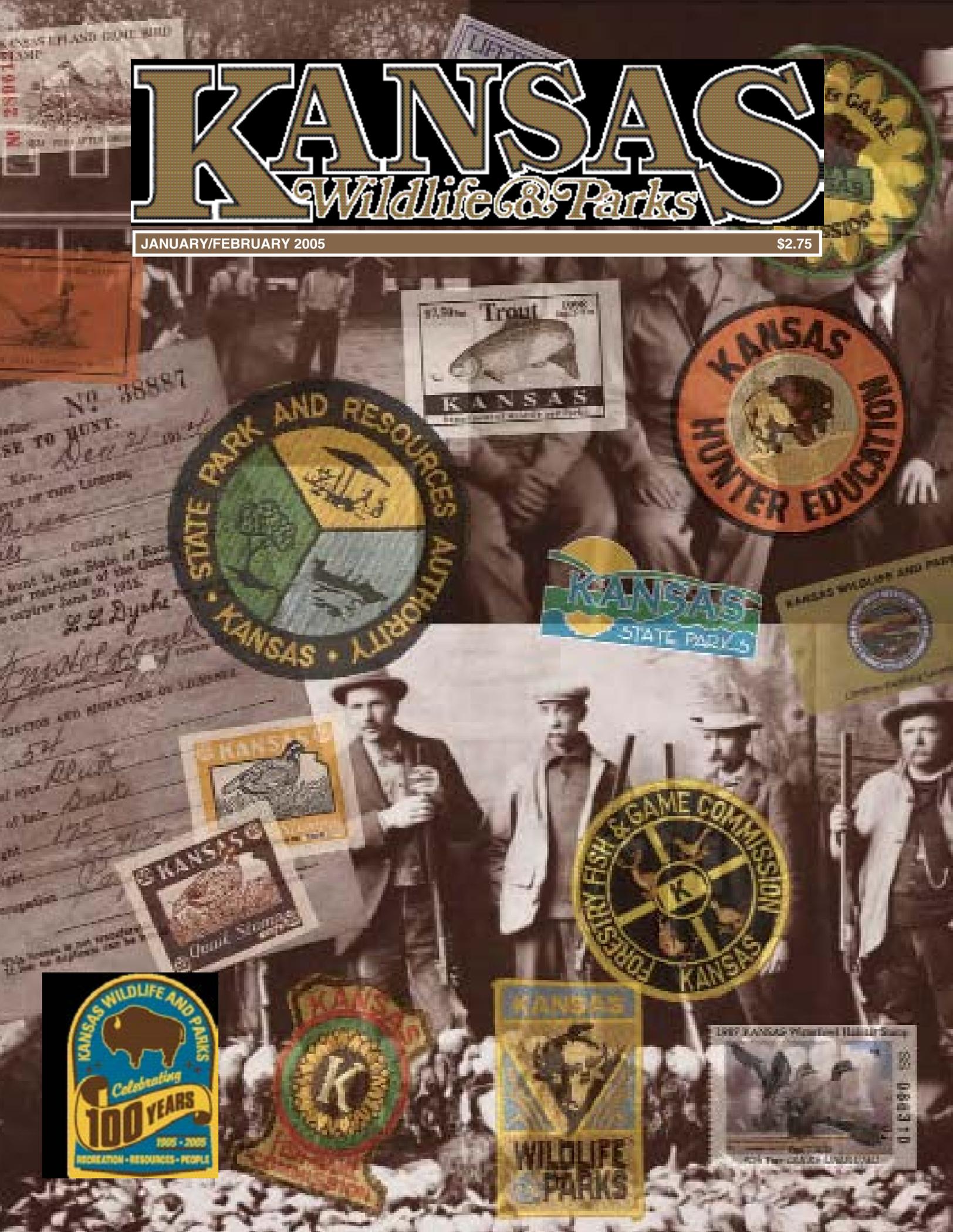


KANSAS

Wildlife & Parks

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005

\$2.75





by Mike Hayden



Recreation. Resources. People.

Theodore Roosevelt was the president. The price of a first-class stamp was two cents. The U. S. population was a little more than 83 million. Wilbur and Orville Wright had made their famous flight at Kitty Hawk only two years earlier. It was a different age in 1905, when the first substantive steps were taken to create the agency that has become the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

That was the year the state legislature organized a disparate collection of fish and game laws under the newly-created "Kansas Fish and Game Department." That same year, a hunting license was first required to hunt in Kansas. That simple beginning created the means for the department to enforce fish and game laws and to begin the task of managing the state's natural resources for the benefit of its citizens. It was also the year the state officially accepted the deed for a 12-acre parcel of land donated by the Pratt County Commission for construction of a fish hatchery.

There have been many significant milestones along the way. Pheasants were first stocked in the state in 1906, and the first regulated hunting season for them was in 1917. The 1920s were notable for a variety of advances, including the construction of the first state fishing lakes. In 1927, the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission was given authority to make regulations regarding open and closed seasons and bag limits. That same year, fishing licenses were first required of men 18 to 70. Female anglers were first required to have fishing licenses in 1934.

The 1930s also featured the profound accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps, as well as the passage of the landmark Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act and the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act. The 1940s featured the state's first acquisition of land at what has become an internationally acclaimed wetland — Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area. In October 1942, Gov. Payne Ratner accepted a deed conveying 6,800 acres of Barton County's famous natural basin to the state.

In the 1950s, the Kansas Legislature and Gov. Fred Hall responded to the growing demand for outdoor recreation by organizing the State Park and Resources

Authority, which guided development of state parks. The first state park in the modern era — Kanopolis — was dedicated in 1958. The state park system grew considerably through the 1960s with the construction of numerous federal reservoirs and the associated rise in boating, fishing, camping and wildlife recreation. The state's first modern deer hunting season was in 1965.

The 1970s introduced the highly successful Kansas Hunter Education Program, as well as the Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Act which broadened agency responsibility to all wildlife species. Muzzleloading rifles were first allowed for deer hunting in 1972, although the first muzzleloader-only deer hunting season did not take place until 1989. The first modern spring turkey season was in 1974.

The 1980s brought about the reorganization of our department, in which the State Park and Resources Authority and Kansas Fish and Game Commission were combined. The 1990s saw development of the extremely popular Walk-In Hunting Areas Program and its fishing counterpart Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats Program, as well as the first Becoming an Outdoors Woman events.

Numerous other notable accomplishments produced the rich tapestry that is our department's history. Most importantly, a long line of dedicated staff, commissioners and department constituents have worked long and hard to conserve our state's rich and diverse natural resources.

Like any successful organization, our greatest asset has always been and always will be the people who make good things happen. Our mission is devoted to conserving and enhancing our natural resources and the recreation those resources make possible. But it's the people, both inside and outside the department, who are the most important element in our past, present and future. We look forward to the challenges of the future, and building on the successes of the past.

Please join us this year in celebrating our centennial milestone as we build on the successes of the past to ensure a prosperous future for outdoor recreation in our great state!

KANSAS *Wildlife & Parks*

January/February 2005

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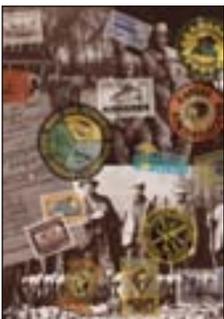
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Front Cover: Photo illustration celebrating 100 years of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks by Dustin Teasley. **Back:** Floyd Becker and Charlie Davis of Moundridge show off two flatheads they caught from the Smoky Hill River during the summer of 1955. The photo appeared in the January 1956 issue of *Kansas Fish and Game*.



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, religion, age or handicap. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612.

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100 years of resource

Twelve acres are donated to the state in Pratt County and construction on the Pratt Fish Hatchery begins. Hunting license required in 1905. First Chinese ring-necked pheasants stocked in 1906.

1900s

1910s

"World's largest fish hatchery" is dedicated in Pratt in 1912. Kansas University professor L.L. Dyche is "on loan" to serve as state fish and game warden.



First state fishing lakes, Neosho and Meade, are built. Game farms are created to raise quail and other game birds.

1930s

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) begins building state fishing lakes. Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp required. The agency newsletter *Outdoors With the Forestry Fish and Game Commission* becomes a full-fledged magazine with black and white photographs in 1939. First six-member, bipartisan Commission is appointed by governor.

1920s



che 1950s management

1970s

Legislature creates the State Park & Resources Authority, and Kanopolis State Park opens in 1958. First deer crossing sign erected in Cheyenne County

A limited number of nonresident deer permits are made available in 1994. KDWP launches website in 1996.

The first regulated deer hunting season in Kansas was held in 1965. Turkey reintroduction program begins.

Milford Fish Hatchery is constructed. Governor Mike Hayden combines the State Park and Resources Authority and Kansas Fish and Game Commission to form the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

The fishing access program, which leases private ponds and streams for public fishing started in 2000. The Spring Turkey WIHA program opened land in 2002.

