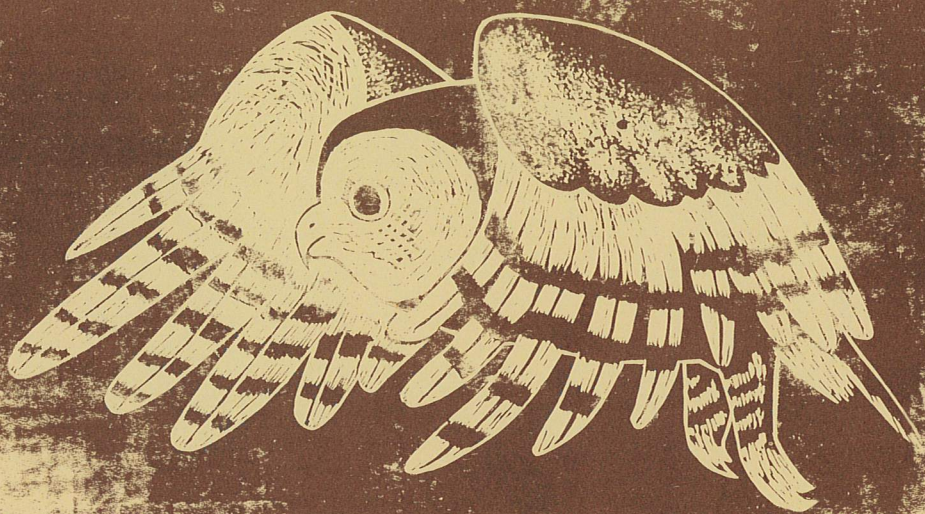


A C R E S



QUARTERLY
Fall • 1967

Volume VI No.3



Bill Shrock

ACRES EIGHTH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

CONCORDIA SENIOR COLLEGE

MAIN DINING HALL

OCT.

20

6:30 P M

\$2.50 PLATE

Send or phone reservations by Oct. 18 to:

Miss Regina Flath or

Mrs. Henry E.C. Succop

2819 Sherborne Blvd., Ft. Wayne

483-5063

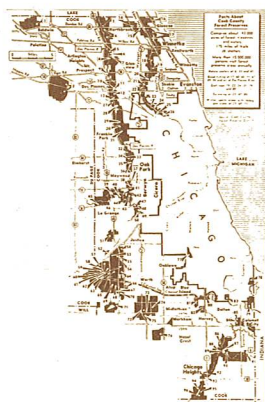
or

483-1532

Table Decorations by Mrs. Emerson Whitehurst

DINNER GUEST AND SPEAKER will be Mr. Roland F. Eisenbeis, Superintendent of Conservation for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois. * * * * *

Forest Preserve District
of Cook County



Prior to his thirteen years of service in this post, Eisenbeis served as naturalist for the Forest Preserve District. During these years, he has developed an outdoor education program centered around the study of natural science. Presently the Forest Preserve District has the largest program in the country. This has been largely due to the cooperation between the District and the school systems of the county. Mr. Eisenbeis will use a new film which will illustrate the outdoor education program of the Forest Preserve District with emphasis on outdoor activities and ways in which natural areas serve the program.

Prior to coming to the Forest Preserve District, Eisenbeis worked with the Fish and Wildlife Service in North Dakota on nesting studies of migratory waterfowl.

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Bill Shrock, a graduate of New Haven High School. Bill will attend Porter Business College in Indianapolis this fall in the School of Transportation Management. The original of Bill's owl was a large linoleum block done last year in High School art class.

FALL FIELD TRIPS, 1967

#1 - SEPTEMBER 23 An afternoon and evening in Steuben County. This is a special trail trip at Pokagon State Park led by Park naturalist Helen Skelton. Note that this trip begins from the Pokagon Inn parking lot at 2:00 PM. At 5:00 we'll picnic at the park pavilion. At 7:30 PM, we'll meet at the McClue Reserve (south and east of the park) where our guides will be Ruth Stevens and Laura Frank (teachers at Angola). We will go to the clearing at the back of the Reserve for a FALL STAR PARTY. ACRES' Vice President, Jim Barrett, will assist our guides by setting up views through his Questar telescope.

