



QUARTERLY

FALL • 1975
Volume XIV No.3



FALL FIELD TRIPS

sept. Acres Along The Wabash

Saturday
20

The Reserve is located on State Road 116 between Markle and Murray, on the Wabash River side where Meridian Road "T's" into 116.

9:30 Day begins with work - Install marker, trail work and clean-up.

12:00

SPECIAL SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH

Served by ACRES

followed by

1:00 DEDICATION CEREMONY

Honoring Rolland and Catharine Maxwell

2:00 FIELD TRIP THROUGH AREA

Bob Weber, Naturalist

oct. Elkhart River..

Saturday
4

Canoe trip, starting at River Road crossing of Elkhart South Branch. Field trip at Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest and the Mallard's Roost area, take-out at Route 6 with option of earlier take-out at Albion Rd.

MEET: 9:00 Old Fortmeyers (Rte. 33 and Washington Cntr.)
or 9:45 Bender Reserve parking area, River Rd. west of Albion.

BRING: Lunch, rain gear, one life-preserver per person.
Bob Weber, Jim Haddock, Naturalists

*** Call the ACRES office to arrange to go if boat needed. 637-6264 or 637-6754

WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY WORK DAY

Saturday
NOV.

1

ACRES seems prone to inherit dumps and the Browand Woods (part of the Olin Lake purchase) has a big one. This WORK DAY is scheduled with the assist of the LaGrange County Highway people to remove the dump area from the Nature Preserve. We will need many helpers. Wear sturdy work gloves. Bring lunch and drink. Work Day begins at 9:30 AM. Go north of Wolcottville on Route 9 to 600S, go west 1½ mile. Bring a car load of workers!

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Nan Goldenberg who is continuing art studies at the Fort Wayne Art Institute and Indiana University, regional campus. Nan made the pen and ink sketch from the meadow near Huntington where the Goldenbergs live.

ACRES ANNUAL BANQUET

NOV. 7

CONCORDIA SENIOR COLLEGE

Main Dining Hall

6:30
PM

\$4.00
PLATE

Decorations by Sher Waldrop

Send or phone reservations by November 5 to:

Dr. and Mrs. Harold W. Crowder

1024 Olympia Drive

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46819

747-7192 or 637-6264

GEORGE NEAVOLL will give a narrated slide presentation,
NATURAL AREAS AT HOME AND ABROAD: "In Wilderness Is the
Preservation of the World."

George Neavoll has been writing conservation editorials for 20 years. His first effort, titled "The Battle of Beaver Marsh," in '55 for his high-school newspaper protested a dam proposal on the Upper McKenzie River in the Oregon Cascades. The proposal was defeated and Neavoll has been protesting, and advocating ever since. A University of Oregon graduate in political science with graduate work at Centro Universitario Internacional in Mexico City; a Peace Corps Volunteer in Central India; newspaper work in Oregon, Idaho until coming to Fort Wayne's Journal Gazette staff in 1972, Neavoll is presently editorial writer for the Detroit Free Press. Recipient last year of the Scripps-Howard, Meeman Award for conservation writing, Neavoll has been honored by EPA, the Izaak Walton League and the Hoosier Press Assoc. for his strong and persuasive editorials with an "environmental conscience".

THE OLIN LAKE PROJECT

ACRES announced completion of another planned phase of the Olin Lake preservation program, August 28, with acquisition by the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves of the 120 acres adjacent to the lake which ACRES and The Nature Conservancy successfully bid for at auction last February.

ACRES and TNC inaugurated a fund-raising campaign to acquire additional lands around Olin Lake for permanent preservation and public enjoyment of the natural surroundings. Olin Lake is Indiana's largest natural lake without any man-made development on it. All of the acquired land is to be dedicated under the Indiana Nature Preserves Act, which permanently protects natural lands against encroachments and assures use for scientific, educational and esthetic purposes.

At present, the lands now acquired from the two groups by the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves represents 40 percent of the lake's periphery. Purdue University holds another 40 percent; and ACRES/TNC plans to be instrumental in acquiring the remainder through continuing fund raising efforts. The goal is to have the entire lake and natural wooded shoreline in preservation status.

election

IF YOU ARE A DUES-PAYING MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:

YOU MAY MAKE NOMINATIONS UP UNTIL OCTOBER 13 (see details).