1960s

Acquisition of land for Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area begins. First walleye are stocked in Clark State Fishing Lake in 1949.

Hunter education program is established in 1973. First spring turkey season in 1974. The SASNAK program added 90 new employees and doubled the department's budget

The Walk-In Hunting Area Program (WIHA) started in 1996 with 36,000 acres. The 10-year \$20 million Cheyenne Bottoms renovation was completed in 1999.

1940s

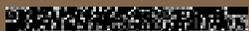
KDWP Director Steve Williams is appointed Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by Pres. Bush in 2001. Gov. Graves appoints former Gov. Mike Hayden as KDWP Secretary.

1980s

The \$10 million state parks renovation program is completed in 2002. More than 1 million acres were enrolled in the WIHA program in 2004.

1990s

2000s



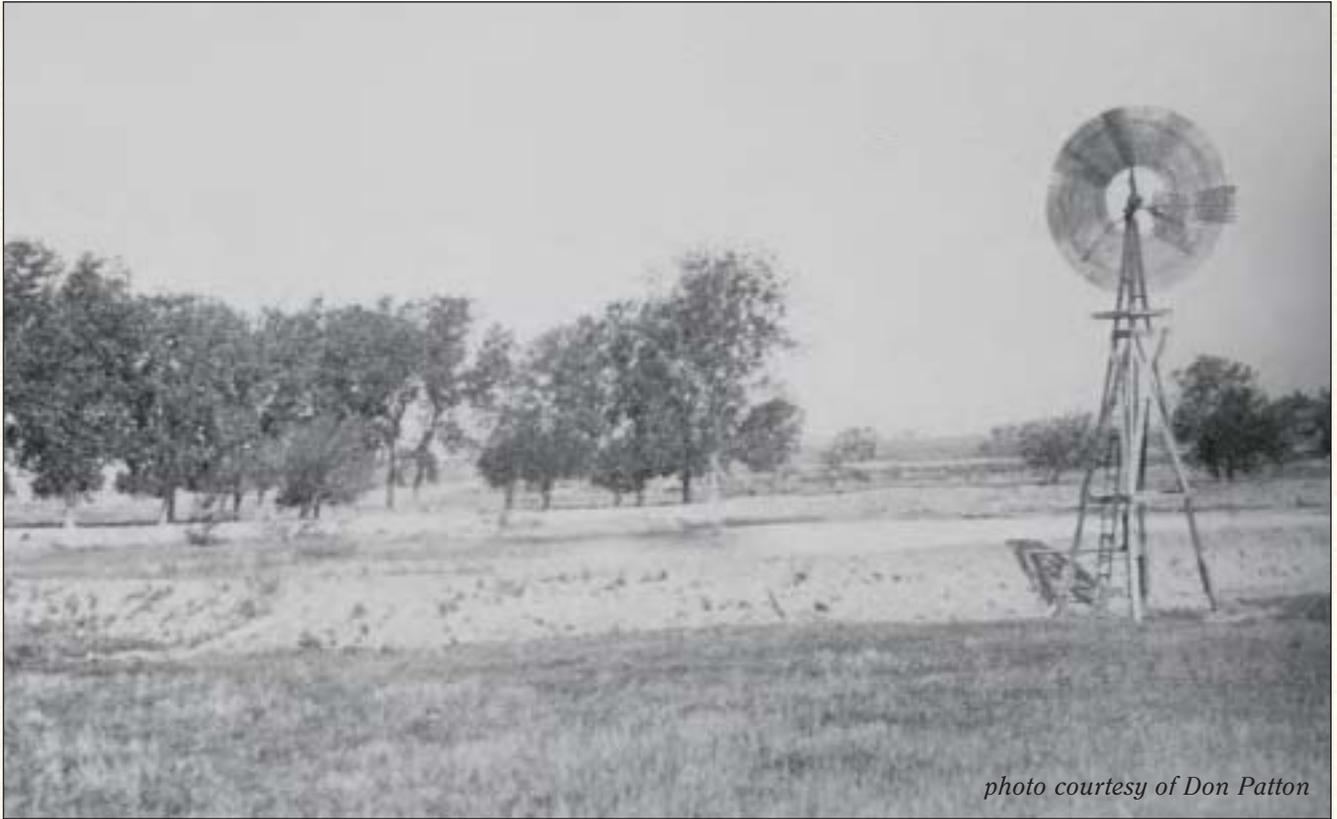


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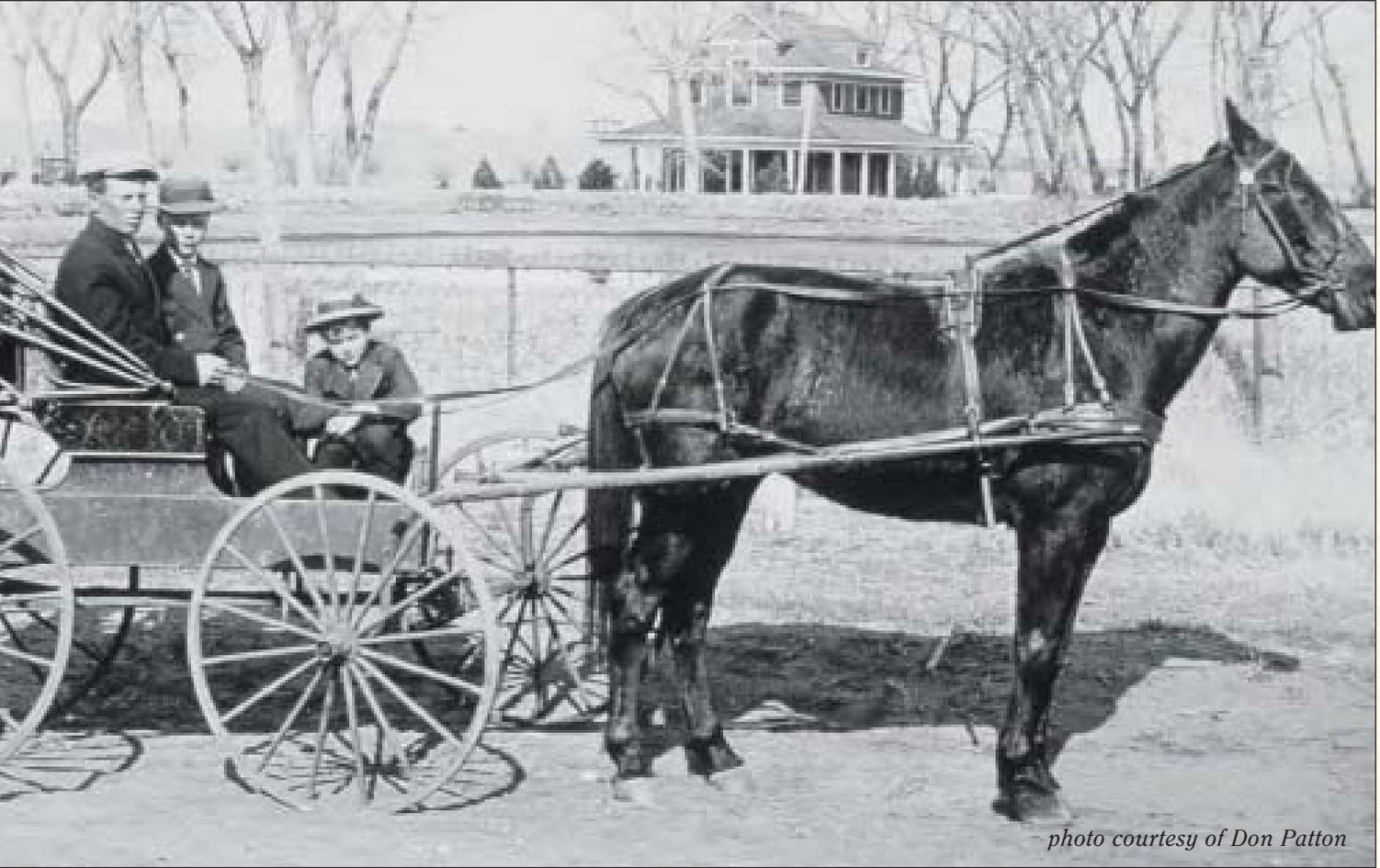


photo courtesy of Don Patton





photo courtesy of Don Patton

By 1913, the Pratt Hatchery was considered the largest of its kind in the world, and included 71 ponds, the Warden's residence pictured above, as well as the administration building, cottages, barn, and tool houses. Many of the buildings still stand today. The Warden's residence is used for engineering section offices. The administration building pictured at right is now the Wildlife Education Center and Museum.





photo courtesy of Don Patton



PROF DYKE OPENING GATE TURNING THE
LARGEST FISH HATCHERY IN THE WORLD PR.
PHOTO BY



photo courtesy of Don Patton





While the Pratt Hatchery had been in operation since 1906, the opening ceremony in 1912, billing it as the largest fish hatchery in the world, was a proud moment for Kansas, as well as the people of Pratt.





