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The Iowa Academy of Science Parish Farm: Its Past, Present and Future — A 25 Year Overview

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This article focuses on the Iowa Academy of Science Parish Farm celebration of its 25th anniversary in 1985 at the Farm. The celebration provided an opportunity to view the progress made in establishing the Farm as a model for both farming and non-farming conservation practices. The celebration also included opportunities to review the history of the Farm, the life of Jessie A. Parish, and the interactions of the Iowa Academy of Science with the Parish Farm management, tenants, and Grundy County Conservation Board. These activities are followed by an in-depth account of the struggles which have occurred within the Board of Directors and Finance, Farm, and Social Implications committees to rationalize owning and operating a farm versus selling it and investing the principle for general Academy use. All of these accounts are placed in perspective with the growth and development of the Academy during the past 25 years to the present. What the role of the Farm will be in the future of the Academy is discussed in light of a changing and active membership and the continued growth of the Academy within the realms of science and science education.

INDEX DESCRIPTORS: Iowa Academy of Science, Parish Farm, Conservation Practices, Terraces, Wildlife Plots, Model Farm.

In 1975 the Iowa Academy of Science (IAS) celebrated its founding in 1875, and in 1988 it will celebrate its one-hundredth session meeting (1-3). Between these two important dates, the IAS Parish Farm celebrated its 25th anniversary at the Farm site on June 15, 1985. This celebration was marked by tours of the Farm, various presentations and a delicious lunch. Therefore, it is both appropriate and important that an article be written, not about the celebration *per se*, but about the Parish Farm and its significance to the IAS past, present and future.

The past, up to 1975, already has been covered primarily by an article published in the *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science* during the IAS Centennial year (4). Much has happened on the Farm since then that needs to be further documented. In addition, it is important to look at the present and to speculate on the future influence of the Farm on the IAS. Whether Jessie A. Parish (Fig. 1) ever thought about what impact the Farm would have on the Academy prior to her death in 1954, we will never know. We can only assume that her generous bequest was the culmination of her thoughts regarding her entire life as an Iowan and her long-standing association with the IAS.

The 25th anniversary celebration provided an opportunity to reflect about how the Parish Farm came to be a part of the IAS. During the celebration, an abbreviated history of the Farm was orally presented by Harry T. (Jack) Horner and published in the *Reinbeck Courier* (5). It is reprinted here as a prologue to this article:

The history of the IAS-Parish Farm, located north of Reinbeck, really is a reflection of its donor, Jessie A. Parish.

It is thru her life experiences, education, and personal feelings that have brought us here today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the gift of her farm to the Academy.

Even though there is little information available about Jessie, what is known suggests several reasons why the Academy was close to her heart.

The records indicate that Jessie was born on this farm site to Charles and Fannie Parish on March 5, 1883. Jessie's father Charles had purchased this 160 acres in 1872, and he and his wife later acquired

the 80 acres across the road in 1891, when Jessie was still a young girl.

Jessie apparently spent her entire early life on the farm with her parents and a sister, Ella, and, thus, developed a deep appreciation for life and nature around her in this farming community.

After completing high school in Reinbeck, with the class of 1900, she went to Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, where she received a teaching certificate in 1905, at the age of 22. The following year she completed a bachelor's degree at the State University of Iowa



Fig. 1. Dr. Jessie A. Parish (1915 graduation photograph from SUI dental school).

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in Iowa City.

Jessie had interests that ranged from music to science and apparently her interest in natural science moved her to take additional courses in botany and zoology. She began work toward a master's degree in 1906 and studied with two well-known professors at the University: Prof. C. C. Nutting, a zoologist; and Prof. T. H. Macbride, a botanist. Both of these scientists were known nationally and both must have greatly enhanced Jessie's interest in and devotion to science in general.

Both Profs. Nutting and Macbride were presidents of the Academy during the 1890's and, as such, introduced Jessie to its goals of serving science and science education in the State of Iowa. The records show Jessie was a hard-working student and because of no apparent time constraints, received her M.S. in 1911 at the age of 28.