YOU WILL RECEIVE A RETURN-BY-MAIL BALLOT BY NOVEMBER 20.

YOU MUST VOTE BY MAIL BY DECEMBER 11 or YOU MAY VOTE IN PERSON ON DECEMBER 12, 1975 8 PM, 1802 Chapman Rd., Huntertown.

SELECTION OF DIRECTORS

There will be 18 directors. Three are appointed for staggered three year terms, one by the Department of Public Instruction of the State of Indiana, one by the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and one by the Indiana Park and Recreation Association. These appointees give broader public representation on our Board.

Fifteen directors are elected by the dues-paying members in good standing, five each year for three year terms. The procedure is as follows:

1. The statutory annual membership meeting will be held at 8 PM on December 12 1975 at 1802 Chapman Rd, Huntertown, Indiana. At this meeting ballots will be counted, members present may vote in person and the elected directors will be determined.

NOTE* This is not the annual dinner meeting at which we have a speaker. The Annual Dinner Meeting will be held November 7, 1975, 6:30 PM at Concordia Senior College.

2. Between September 13 and October 13, dues-paying members in good standing may nominate directors as follows: Any ten members in good standing may nominate a member of the Corporation by a written instrument which is a) signed by the 10 members, b) contains the nominee's written consent to serve if elected, and c) is delivered to the Secretary at 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, Indiana 46748 on or before October 13.

3. If more than five members are nominated, the five nominated by the largest number of members shall be the nominees.

4. If less than five nominations are made by the members, then between October 13 and October 29 the Nominations Committee will nominate enough persons to make at least five. The Nominations Committee may, but need not, nominate enough to make a total of ten nominees.

5. Each nominee may submit a statement of his qualifications which will be sent to members with the ballot. Such statement must be received by the Secretary before November 13.

6. No later than November 20 the Secretary will mail to members entitled to vote a ballot and the statement of the nominee's qualifications, together with a short reminder of the voting procedure.

7. Members may vote by mailed ballot. Members do not need to attend the annual meeting on December 12. However, if a member does attend, he may vote in person and cancel any ballot he may have returned by mail. There are no "write-in" votes accepted for anyone not nominated pursuant to the foregoing procedure.

*** To be effective, a ballot returned by mail must a) be enclosed in an envelope signed by the voting member, b) not be marked for more than five persons and c) be received by the Secretary NO LATER THAN December 11.

IF THERE IS A CHECK BY YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS
YOUR DUES ARE DUE
BE A VOTING MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING!

ACRES GOES TO COURT

It all started the end of February when ACRES received notice that Hearing would be held on declaration of Legal Drain for the North Branch, South Branch and Main Stem of the Elkhart River in Noble County. So large was the watershed involved that 12,000 land owners had to be notified and all three of ACRES Noble County Nature Preserves (Spurgeon, Lonidaw, and Bender) were involved as affected by the drainage project. Most seriously affected was the Lloyd W. Bender Memorial Forest where the South Branch of the Elkhart River makes the entire northern boundary of the Reserve.

Scrutiny of what it meant to have the waterway declared Legal Drain revealed that upon declaration, the County Drainage Board takes possession of a 75 foot maintenance/construction easement on the entire river length. The Law further directs the Surveyor to set about to plan to improve the drainage which most certainly meant clearing, dipping, dredging and construction of the waterways into ditches.

In addition to protective deed restrictions on the Bender Forest, ACRES had this area dedicated as a Nature Preserve under the Indiana Nature Preserves Act several years ago. No easements can be taken on State Nature Preserves without a lengthy procedure of approval by the Natural Resources Commission, public hearing and approval by the Governor.

Obligated to protect the integrity of our natural lands, ACRES filed remonstrance prior to the March 10 hearing and additionally determined a number of serious faults in the petition procedure used by the Drainage Board. The legal points were ably put forward by Pat McNagny who agreed to be ACRES Attorney.

The Drainage Board delayed their decision for about a month and a half while a volunteer group of Noble County citizens reconnaissanced the entire watershed to determine if removal of some log jams by volunteer action would solve some of the drainage problems and make it unnecessary to declare Legal Drain. A careful and detailed mapping of trouble areas was made and a plan submitted to the County Drainage Board. They refused this and declared LEGAL DRAIN on all the remaining natural waterway in Noble County.

