

A G R E S



QUARTERLY

WINTER • 1969

Volume VIII No.1



ACRES

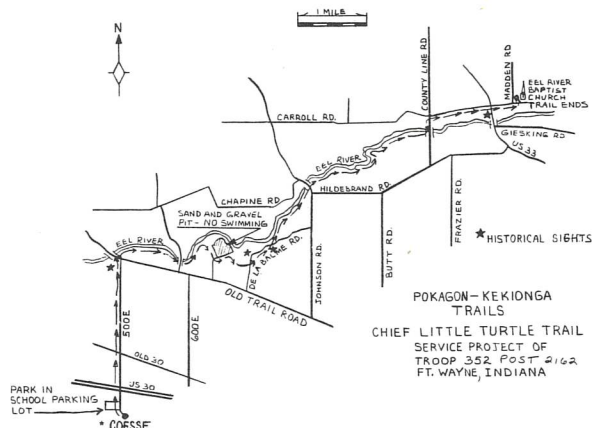
outdoor

WINTER DATES

JANUARY 25 - Saturday Morning, 9:30 AM - CHIEF LITTLE TURTLE TRAIL

This is a special request by last winter's hardy hikers. This year we'll hike the Boy Scout Little Turtle Trail and once again, we will go blizzard or thaw or below zero temps. Dress warmly, bring a sack lunch (well wrapped, as last year our sandwiches froze in our pockets). Hike starts sharp at 9:30 AM from the Coesse School parking lot. *COESSE is a small town in Whitley County south off U.S. 30, near Columbia City. We will hike the trail one way (about 10 miles) and "spot" a car to take us back to the trail's start.

PLACE:

FEBRUARY 23 - Sunday Afternoon, 2:15 PM - MAPLE SUGAR CAMP VISIT

Let's go sugaring! We've arranged to visit the Lloyd Ross Sugar Camp west of South Whitley. Exactly when the sap is running and the evaporator pans are boiling is hard to predict in advance but this magnificent woods is worth a visit in any event. Hopefully, the sugar camp will be in full swing so we can taste, smell and see. Maybe we'll help gather sap water too!

PLACE: If you wish to go directly to the woods, it is on the north side of State Road 14, 1-1/4 mile west of South Whitley.

OR- Meet at 1:30PM west of I 69 Exit on State Road 14 where we can double up with autos. Parking at the woods can be a problem so doubling up is recommended.

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Thais (Mrs. Harry) Heinzerling, a native of Garrett, Ind. where her father edited and published the Garrett Clipper for fifty years. Though no formal art training, Thais has found great pleasure executing and exhibiting pencil sketches, water colors, portraits. Mother of six children, Thais lives in a hundred year old farmhouse on Black Creek, Rural Route, Garrett.

ACRES

indoor

WINTER DATES

JANUARY 17 - Friday Evening, 8:15 PM - ECOLOGY OF INDIANA MAMMALS

R.E. Mumford, Purdue University Professor of Wildlife Management will give a slide lecture on the ECOLOGY OF INDIANA MAMMALS. Professor Mumford has a Masters degree in Wildlife and a PhD in Mammal Ecology, both from Purdue. He has gathered his lecture material while doing special research on birds and mammals in Africa, Brazil, and while working with the Indiana Division of Fish and Game, The State Park System and with the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

PLACE: CONCORDIA SENIOR COLLEGE, Room 201, North Classroom Building.

FEBRUARY 14 - Friday Evening, 7:30 PM - THE LEGEND OF LOBO
Walt Disney's film of life with the Lobo wolves of the Southwest. Driven by the cattlemen's war on predatory animals, LOBO leads his pack into lands uninvaded by man. Devoted to his mate and cubs, LOBO's life is a constant struggle for survival against man and nature.

Please include children! This film is about 1-1/2 hours in length.

PLACE: CONCORDIA SENIOR COLLEGE, Room 201, North Classroom Building.

MARCH 14 - Friday Evening, 7:45 PM - COLORADO RIVER TRIP

A "true-life adventure" with Pat and Jim Barrett traveling by float boat down the Grand Canyon of The Colorado River. Ride rough water, visit side canyons, watch the sun rise and set on a spectacular and exciting trip.