photo courtesy of Don Patton

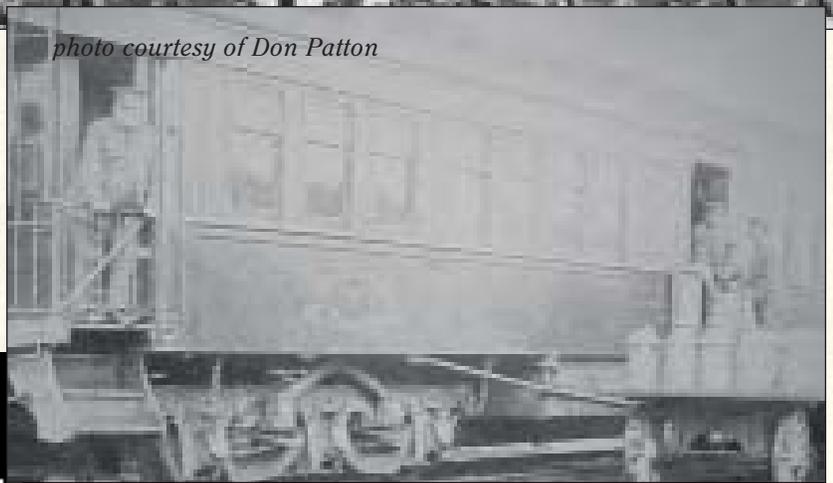


photo courtesy of Don Patton



As early as 1906, it was evident that the hatchery's fish production would require large-scale distribution. Because roads weren't adequate at the time, a rail car was purchased for \$7,297. It included 12 200-gallon tanks, as well as living quarters for staff. "Angler I" was in use until 1929 when motor vehicles began carrying the load.



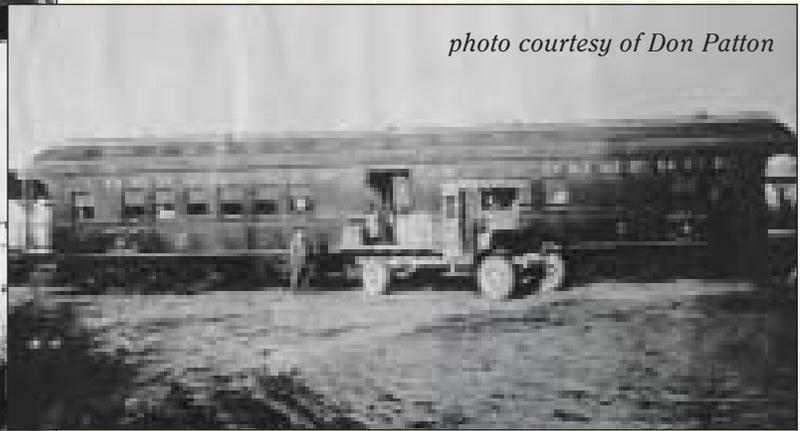


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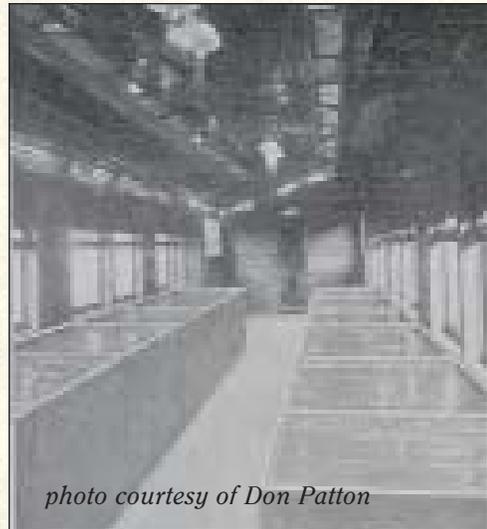


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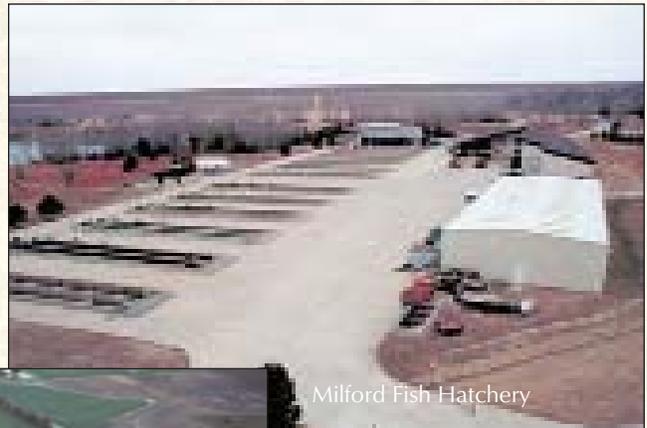


photo courtesy of Don Patton





Not only was the Pratt Hatchery one of the largest in the world when it was built, but the technique for artificial propagation of channel catfish was invented there. In fact, the method developed 70 years ago is still used today. Seth Way, pictured above, managed the Pratt Hatchery for more than 40 years, retiring in 1967. He was a pioneer in fish culture and invented the egg incubation apparatus that was copied at hatcheries around the country. KDWP operates four hatcheries today at Pratt (middle left), Meade, Farlington (lower left) and Milford (top left).



Milford Fish Hatchery



Pratt Fish Hatchery



Farlington Fish Hatchery





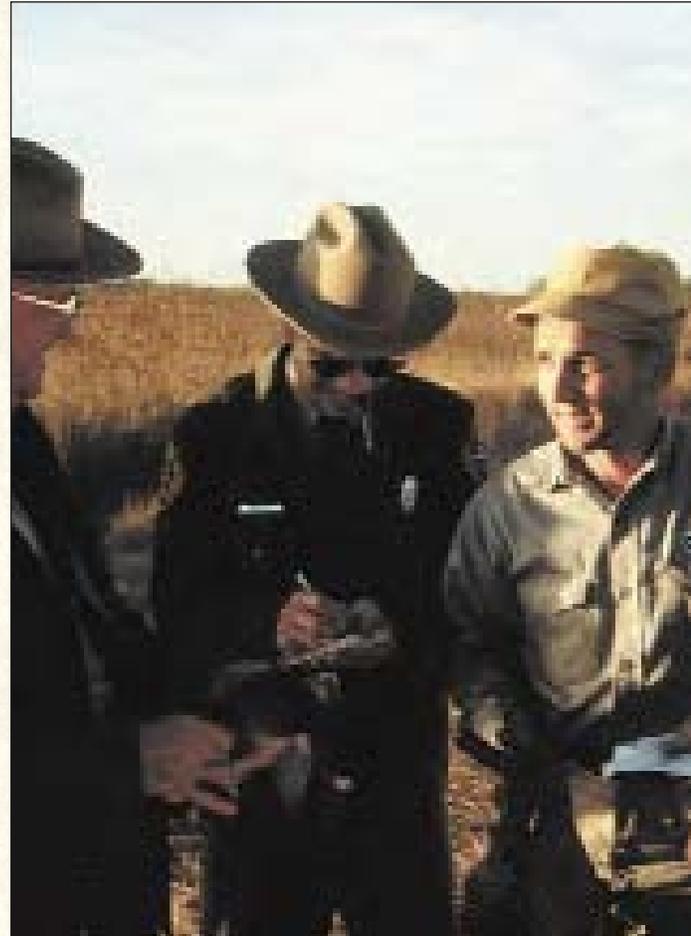


The first state fishing lakes, Neosho and Meade, were opened in 1926. Through the 1930s, many state fishing lakes were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The opening of a state fishing lake was a big event in those days, often attracting thousands of anglers, as shown in the photo at left when Sheridan State Fishing Lake opened in 1940. (The top photo shows the construction of Nemaha State Fishing Lake. The lower photo is Crawford State Fishing Lake.)