ACRES was joined by Lloyd Bender and seven additional Noble County citizens in filing suit asking the Court to set aside the Legal Drain declaration. The cities of Kendallville and Rome City have joined the action as amicus curiae (friend-of-the-court). ACRES members, the Brommers and Carters, have assisted in transcribing and typing the entire three hour March 10 hearing to be turned in to the Court. At this time ACRES is awaiting a Court date which is yet to be set. The case will be heard by Special Judge Wm. Bloom, in Whitley County.

ACRES feels this is a very serious test of our ability to fulfill our obligation to protect our Nature Preserves - to hold them in their natural, unaltered condition, in perpetuity.

From the Ropchan Reserve Dedication
May 24, 1975.

I was born on a farm Sept. 6, 1905, 75 miles SE of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. My wife, Adeline, is also a country girl, born in Milverton, Ontario. She was born in the east and I in the west. She was the oldest of five girls. I was one of five boys and six girls, all still alive and doing well.

Our farm was 21 miles north of Vegreville where there was a railroad and we hauled our grain and produce. Going to town meant getting up early and it was a full day. Hauling 4-5,000 bushels of grain 50 to 55 bushels at a time took a lot of the winter.

I attended two country schools, off and on. Pruth and Soda Lake, three miles apart - one east, one west. Pruth School was named after a river in the Ukraine where my folks came from Soda Lake after a small lake that dried up every summer and was just a bed of alkaline.

School, especially Pruth, was often closed during severe winter weather. In spring time the problem was that the crops had to be planted so I would attend school just enough to keep the truant officer away. Harvest time was pretty much the same, and at all times we had to hurry home from school and start helping with farm work. With the short seasons there was a very definite time to plant and a very definite time to harvest. You just could not postpone these things unless you wanted to go hungry. You also learned that you had to properly prepare the soil and care for your land. Yes, you learned to love the land in spite of the hard work and the hardships. I farmed until 1925 and then with a widening generation gap between me and my Dad, and mostly due to the fact there was practically no market for wheat, our main crop, I decided to leave the farm and make my living some other way. After talking it over with my Dad, he gave me \$400.00 as separation money and next morning with a very heavy heart, I left the farm in the early darkness wondering if I had done the right thing.

I then caught a train from Vegreville to Edmonton and went to Alberta College, in Edmonton, of which I had heard and decided to take a course in Morse Code and become a railroad telegrapher. They had a telegraph school and with only a sparse grade five, there was not too much choice. I had already outgrown grade 6 to 8 and in fact even grades 11 and 12. I signed up for a six month course-room and board, which took \$300.00 of my \$400. The six months were up in July and no railroad job available. Fortunately I got a job with an implement dealer during the summer and in fall I went to work with a threshing crew. That came to an end by the middle of Nov. so there I was without a job. I had an older brother, Alexander, who had graduated from Normal and taught school for a couple of years. He decided to attend the University of Chicago so he left home that summer and was already at the University. He found Chicago a rather lonely place so suggested that I come to the big city. Although jobs were scarce there were a few around if you looked hard enough for them. I came to Chicago



and got a job as a telegraph operator to work on the extra board which meant I got to work a day, week or month at a time when someone got sick or took time off. This never really developed into a steady job as about the time I would be near one, a job would be phased out or I would get bumped by a man with more seniority. This gave me a poor pay check and a lot of time on my hands. It was then I got into the selling game. Not really selling, but peddling house to house with a case full of pot cleaners, paring knives, pins and needles, etc. Some days you made 50¢ and some hit the jack pot with 5 or 6 dollars. I can assure you I was not a natural born salesman, I was a natural born farmer. One nice thing about my railroad job was that I had a pass for free rides as far as Fort Wayne. I would catch a morning train and ride to Valpo, Plymouth or Fort Wayne and peddle my pins and needles and then take an evening train back to Chicago.