This winter meeting is ACRES' "once a year" really informal get-together. If you have a few slides, special conservation information, outdoor art, literature or music you would like to share, bring it along. We are hopeful to have a young band of Angola Folk Song Singers to sing us some special conservation songs. Refreshments too!

SPECIAL WELCOME TO ACRES STUDENT MEMBERS!

PLACE: SEARS PAVILION, Foster Park -enter off Bluffton Road.

Let's Save a Place to Walk

IT HAS been said that the modern American uses his feet only to get from his TV set to his automobile, and a 1965 Bureau of Outdoor Recreation survey reported that he takes a walk for pleasure only 15 times each summer.

Nevertheless, walking is No. 1 among America's favored outdoor recreations (up from third place in 1960). And no wonder. It is the easiest, cheapest and one of the pleasantest forms of recreation and exercise. It strengthens body and mind alike; many cardiologists recommend it for heart patients, obstetricians for mothers-to-be. The walker is not necessarily a determined hiker; he aspires only to stretch his legs, and perhaps his soul, for a few minutes or hours. But in our spreading asphalt deserts, spacious areas that afford pleasurable walking have become almost fossil curiosities.

There are hopeful signs, now, that this trend is being reversed. President Johnson has twice asked Congress to help establish a federally supported, nationwide system of trails; and in 1966, in accordance with the President's plea, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation offered a matching cash grant to any city that needed help in laying out a walkway. Twelve grants, totaling \$367,436, have been approved.

Last fall, I traveled the breadth of America for a look at typical walkways in cities and towns, some established, some still abuilding. I wanted to find out how the room and money had been found for them, what practical example they might provide for other urban dwellers yearning for a place to walk and unwind.

For a big-city example, I went to Seattle, which got a \$45,000 BOR grant, augmenting \$63,870 that the University of Washington had already contributed to start a proposed walking trail. Many a city boasts acres of greenery and miles of trails for walking, but it often turns out that a citizen needs most of a day off to get to them. Seattle is different; its walking trail is only 40 blocks from the heart of town. Currently less than a mile long (eventually it will be much longer), it is noteworthy both for its terrain and for the novel construction methods it required. At one end, it connects with the city's 250-acre Arboretum, the habitat of some 2200 different kinds of plants and trees, and 120 species of native birds. Leaving the manicured lawns and flower beds of the Arboretum, it loops out on floating concrete pontoons into the waters of Union Bay, ducks through a freeway overpass, crosses an island waterfowl sanctuary, then winds through a cattail marsh and crosses open water again to connect with a park on the mainland.

Few city nature-lovers have easy access to this sort of "wild" territory. When I walked the trail, before construction was finished, I came upon a sapling half gnawed through by a beaver. The marshes, though within earshot of the freeway's hum, are the nesting ground of wild ducks, geese and cranes. As a bonus, there are canoe landings, fishing spots, a fine view of the bay.

At first, there were objections to the trail. Seattle bird-lovers feared that it would disturb the waterfowl's nesting habits (it hasn't). The State

Department of Fisheries said it would impede the passage of spawning fish (so adequate water passageways were constructed). And a new dumping ground had to be found, since the Corps of Engineers for half a century had been piling debris cleared from the bay in the marsh the pathway was to cross. One was; and by the time the path was completed last December, the Engineers had covered the old dump with a blanket of peat. This spring's first strollers found the onetime eyesore a bank of sprouting greenery.

Where Seattle's walkway is new, those in Lincoln, Mass., are mostly unchanged since colonial days. Lincoln is a "bedroom suburb" 15 miles from downtown Boston, but across the main street from the town's cluster of half a dozen shops is an unobstructed view of open countryside. Step off the main street and you can ramble through all manner of grassy paths that filigree this tranquil community.

How have they been kept so unspoiled? As long ago as 1929, when this was still farming country and Boston was far away, landowners foresaw the eventual spread of the metropolis and enacted zoning laws to fend it off. Then, in 1961, Lincoln's civic leaders took a new long-range look at their community.

With the advice of outside consultants, they arrived at an apportionment of land that allows for the residential, commercial and industrial needs of future citizens while still preserving the town's rural character.