TIMES & PLACES

2:00 PM Pokagon Inn Parking Lot

5:00 PM Pokagon Pavilion

7:30 PM McClue Reserve

BRING - A picnic supper, drink and warm clothes.

If you need transportation or more information, call 483-1532. NATURALIST IN CHARGE-Helen Skelton.

#2 - OCTOBER 14 This trip will be a canoe journey through the Spreads of The Little Elkhart River in Noble County. This natural marsh country is exciting habitat for water fowl and marshland creatures of endless variety. This area is especially beautiful in fall dress. We will put in at Campbell's Road bridge and take out at the B&O Railroad tracks west of Albion. Car spotters will arrange to pick up drivers at trip's end.

TIME 10:00 AM

PLACE Albion Court House Square

BRING Lunch, drink, warm clothes and your own canoe, paddles & boat cushion.

NATURALIST IN CHARGE - Milfred Richman

For more information - call 456-4411

NOBLE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD GROWS - The ACRES Board of Directors is pleased to announce three additions to the Noble County Advisory Board. They are: Mr. Robert Summe, who is Conservation Officer in Noble County; Mrs. Eva Claphan, rural resident near Albion; and Milfred Richman, retired Soil Conservationist from Noble County. These three join long time ACRES helpers, Fred Geiger and Elbert Roe of near Ligonier.

THE AMAZING WORLD OF INSECTS

O. A. Battista

Agricultural economists estimate that insects in the U.S. annually destroy crops, livestock, fruits, fabrics, household goods and buildings worth \$3.6 billion. Some, overwhelmed by insect statistics, think that insects may eventually inherit the earth.

In one summer session, from April to August, the descendants of one pair of houseflies, if all lived and reproduced normally, could total 197 quintillion. That is enough to cover the surface of the entire earth to a depth of more than one foot.

As many as 200 million insects may inhabit a single acre of pasture. In one test, nearly four tons of aphids were picked up from one acre of alfalfa. These destructive little demons need not even mate to multiply; a single, unmated aphid can give birth to fully developed offspring. And, if all the progeny of a couple of aphids survived for a single season, the family would number 1,560 septillion.

So vast is the insect world that entomologists aren't even agreed on how many kinds there are. They suspect that there may be as many as two million, making up three quarters of the known varieties of animals in the world. They probably outweigh all other animals on land.

More than 6,000 new species are being recorded every year. Insects are man's most successful competitor for food and space on this planet.

Despite the alarming appearance of the praying mantis, it is a friend of man and feeds on plant lice, mosquitoes, and caterpillars. The male mantis has good reason to pray. When his spouse gets hungry she reaches out and cuts off his head.

Parasol ants build compost heaps out of the petals of flowers. They do this by carrying petals several times larger than themselves, hoisted high overhead like a parasol, as they walk up and down the runway to and from their homes.

The doodle bug, or ant lion, digs traps for ants. When an ant rolls into a trap the lion pounces on it with his ice-tong nippers, squirts gastric juices into the ant, predigesting it in its own shell. Then he reverses the flow and sucks up his meal in much the same way that a small boy drinks soda through a straw.

Insects are ingenious in fending off predators. They go in for camouflage and offensive odors; in some instances they even mimic other insects that their enemy has no taste for. But few match the imaginative arsenal of the quarter-inch long *Stenodus* beetle, which has a defense mechanism as sophisticated as tomorrow's anti-missile missile.

Attacked by a water strider, the *Stenodus* simply squirts out a charge of fluid detergent. The detergent destroys the thin elastic layer of water that marks the boundary between fluid and air. With that surface tension gone, a small water wave rises and propels the *Stenodus* out of danger. When the attacking water strider, which is normally supported by the film of surface tension, tries to follow it sinks and drowns.