The trains ran very frequently those days. As the railroad work got scarcer I decided to move to Fort Wayne and reverse the procedure. I would sell all day, catch the late 4pm train, stock up and be back in Fort Wayne by midnite. There were a few wholesale houses that catered to peddlers so I could stock up two or three times a week. I had a particularly good item - a jar wrench. So I decided to try and get others to sell it. I ran an ad and got quite a few replies only most of them did not have any money and would ask if I'd trust them, they would go sell them and then pay me. I was a trusting soul and soon found I had to be very careful with credit. Then I decided to try and organize a crew and take them to area towns to sell. I bought an old 1922 REO sedan for \$35.00. I was told it had belonged to Mr. Koerber, the Jewler and it was a real palace on wheels! Visualize me and my crew barreling down the highway with five or six inside, and five or six grips on the running board or on the fenders, with the exhaust cutout wide open. This was the start of the wholesale business I now operate and which made this gift possible.

In February, 1942 I was drafted and very quickly ended up at Camp Crowder, Mo. and then in June in Preisdio, Cal. in the Signal Corps as a radio operator. I had to switch from Morse to the International Code which was not difficult. In November we were on the way to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey and after rigorous training and outfitting on the way to NYC and a ship to North Africa arriving there just the day after Christmas, '42. We docked near Oran where we were stationed and then moved on to Constantine, Algeria. I was there till approximately July and due to some stomach problems was sent to the dispensary in the field about 20 miles away. The Doctor there looked at my report and problems and wanted to know how I ever got there and said I would be going back home. I asked if I could return to my camp first and he said NO. I was on a plane heading back to El Cabir about noon. After that, things really slowed up and it took me another three months to get home.

After I returned I found that most of my customers, the peddlers had gone to work in the defense plants and the business was practically dead. No stock, no customers. I started calling on the local stores and got it moving again and did fairly well.

It was during one of these calls that I met my wife, Adeline, in 1949. She was interested in buying some ribbon. I don't remember if she ever got the ribbon, but I got her!

Why did we choose to give this rather large amount of money for what to many seems a rather unproductive bit of land - when we could have invested it in a Florida condominium or contributed it to any number of charitable or civic organizations?

One compelling reason, I believe, is the fact that I was born on the farm. You might say I was mothered, fathered and grew up on the land and learned to love it. You must remember those days we were farming virgin lands, with crystal clear lakes and streams, clean air and prairie and woods that were still as the Indians knew them. We had horses to work with, raised cattle, hogs, chickens, sheep. But first you had to have land and take care of it. Both of us were born on the farm.

I have for a long time been concerned with the lack of interest on the part of private citizens in preserving our scenic lands. It hurts me to see landowners, especially developers, destroy a beautiful woods, drain a pond.

An article by Dr. Preston Bradley, Izaak Walton League, written in 1923 and as timely today; also Thoreau's "Man and Nature" have influenced me. There is no one reason, there are many why we choose this course and feel very lucky that a prime arealike this was acquired.

We also thought in terms of doing something that would have lasting good, that could not easily be converted to some other purpose or cashed-in by someone. We wanted "For the Inspiration and Education of All Generations", as spelled out on the marker.

Why go through ACRES, Inc.? For one thing, I have been a member of ACRES since its organization, I have known their officers and board members and many of their members at large. They are uniquely organized for this one purpose, they have the people and talent to do this very well. I am constantly surprised with the high caliber of this organization as well as its members, many with degrees in botany, agronomy, ecology and all the natural sciences - teachers, lawyers, engineers - business men and bird watchers, garden club members, wildlife enthusiasts and just lovers of the outdoors.

As further assurance of the future of this area, all ACRES acquisitions are dedicated nature preserves under the Indiana Nature Preserves Act. Yes, we are very interested in the permanency of this gift and also that its purposes always be protected and cared for. Under those circumstances, there was no question but to go with ACRES, Inc.

In planning this dedication, I suggested to Bob Weber to somehow try to sell this idea to others. I hope this will be inspiration for others to establish Nature Preserves. What better way to be remembered? I would also say, do it now while you can also enjoy your gift.

ACRES, Inc.
1802 Chapman Road
Huntertown, Indiana 46748

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sauder

Grabill, Indiana 46741

Non-Profit Organization
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The **QUARTERLY** is published by ACRES, Inc. at 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, Indiana for the interest of its members, friends and others similarly dedicated to the preservation of natural areas in northeastern Indiana. ACRES, Inc. is a non-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., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, Indiana 46748.