Deputy game wardens, 1928

photo courtesy of Dan Heskett



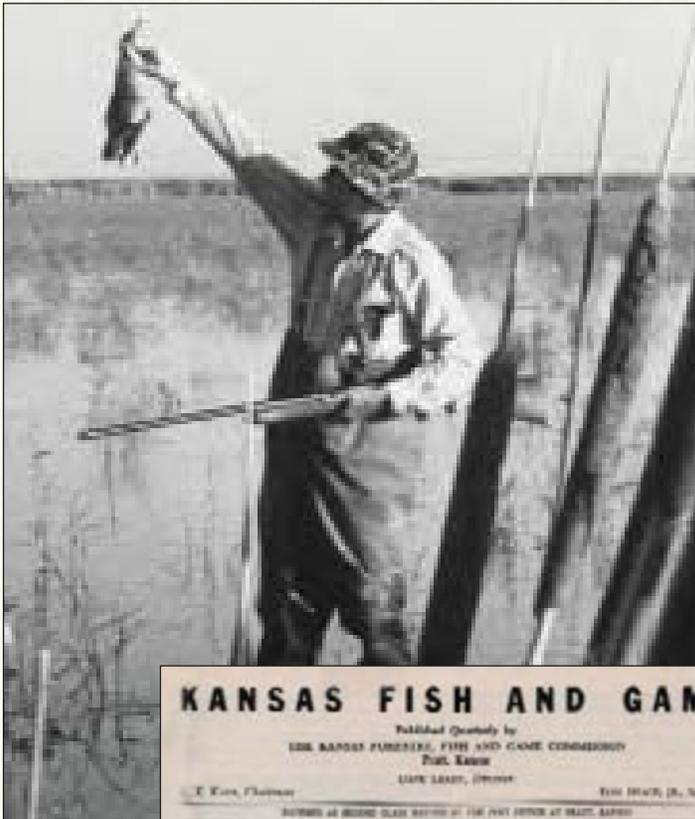
Wildlife laws were established in the late 1800s. However, it wasn't until 1920 that wardens were paid a salary and the laws were more effectively enforced. Wildlife lawmen have been called game wardens, game protectors, conservation officers, and wildlife conservation officers. Today, the 73 officers stationed throughout Kansas are titled natural resource officers or NROs.





While licenses for hunting were required in 1905, fishing licenses weren't required until 1927. Congress authorized the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp in 1934, and the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed in 1937, distributing money back to the states from excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunition. That same year, the Kansas Forestry Fish and Game Commission issued the first Kansas Quail stamp. These changes allowed the department to purchase land and begin developing public fishing and hunting areas.





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 BUREAU OF BIRDS AND GAME OFFICE AT STATE CAPITOL
 No. 137 APRIL 1937 Vol. 8

CHEYENNE BOTTOMS NEARS COMPLETION
 By Ernest Wilson

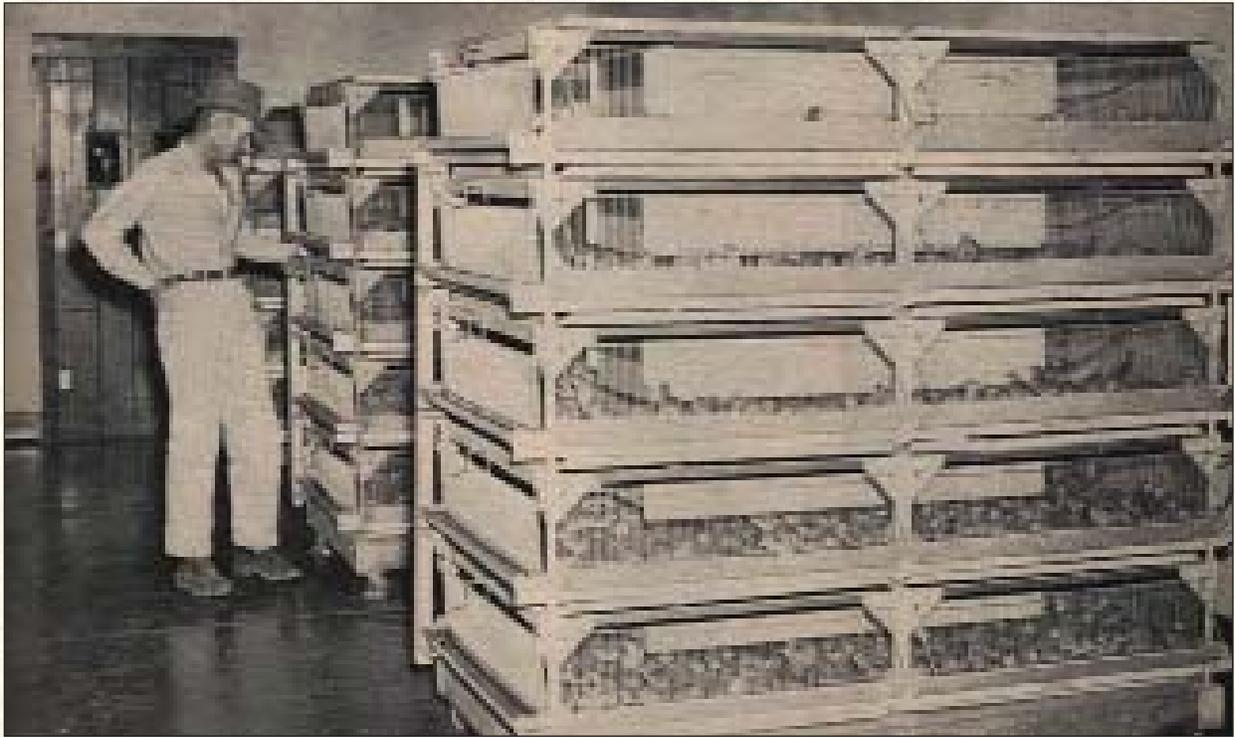
Workmen of the city of Great Bend, Kan., are a hard lot to "work over" because of their nature. During the time of several seasons of the land has been particularly covered by water during a certain season. There is the 10-15 acres, and of the area was covered with water the result of seasonal water in the drainage basin.

At other times, the area has been totally dry and high-contrast seasons work over the land. Almost no water still in the state can tell you the name of the work done. The CHEYENNE BOTTOMS.

Separated and laid up together to create a functioning state of the Cheyenne bottom. The area has always been known as one of the top agricultural districts

In 1942, the department launched the "Cheyenne Bottoms Project," with a goal of developing a 19,000-acre "migratory waterfowl refuge" in Barton County. The plans called for impounding an 11,000-acre lake. In October of 1957, "Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Refuge and Public Shooting Area" was dedicated. The photo below shows the diversion structure on the Arkansas River that was constructed to provide water. The bottom photo is a more recent aerial photo.





Through the early years, the department operated bird farms, raising quail and pheasants to release into the wild. Three farms were operated, quail farms at Pittsburg and Calista and a pheasant farm at Meade State Park. In 1949, nearly 40,000 quail were hatched and released, while 20,000 pheasants were raised. As managers learned that few of the released birds survived, the farms came under scrutiny. By the 1960s, the farms were closed. However, as a public relations measure, game wardens continued to distribute quail chicks to landowners into the 1970s. Today, wildlife managers focus on improving habitat, knowing that habitat is the key to all wildlife.

Upland bird hunting is a treasured tradition in Kansas, and the state's annual harvest of pheasants, quail and prairie chicken consistently ranks among the best in the nation.