Probably sometime between 1906-1911, Jessie met Dr. John T. Hoar, who had received his dental degree in 1909, and was practicing dentistry in Iowa City. They were married in Reinbeck in July 1911. Obviously John had a great deal of influence over Jessie since she changed her interest of pursuing natural science and entered dental school that fall. After 4 years of study, she received her dental degree in 1915 at the age of 32. She was distinguished by being the only woman in her graduating class. After a short stay in Iowa City, Jessie and John moved to Cedar Falls where they jointly practiced dentistry for some 30 years.

Jessie must not have been kept completely busy with dentistry, as her earlier education in and love for natural science surfaced in 1922 at the age of 39. She joined the IAS and after one year was promoted to Fellow. From this time on Jessie attended every annual Academy meeting where attendance records were kept and in 1928, at the age of 45, she presented a paper before the membership at its annual meeting at Grinnell College [4].

In 1945, Jessie, who was 62 years old, and John retired from dentistry. They divided their retirement, living between Cedar Falls and this farm, north of Reinbeck. Nine years later, in 1954, when Jessie was 71, she sent in her annual dues notice with \$1.00 payment to IAS with a note that [later] revealed she had terminal carcinoma and was beginning to put the legal aspects of her life in order. In July, Jessie wrote her Last Will and Testament thru her Reinbeck attorney, Blair Hunter. On August 10, 1954, Jessie passed away.

When her will was read, Jessie had left her entire estate to the Academy, had her husband preceded her in death. In any event, the PARISH FARM was willed to the Academy and the Academy would receive it when John died. John passed away 6 years later in August, 1960.

The Academy records show that Jessie's gift was a new and somewhat confusing experience for the Academy officers. Because of this, they took the path of least resistance and hired Blair Hunter, the Parish's lawyer, as Farm Manager and Nelson Sager and later his son Larry, as tenants. The lease agreements gave full control of the Farm and its operation to the tenants through a cash rent agreement. This arrangement lasted for 10 years during which time the sentiment of the Academy membership increased toward taking an active role with regard to all aspects of the Farm.

In 1970, the Academy developed a MODEL FARM CONCEPT to practice total environmental management and operation by using modern agricultural practices along with acceptable conservation practices. Also, some of the land would be set aside. This framework of total environmental management included providing an optimum yearly income. To accomplish these goals, the Academy enlisted the Hertz Farm Management Service who was represented by Jim Frevert. They, in turn, chose Melvin and Janet Schildroth as the tenants.

The entire Farm operation allowed for complete input by the Academy to accomplish the goals previously stated. Also, in 1970, thorough assessment of the Farm indicated that 6 of the 11 buildings on the Farm needed to be eliminated and non-farming conservation practices needed to be initiated.

During the past 15 years, the Academy in concert with Hertz Farm Management Service and the Schildroths have worked hard to develop the Farm to where it is today.

Thru all this, three things need to be emphasized: — (1) The gift of this Farm to IAS has, thru Jessie's generosity and foresight, provided the Academy with much needed funds to operate and develop its programs over the past 25 years in the areas of science and science education throughout the State of Iowa; (2) The Farm is a monument

to Jessie A. Parish, a woman born in a rural setting who had a deep love of nature and a desire to contribute to science in Iowa in a lasting way; and (3) The gift of the Farm has provided an outlet for an ever-growing consciousness toward the preservation of our land and the quality of life it sustains in Iowa.

The Academy certainly owes a debt of gratitude to Jessie A. Parish and all who have contributed and will contribute to the legacy she has left.

FARM MANAGEMENT, TENANTS AND FARM COMMITTEES

Since 1970, the Farm has been managed by Hertz Farm Management Service through its farm manager, James G. Frevert. Jim has worked closely with the Parish Farm Committee and its predecessor, the Finance Committee, during these past 15 years to help the IAS achieve its goal of developing and operating a model farm. Much of the tremendous progress that has been made can be attributed to Hertz and the many excellent services which it provides.