The *Stenodus* beetles normally move across water by slow paddling. But whenever they are attacked, they spurt out of danger at much greater speed. They can travel two and a half feet a second and can continue at that pace as far as 45 feet. If a *Stenodus* exhausts all of its detergent in one 45-foot dash, it needs a week or more to replenish its supply. But the canny beetle seems to know this and uses its emergency throttle sparingly.

The lac scale insect feeds on acacia trees and produces 50 million pounds of resinous material that man has never been able to match. Man has, however, used this bug juice in a refined form known as shellac for about 4,000 years.

Some insects have extremely strange diets. Six different insect pests like the corks in glass bottles. The cork eaters have been responsible for spilling countless gallons of fluids over the floors of cellars.

Wood-eating termites can digest cellulose because of the acid they receive from minute organisms within their intestines. These eccentric insects seem to eat a great many different things, but the fact is that all contain some form of cellulose. A few years ago, a Washington branch of the family invaded the Capitol, bored under the Senate Document room, and fed on such priceless papers as Jefferson's Manual on the Constitution and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

In recent months, scientists have clearly shown that insects tolerate intensities of atomic radiation far in excess of fatal human doses. Screw-worm-fly pupas survive exposure to 20,000 roentgens of the deadly gamma rays. Man barely survives 300 to 600 roentgens. All of which brings us back to those horrible odds quoted earlier by the entomologists. The only likely survivors of a worldwide war will be insects.

ACRES'

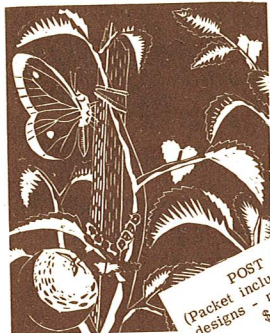
ART



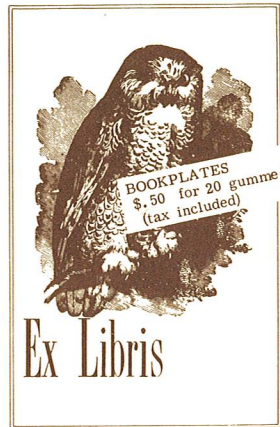
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You can't get away with it - separating yourself from nature and ignoring her laws. There was a time when we reacted against the concept of the "laws" of nature. We didn't like the analogy which seemed to be implied between them and the laws passed by our legislative bodies and we scoffed at the idea of penalties imposed for violating these "laws" of nature.

But we were wrong. "Urbanized man," under the spell of abstract monetary and physical concepts, and locked up in cities, is now progressively estranged from the tangible, living experience and awareness of biological principles. The ancient bonds between man and nature are getting very weak. We thought we could insulate ourselves and isolate ourselves from the "laws" of nature at which we scoffed. We thought we could live in a hothouse, but it won't work. The problems we face - air and water pollution, chemical poisons, surging populations, chewing up the land, decay of the inner city and sprawling suburbs - have come because we've convinced ourselves we could ignore the laws of nature and because we convinced ourselves we could control our whole environment by manipulating parts of it. This is why programs such as that of ACRES are so important. People have to be educated to see that they are a part of nature and they have to be taught to look at the whole rather than just at the parts.

But not only must our society learn that it is part of nature, the individual must recapture that concept for himself. That's why ACRES not only sponsors an educational program, but also provides opportunities for the individual to relax outside his urban hothouse through its field trips.

We hope to see you at our annual meeting where a very successful program of adult education will be described by Mr. Roland Eisenbeis and also on our field trips where you'll have a chance to appreciate a natural area under leadership of capable naturalists.

John W. Klotz

ACRES, Inc.
106 W. Wildwood Ave
Fort Wayne, Indiana

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EDITOR: Thomas E. Dustin