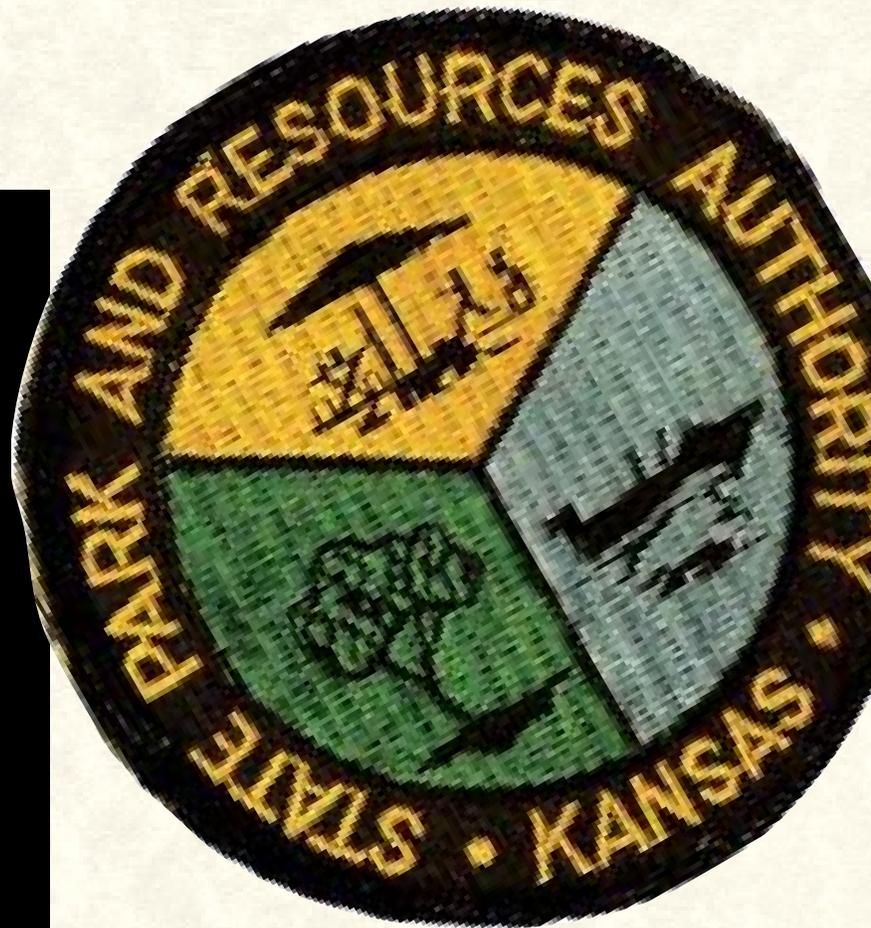


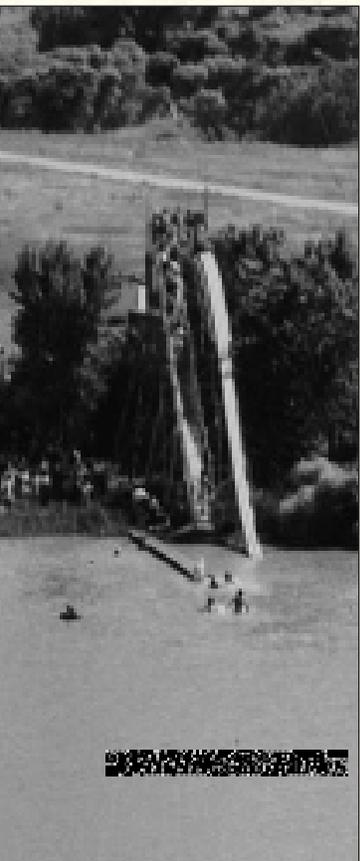


Fishing opportunities increased steadily from 1930-1950 as state fishing lakes were constructed. However, the real boom in fishing opportunities came in the period from 1950 through 1970 as federal reservoirs were constructed. The reservoirs provided water recreation, including fishing and boating. At left is the dam at Scott State Fishing Lake and below is the dam at Glen Elder Reservoir in 1966. The photo bottom right was taken in 1953 at Kanopolis Reservoir of associate editor Mark Shoup and his father.



State parks were first established around state fishing lakes such as Meade and Scott, pictured below. However, the Kansas Park and Resources Authority was created in 1955 to develop and manage state parks, beginning with Kanopolis, which opened in 1958.



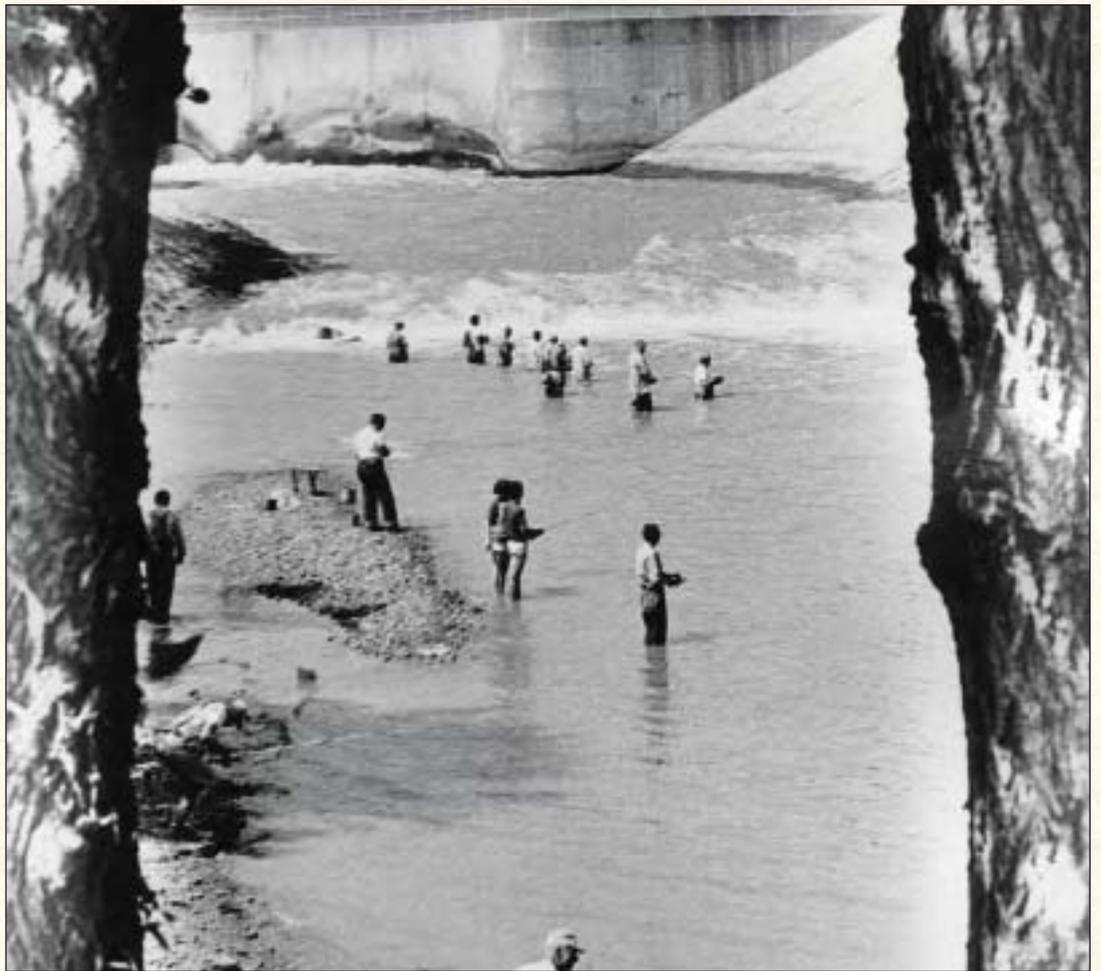


© 2000 by [unreadable]



Fishing was still a major attraction, but the larger reservoirs opened up a new world of outdoor recreation to Kansans. Boating recreation has grown rapidly over the last 30 years. Today, more than 100,000 boats are registered in Kansas, and our 23 state parks record more than 7 million visits each year.









State park recreation has evolved to be much more than boating and fishing. Hiking, biking, and equestrian trails are popular, as are interpretive nature study and wildlife watching. Most state parks host several special events each summer, from bluegrass festivals to mud volley ball tournaments, to the giant Prairie Stampede at Tuttle Creek which draws 60,000 concert goers to listen to top country music artists.







Deer sightings were big news in Kansas through the 1950s and early 1960s. In fact, in 1956, it was estimated that there were only 3,000 deer in the whole state. By 1965, the population had mushroomed to 30,000, and biologists established Kansas' first modern deer hunting season. The Commission authorized 4,575 deer permits, but not all were issued. Just less than 4,000 hunters went afield, and they harvested 160 deer with archery equipment and 1,340 with firearms. In 2003, nearly 100,000 deer were taken by hunters.



While deer aren't among the wildlife species the department has reintroduced (they came back on their own), native species recovery has always been a department initiative. A record from 1939 indicates that wild-trapped turkeys were released in eastern Kansas. It wasn't until the 1960s, though, that these reintroduction programs were highly successful. Wild turkeys are perhaps the greatest success story, but the department has also reintroduced elk, pronghorns, Canada geese, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, golden eagles, and river otters.