Sharing in this success of the Farm since 1970, are the tenants, Melvin and Janet Schildroth, who also have contributed in so many ways. Not only have they carried out all of the crop chores but they also have given much extra time and effort to the maintenance and development of the non-farming aspects of the Farm. Their influence was dramatically seen during the 25th anniversary celebration by all those in attendance.

Together, Jim, Melvin and Janet have helped the IAS realize its goal of developing the Farm as a model of the best farming and non-farming practices. In addition, the IAS Farm Committee has contributed many ideas and set goals which have resulted in the present state of the Farm. The initial Farm committee was the Finance Committee (1970-1973); an *ad hoc* Parish Farm Committee was established in 1973, which became a standing committee of the Academy in 1977. The chairs of these two important committees during the past 15 years were: Harry Horner (1970-1973); Roger Landers (1973-1975); Paul Christiansen (1975-1980); Robert Hibbs (1980-1983); Karl Goellner (1983-1985); and Daryl Smith (1985 to present). The names of the individual committee members can be found in the Academy records.

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Probably the single most important factor related to the Farm is the income it provides to support the many programs operated by the Academy. This was the main wish of Jessie A. Parish. Table 1 summarizes the yearly gross and net incomes to the IAS between 1961 and 1985. The average gross and net incomes for each five-year period of the past 25 years are also shown. In viewing all of these figures it is important to note that: between 1961 and 1970 the IAS took no control of the operation of the Farm and accepted three-year, cash-rent leases (4); In 1971, this latter method of operation was abolished and the model farm concept was established; between 1971 and 1980 important farming and non-farming conservation practices were instituted, including removal of delapidated buildings and addition of all the terraces; and between 1981 and 1985 there have not been any major improvements because most of them had been completed earlier.

From 1971 until 1984, the Farm was operated on a crop share agreement. In 1984 and 1985, the agreement was changed to a custom farming operation with Melvin and Janet Schildroth as the custom operators. The purpose of this change was to more evenly divide the income between the Academy and the tenants. Time will tell whether this arrangement is equitable for both parties.

These figures then encompass a 25-year period during which there were major changes not only in the philosophy of how the Farm was to be operated but also in the commitment to preserving the land for future generations. The average yearly net income (\$30,547.13) listed for the last five-year period (1981-1985) probably represents

THE PARISH FARM

3

Table 1. IAS PARISH FARM Gross (G) and Net (N) Income for 1961-1985 and Five-Year Averages

	1961		1966		1971		1976		1981
G	\$5,600.00	G	\$4,320.00	G	\$ 220.00	G	30,092.54	G	46,492.43
N	1,172.83	N	2,181.94	N	-4,378.69	N	16,256.78	N	26,879.81
	1962		1967		1972		1977		1982
G	4,140.00	G	4,320.00	G	14,381.00	G	31,325.42	G	39,634.97
N	-1,611.37	N	2,545.41	N	7,131.56	N	18,413.73	N	18,647.05
	1963		1968		1973		1978		1983
G	4,140.00	G	6,000.00	G	19,928.99	G	35,057.25	G	41,692.50
N	1,657.92	N	4,411.67	N	7,804.05	N	18,322.36	N	27,716.03
	1964		1969		1974		1979		1984
G	4,140.00	G	6,000.00	G	33,161.10	G	34,013.04	G	106,327.08
N	1,608.50	N	4,407.85	N	19,155.30	N	19,266.42	N	51,288.32
	1965		1970		1975		1980		1985
G	4,320.00	G	6,000.00	G	33,389.81	G	40,300.91	G	77,387.99
N	2,485.24	N	4,407.12	N	17,180.71	N	20,890.31	N	28,204.45
Five-year Average									
G	\$4,468.00	G	\$5,328.00	G	\$20,216.18	G	\$34,157.83	G	62,306.99
N	1,062.62	N	3,590.80	N	9,378.59	N	18,629.92	N	30,547.13
Twenty-five Year Net Income = \$315,995.30									