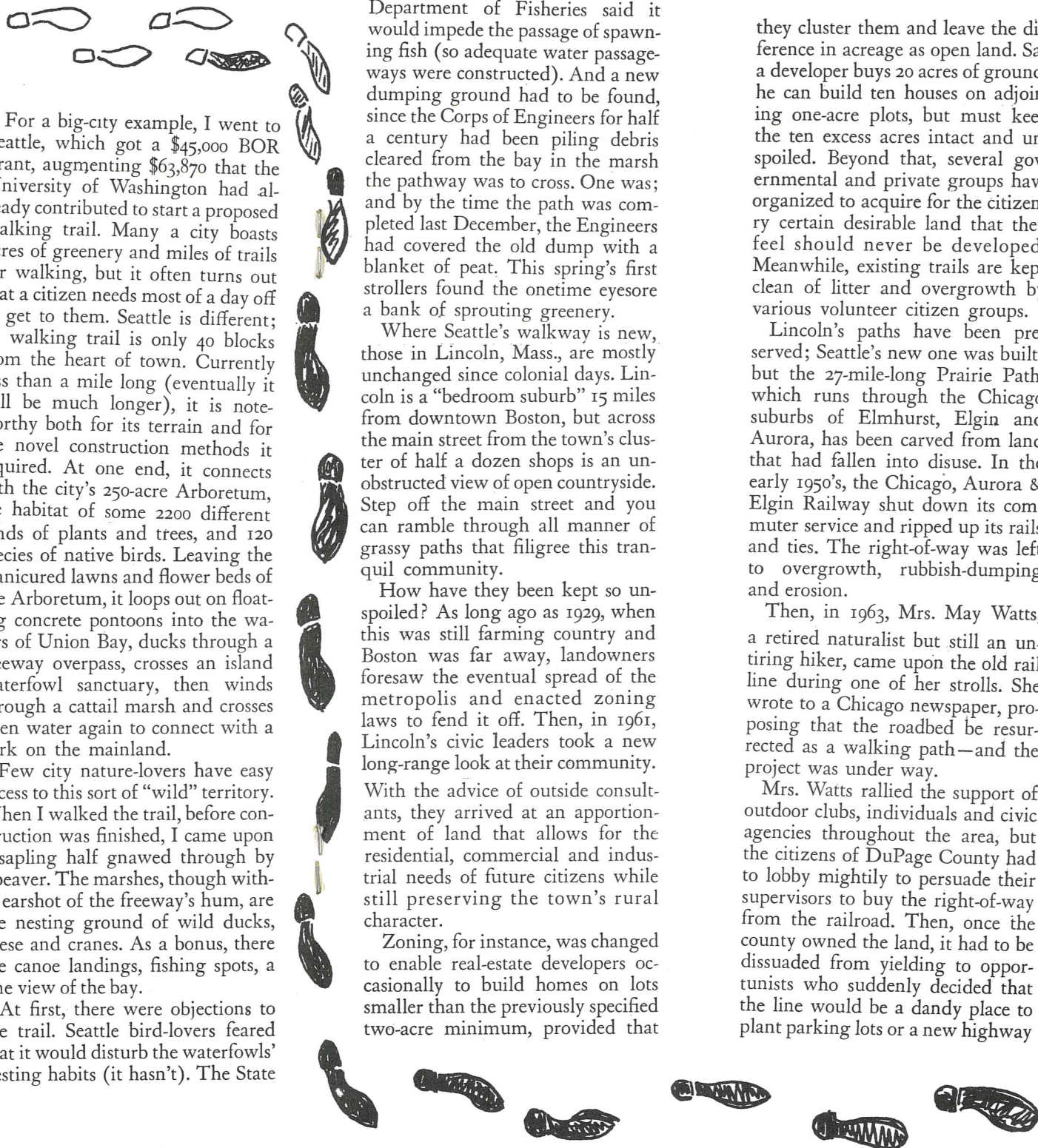
Zoning, for instance, was changed to enable real-estate developers occasionally to build homes on lots smaller than the previously specified two-acre minimum, provided that

they cluster them and leave the difference in acreage as open land. Say a developer buys 20 acres of ground; he can build ten houses on adjoining one-acre plots, but must keep the ten excess acres intact and unspoiled. Beyond that, several governmental and private groups have organized to acquire for the citizenry certain desirable land that they feel should never be developed. Meanwhile, existing trails are kept clean of litter and overgrowth by various volunteer citizen groups.