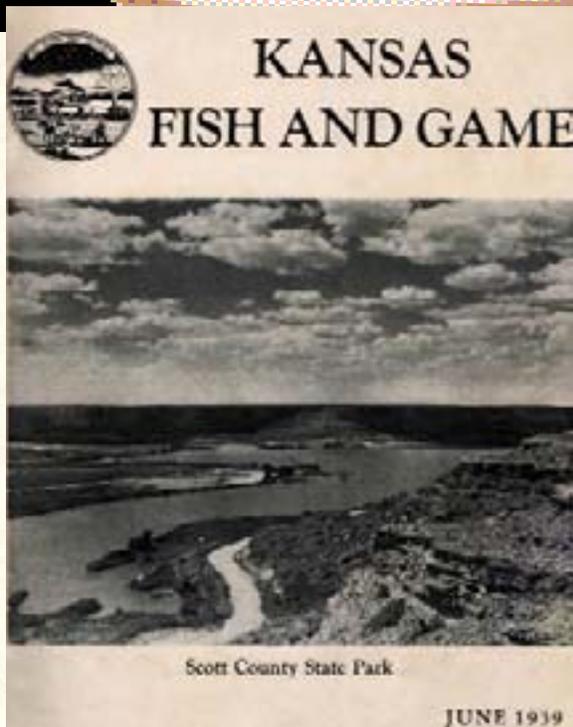


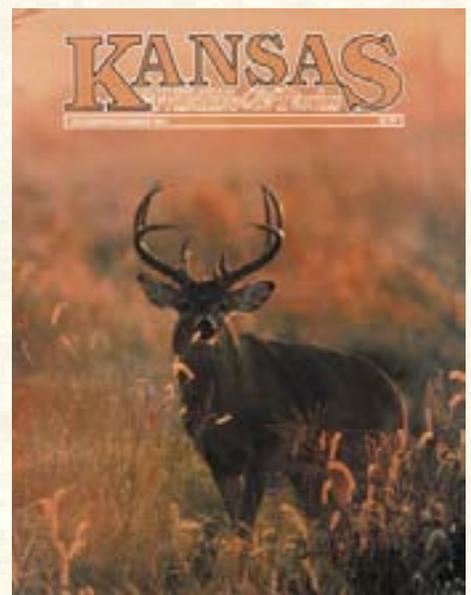
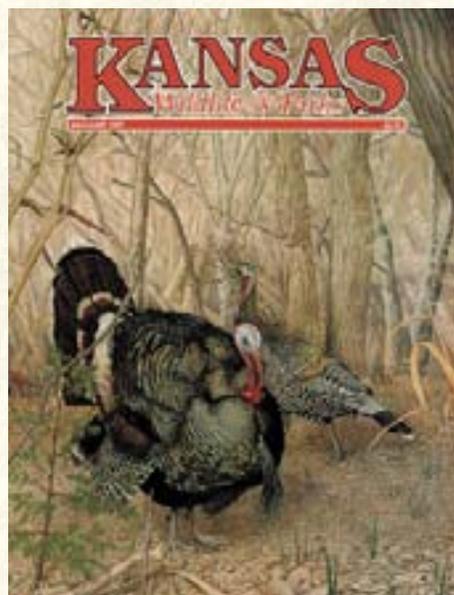
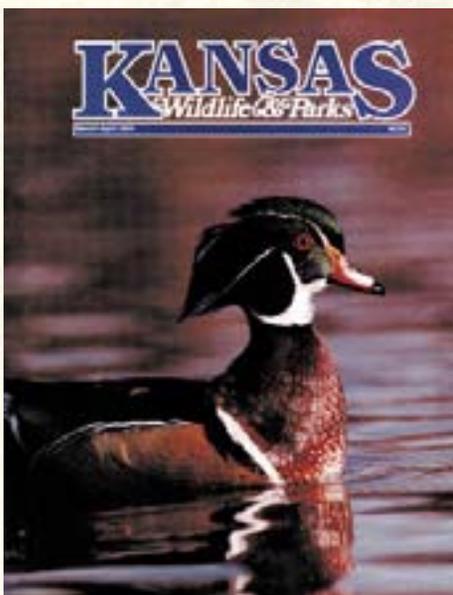
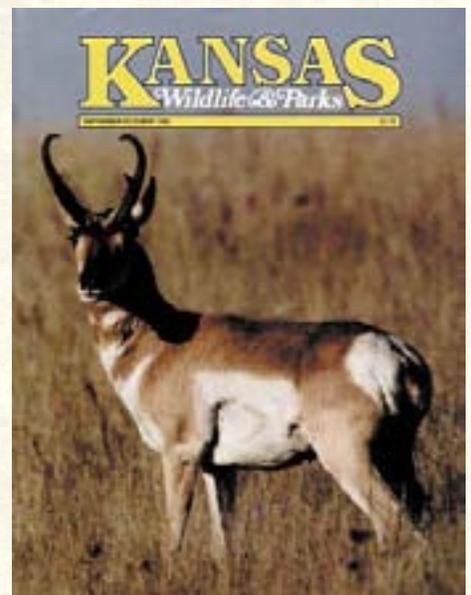
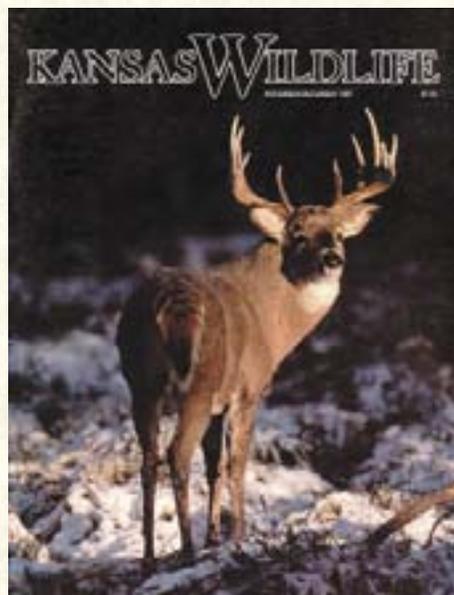
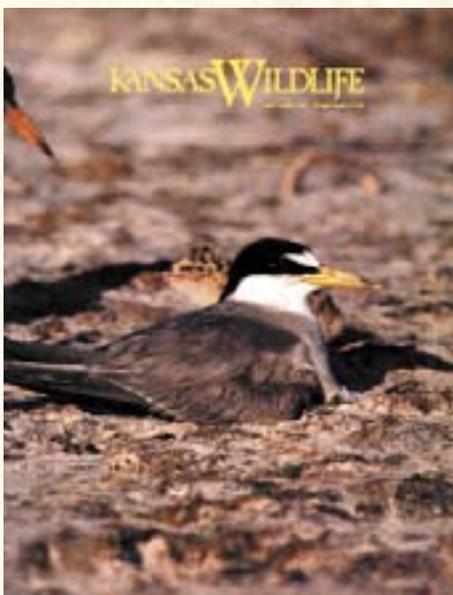
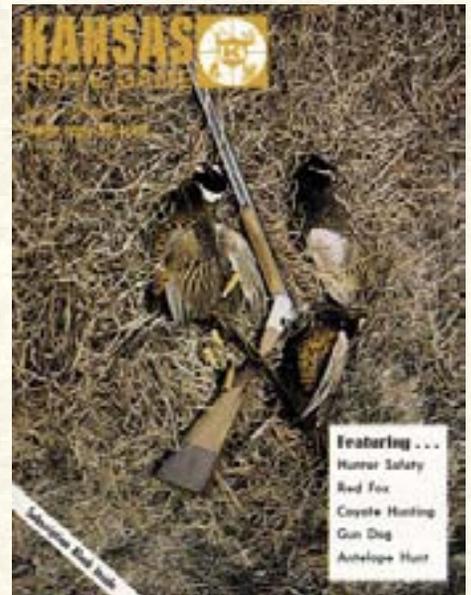
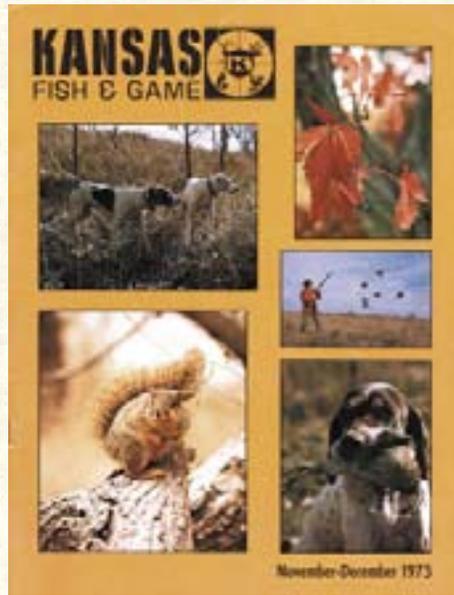


In the late 1930s, the department began sending out a type-written newsletter to anyone who requested it.



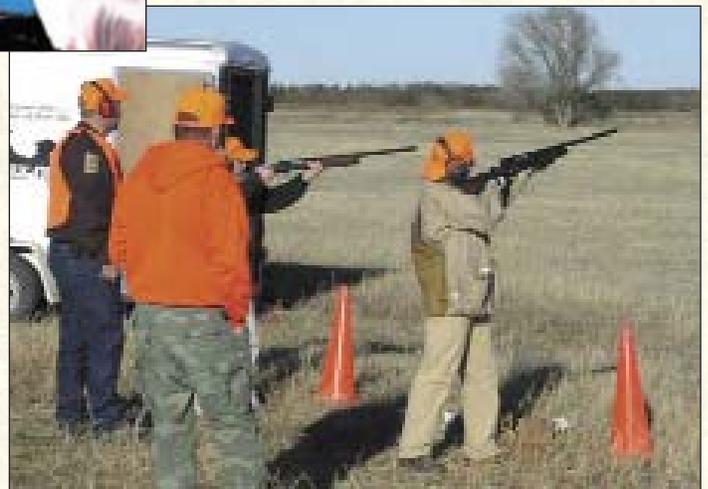
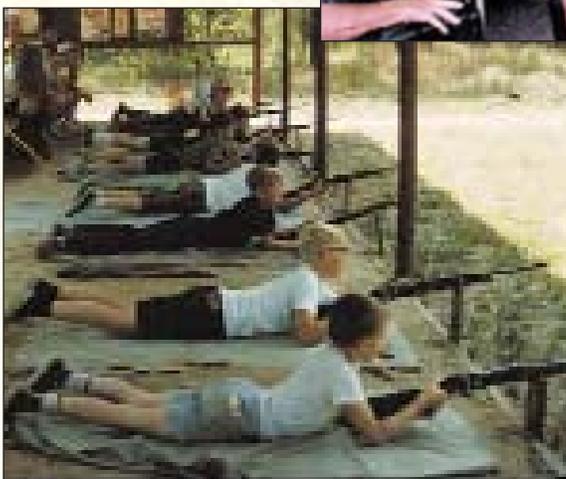
The covers and internal artwork were sketches done by commercial artist J. Luther Hanson of Greenleaf (left). By 1939, the publication was a full-fledged magazine with a photo cover. There was one gap between 1944 and 1949 when the publication was stopped because of "inadequate personnel." The publication was titled *Kansas Fish and Game* from 1939 to 1981, when it became *Kansas Wildlife*. In 1987, when the Kansas Fish and Game Commission and the Kansas Parks and Resources Authority were merged, the title was changed to the current *Kansas Wildlife & Parks*.







Hunter Education began in 1973, requiring anyone born on or after July 1, 1957 to complete a course before hunting in Kansas. Since then, more than 400,000 youngsters have gone through the course, which today is 10 hours of classroom instruction and often includes live-fire training. In 2003, a record-low 13 hunting-related incidents were reported.



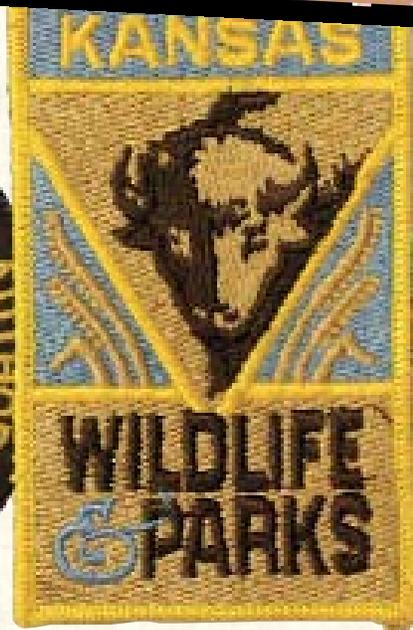
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Sasnak was a huge milestone in the history of the department. Spelling Kansas backwards, SASNAK stood for Surging Ahead for Skippers, Nimrods and Anglers of Kansas. The ambitious program was funded by Governor Robert Docking and the legislature in 1973. In 1974, the department hired 90 new positions and created six regional offices. The goals of SASNAK were to 1) Increase game fish catch by 50 percent; 2) Improve habitat on private land; 3) Double upland game harvest on public hunting areas; 4) Implement the Hunter Education Program; and 5) Establish a Courtesy Water Patrol program.

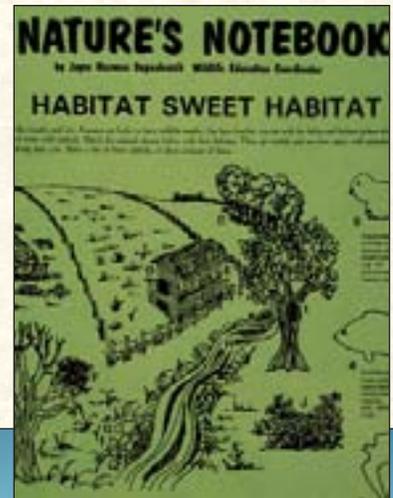
Another milestone was observed in 1987 when the Kansas Fish and Game Commission merged with the Kansas Park and Resources Authority to form the current agency, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

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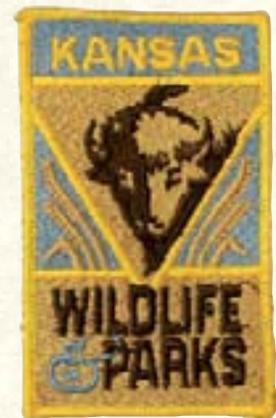
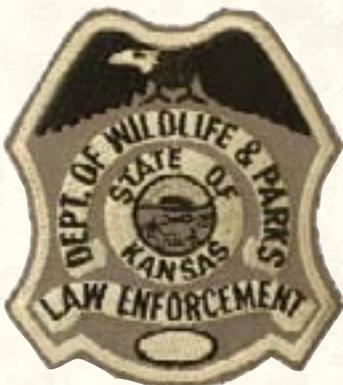


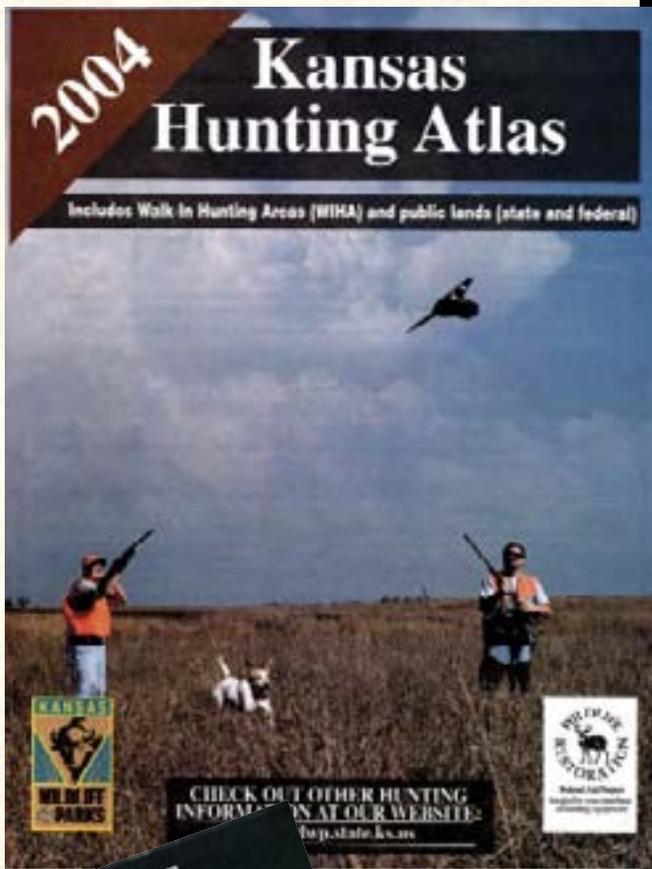
The Wildlife Education Service was created in 1982 and a wildlife management curriculum for elementary students was created. Today WES provides wildlife education through outreach programs at schools, Outdoor Wildlife Learning sites, print and audio visual materials, as well as nature centers at Pratt, Milford, and Wichita.



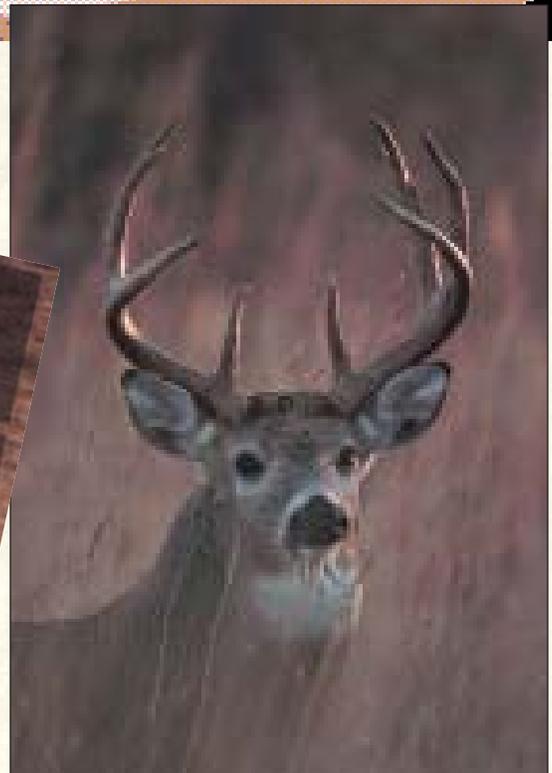
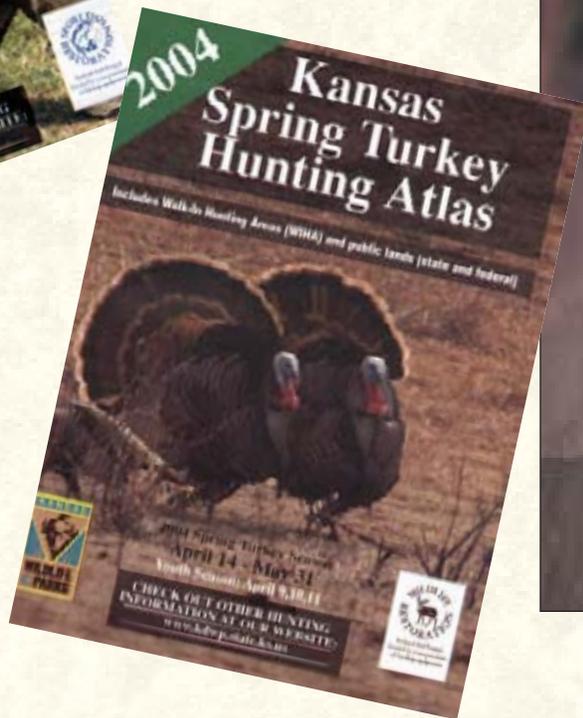
The following pages include many of the stamps and patches issued by the department through the years.