Lincoln's paths have been preserved; Seattle's new one was built; but the 27-mile-long Prairie Path, which runs through the Chicago suburbs of Elmhurst, Elgin and Aurora, has been carved from land that had fallen into disuse. In the early 1950's, the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin Railway shut down its commuter service and ripped up its rails and ties. The right-of-way was left to overgrowth, rubbish-dumping and erosion.

Then, in 1963, Mrs. May Watts, a retired naturalist but still an untiring hiker, came upon the old rail line during one of her strolls. She wrote to a Chicago newspaper, proposing that the roadbed be resurrected as a walking path—and the project was under way.

Mrs. Watts rallied the support of outdoor clubs, individuals and civic agencies throughout the area, but the citizens of DuPage County had to lobby mightily to persuade their supervisors to buy the right-of-way from the railroad. Then, once the county owned the land, it had to be dissuaded from yielding to opportunists who suddenly decided that the line would be a dandy place to plant parking lots or a new highway



or monorail system. It wasn't until 1966 that DuPage County granted the Prairie Path an exclusive 12-year lease on the land.

In the meantime, the path's partisans labored to raise money. Though the path is open to any passerby, its founding committee offered annual memberships at \$3 and up, sold bumper stickers for 25 cents apiece, and solicited donations from local and national organizations such as the Garden Clubs of America and the Audubon Society. The committee also suggested to the local National Guard unit that renovation work on the path would make an excellent project for its next field exercise. And lo! the Guardsmen used donated utility poles and rail ties to build footbridges for the trail.

In the course of a year, more than 20 groups—bird watchers, camera clubs, rockhounds, sketch classes—hold organized hikes along Prairie Path. And nature is reclaiming the land: prairie flowers are creeping back, and so are the more wary birds that had fled—redwings, juncos, the red-tailed hawk.

Other American communities have recognized the need to save and increase their legroom. Philadelphia's Fairmount Park offers 200 miles of wildwood walking trails and more than 100 miles of bridle paths. Cleveland is encircled by the Emerald Necklace, a green belt containing 100 miles of paths. Vermont's 261-mile Long Trail along woodland paths, old logging roads and power-line swaths is so easily accessible

that motorists can literally step from their cars onto it. Near Aspen, Colo., there is a Braille trail, a mountain path strung with ropes which guide blind walkers past 22 Braille markers that explain what can be felt, smelled, walked over and heard.

Most municipalities, however, are not acting, often because they don't realize what state and federal aid they can get. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, for instance, still has some money to give away for walkway projects. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will pay as much as half the cost of acquiring and developing land for park and recreation purposes. In the same cause, the Bureau of Land Management and the General Services Administration will sell surplus federal lands for a fraction of their market value. Government experts at laying out parks, paths and playgrounds will give free assistance. The Corps of Engineers will pay a substantial percentage of the cost of improving shore and river areas.

So look around. There are possibilities in almost any locality—easements through private property, old roads, canal banks, lake shores, abandoned railroads, power-line rights-of-way. When I toured the country to find out how its walkers have achieved legroom, I learned two main things: It isn't always easy. It isn't ever impossible.

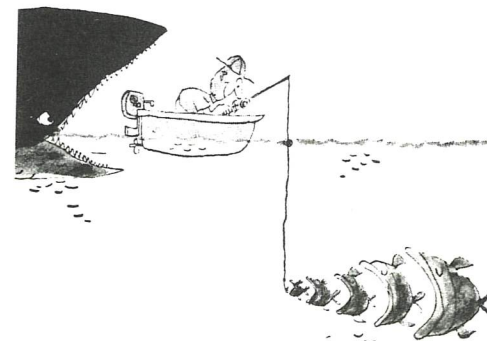
By Gary Jennings

LESSONS

This is a plant so green and small
That it hardly shows in the moonlight at all;
BUT here comes a rabbit, hopping, hopping,
It smells the plant - now it's stopping;
BUT there sits an owl with big round eyes,
It sees the rabbit and silently flies;
BUT here comes a fox, not missing a sound
It gets ready to pounce when the owl hits the ground;
BUT there comes a farmer looking things over,
He gives a whistle to his big dog, Rover;
So the fox slinks away, the big owl goes,
The rabbit hops home, the plant just grows.
And that, my friends, is ecology!

May T. Watts, Naturalist Emeritus
Morton Arboretum

And this...is a food chain!



JOE WRIGHT is Indiana's new director of conservation education in the Office of Public Instruction. He's working with school biologists, private groups and public agencies in the formulation of outdoor education programs. Mr. Wright's post at present is being financed through private contributions, typically from ACRES members, Indiana Division of the Izaak Walton League, Indiana Soil

and Water Conservation Districts and a Richmond, Ind. group, similar to ACRES, called SPUR. Totally, almost \$6,000 has come from all private sources since last Spring.

THIRTY FIVE ACRES MEMBERS participated in the work day, Oct. 12. It was a beautiful fall day and a beautiful turn out of helpers. Accomplishments: Extensive trail work at both Bender and Spurgeon completed; a walking stile was built at Bender; repairs were executed on the registry box at Spurgeon and gravel was hauled for that Reserve's parking lot entries. Spring time will find the work call out again. ACRES benefits but all our workers do too. It's a good time!

TEENACRES - that's the name coined by Bob Weber's group of fifteen student ACRES members at South Side High School. This group plans to be manpower for work camps, ready participants in field trips, typists for "Bogs & Logs" manuscripts, mailing helpers and many other ACRES Aides. On special TEENACRE activities, plans call for notifying all ACRES student members (in other schools), so that they too can join in the fun.

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We're all familiar with the story of the boy who asked to be paid a grain of rice for his first day's work, and that his salary be doubled each day, with the consequence that his naive employer was bankrupt in less than a month.

But we are not always aware of the hazards of seemingly small annual increases which one author recently referred to as "the inexorable exponent." Those of us who are concerned with the quality of our environment need to recognize the threat which small growth, compounded annually, poses.

Especially in the United States we've been proud of our growth. Just as we were once proud of smokestacks belching black clouds in the blue, so we still today think of growth as akin to progress, achievement, and the good things of life, and we are proud of it. Any business which does not report growth must apologize and explain to its stockholders. A 5% increase in GNP is considered desirable and healthy: failure to attain an increase is considered cause for great alarm.

But you can't have both quality and quantity. Mass production is good, but the things of which we are really proud are custom made and custom designed. No one would argue that we need custom designing for everything: most of us could't afford the automobile that we need if each one had to be custom made. But there are some things in which we like and even need quality, and the environment in which we live is one of these.

Today the general public is becoming concerned about the way in which nature is being despoiled. We've lost so much quality that few people find it possible to ignore the problem any more. Yet not too many people realize that most environmental problems can be traced to some aspect of exponential growth.

Consider the problems of the electric power industry. To satisfy public demand, the industry has increased its installed capacity at the rate of 6% to 7% per year for many years and typical projections assume a similar rate of increase for the future. No one would suggest a scrapping of all electric power plants, for we are all deeply indebted to the industry for what it has brought us in comfort, convenience and leisure. Indeed, take away dependable electric power, and we find ourselves not only inconvenienced but actually endangered: we learned this a few years ago after the Palm Sunday tornadoes.

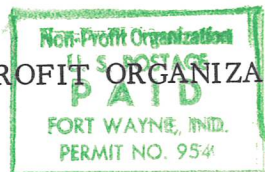
Yet this projected expansion will create problems and tensions. There are problems of site selection: witness the battle of the Scenic Hudson Preservation Society against Commonwealth Edison Company in the east. There are problems of thermal pollution: witness the battle of the Cornell scientists against the proposed New York State Electric and Gas Company installation in the Finger Lakes region of New York. There are problems of air pollution: witness the many complaints everywhere against coal fired electric generating plants.

To quote Philip Abelson, "society has been and still is on a great growth kick. If we are interested in a long-term future for man, we will regard rapid growth with suspicion. We will look for and point out the unexpected and unpleasant consequences of exuberance long continued and seek to moderate it before irreparable damage has been done."

John W. Klotz

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The **QUARTERLY** is published by ACRES, Inc., four times each year at 106 West Wildwood, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46807, for the interest of its members, friends, and other similarly dedicated to the preservation of natural areas in northeastern Indiana. ACRES, Inc., is a not-for-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana. Contributions are deductible for tax purposes. Jane Dustin, Editor.

MEMBERSHIP: Student, \$.50; Regular, \$2.00; Sustaining, \$10.00; Patron, \$50.00, payable annually to ACRES, Inc., 106 W. Wildwood, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46807.