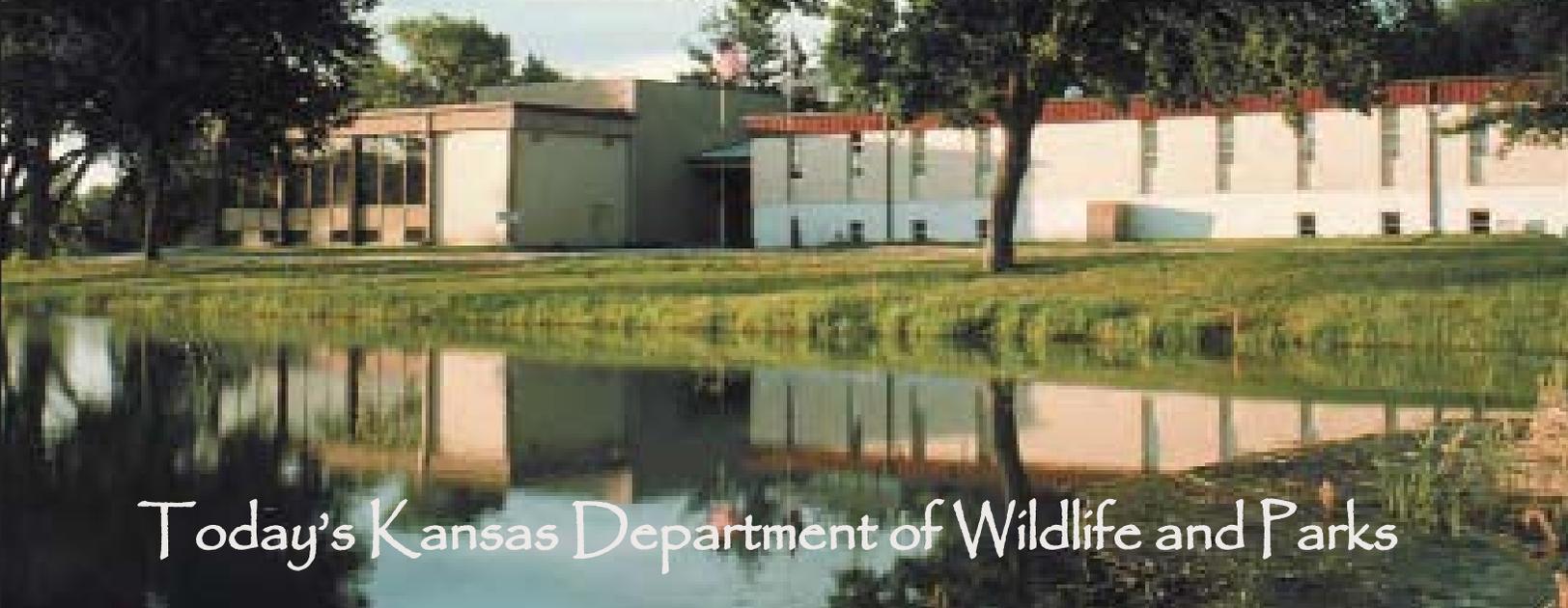




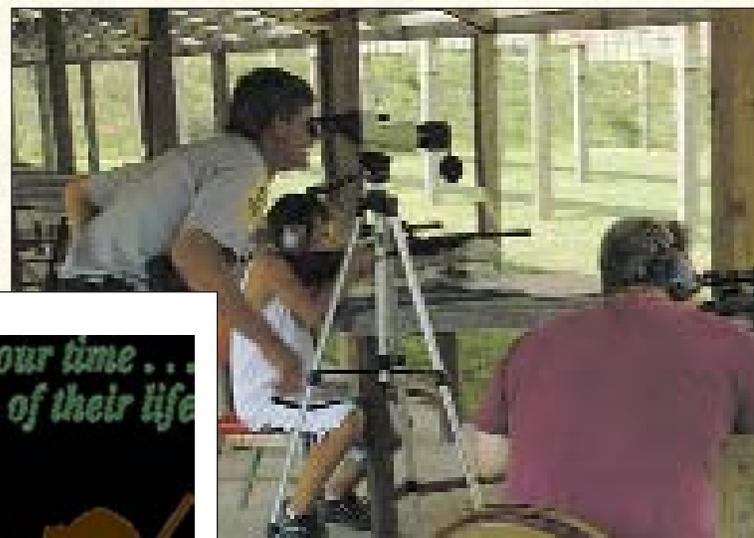


Creation of the Walk-In Hunting Area (WIHA) program represents another milestone in the department's history. Started as a pilot project in 1996, the program's goal was to provide a significant increase in hunting opportunities for Kansas hunters. WIHA leases land from private landowners and opens it to public hunting. The program has been a resounding success, popular with both landowners and hunters. In 2004, more than one million acres were enrolled. On WIHA's heels have come the FISH program which leases private ponds and streams for public fishing, and the Spring Turkey WIHA, which opens private land for turkey hunting.

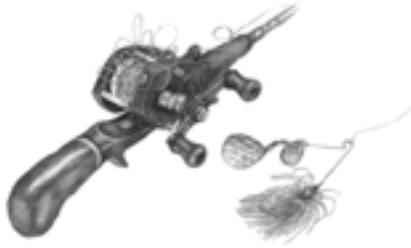




Today's Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks







Backlash

by Mike Miller

Common Threads

While assembling this centennial issue, I scoured 60 years worth of department magazines, starting with the June 1939 issue. I've always enjoyed browsing these historical publications, amazed with the issues our predecessors were dealing with. They were concerned about pollution, habitat destruction, hunter ethics, tradition, conservation, and budgets. Sound familiar?

I started work for the agency in 1983, so I've been here for a fifth of the department's life. On one hand, 21 years is a long time, but on the other it's merely the blink of an eye in the department's life. Reading about Seth Way developing channel catfish spawning procedures in 1926 seemed like ancient history. Then I found a story about Way retiring in 1967. And that's when it hit me: people are the common thread.

We can break up history into eras or decades, or even centuries, but people are the overlapping connection. And the amazing individuals I've known and worked with have made a huge impression on me.

There are legends, those who spent more than 30 or even more than 40 years with the department, like Seth Way, of course. Byron Walker spent 45 years developing the wildlife area near Kingman that now bears his name. Don Patton raised fish and managed the Pratt Hatchery for 44 years, bridging the years of discovery under Way and modern fish culture. Ben Streeter worked in state parks for 37 years. Marvin Schwilling worked in waterfowl, wetland, and nongame management for more than 30 years. Bill Hlavachick had a hand in the first wild turkey and antelope releases and spent more than 30 years improving wildlife management in Kansas. And there are others who contributed so much that it's not possible to do them justice with a mere mention. George Whitaker and Jim Kellenberger in law enforcement, Bob Hartmann in fisheries management, Bob Wood in wildlife management, Oliver Gasswint in wildlife management and federal aid coordination, Bev Aldrich in information and education, Rose Ewing in licensing, and Fred Badders in engineering.

Along with this longevity, the people I've known were amazingly dedicated. Most didn't stumble into

their jobs here. Often, they attained specific college degrees, then worked low-paying seasonal jobs before finally getting full-time opportunities. And they knew they weren't going to get rich working for a state wildlife agency.

So why does the wildlife biologist get up at 4 a.m. day after day to be on the turkey trap sight before daylight? Why would a fisheries biologist spend 14 hours a day bouncing around in a freezing john boat to take walleye eggs? Why does a natural resource officer lay for hours in the weeds on a cold winter evening hoping a bad guy will return for a poached deer? Or why would a biologist or area manager spend months organizing a youth deer hunt when youth deer hunts aren't in the job description? And why would state park staff work so hard to stretch meager budgets and promote special events just to make sure visitors have quality stays?

Obviously, our employees love what they do. But it's more than just loving their jobs. They love what their jobs represent — natural resource conservation, protecting and preserving our outdoor heritage, and making Kansas a better place to live — for both people and wildlife. It's often a thankless job. There are no bonuses, overtime pay, or fancy awards, and it can be difficult to please constituencies that are so diverse. But they do it very well.

In 100 years, the department has left a remarkable legacy — one of fantastic species recoveries, new recreation opportunities, innovations, and a wealth of scientific wildlife management knowledge. Imagine if someone could travel through time from 1925. What would they think of our deer and turkey hunting; the million-acre Walk-In Hunting Area program; telemetry studies on quail; walleye, smallmouth bass, and wiper fishing; or 23 state parks attracting 7 million visitors each year? We may be concerned with some of the same issues our predecessors dealt with 100 years ago, but things are very different today. However, the dedicated individuals who've made our outdoor recreation what it is remain the common thread. Those first pioneers who took jobs with little or no pay set the stage for the amazing natural resources we enjoy today.