Table 2. IAS PARISH FARM Income and Expenses for 1975-1985

Income	1975	1976	1977	1978
Corn	\$18,152.91	\$12,143.45	\$16,690.27	\$18,777.60
Soybeans	14,481.90	17,184.09	12,600.92	13,800.55
Gov't Pmnts. & Coop. Div.	—	—	220.63	1,639.15
House Rent	755.00	765.00	840.00	840.00
Other	—	—	823.60	—
Total Income	\$33,389.81	\$30,092.54	\$31,325.42	\$35,057.25
Expenses				
A. Crop				
Hail Ins.	\$ 303.00	\$ 390.00	\$ 420.00	\$ —
Seed	1,180.07	957.42	1,173.18	1,815.57
Chemicals	1,192.57	1,008.73	1,096.68	1,237.83
Fertilizer	2,781.69	3,007.39	2,084.18	2,999.47
Lime	583.17	653.88	520.98	—
Drying	650.00	439.50	—	580.00
Storage	44.26	—	43.50	—
Shelling	260.00	293.00	—	—
Mgt. Fees	3,284.21	3,379.21	2,929.12	3,421.73
Subtotal	\$10,278.88	\$10,129.13	\$10,460.82	\$10,054.60
B. Other				
Taxes	\$ 1,625.98	\$ 1,835.22	\$ 2,248.54	\$ 2,133.41
Bldg. Ins./Liability	159.30	167.40	—	228.40
Repairs to house, etc. Elec.	582.81	677.00	92.38	692.87
Interest on loans	64.43	107.26	39.95	17.01
Contributions	45.00	35.00	10.00	21.25
Subtotal	\$ 2,477.52	\$ 2,821.88	\$ 2,390.87	\$ 3,092.94
C. Capital Imp.				
Land (terraces, etc.)	\$ 2,453.73	\$ 884.75	\$ —	\$ 3,587.35
Other	998.97	—	60.00	—
Subtotal	\$ 3,452.70	\$ 884.75	\$ 60.00	\$ 3,587.35
Total Expenses	\$16,209.10	\$13,835.76	\$12,911.69	\$16,734.89
Net Income	\$17,180.71	\$16,256.78	\$18,413.73	\$18,322.36

Table 2. continued

Income	1979	1980	1981	1982
Corn	\$18,710.30	\$18,894.97	\$43,946.73	\$37,695.05
Soybeans	14,236.56	20,323.63	926.96	296.04
Gov't Pmts. & Coop. Div.	296.18	312.31	951.32	1,643.88
House Rent	770.00	770.00	630.00	—
Other	—	—	37.42	—
Total Income	\$34,013.04	\$40,300.91	\$46,492.43	\$39,634.97
Expenses				
A. Crop				
Hail Ins.	\$ 427.00	\$ 435.00	\$ 479.00	\$ 263.00
Seed	1,343.21	1,395.62	669.18	243.00
Chemicals	1,108.34	1,372.44	3,959.71	5,207.41
Fertilizer	2,946.77	3,571.39	5,090.65	6,436.91
Lime	—	—	—	—
Drying	828.80	640.00	649.62	—
Storage	99.54	94.14	19.67	—
Shelling	—	Picking Female	701.70	936.08
Mgt. Fees	3,324.30	3,953.09	4,582.50	3,963.50
Subtotal	\$10,077.96	\$11,461.68	\$16,152.03	\$17,049.90
B. Other				
Taxes	\$ 2,757.91	\$ 2,846.11	\$ 3,087.70	\$ 3,010.16
Bldg. Ins./Liability	242.40	266.40	222.50	168.50
Repairs to house, etc. Elec.	465.20	185.00	109.96	639.92
Interest on loans	58.10	431.32	40.43	94.44
Contributions	20.00	25.00	—	25.00
Subtotal	\$ 3,543.61	\$ 3,753.83	\$ 3,460.59	\$ 3,938.02
C. Capital Imp.				
Land (terraces, etc.)	\$ 1,125.05	\$ 4,195.14	\$ —	\$ —
Other	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	\$ 1,125.05	\$ 4,195.14	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total Expenses	\$14,746.62	\$19,410.60	\$19,612.62	\$20,987.92
Net Income	\$19,266.42	\$20,890.31	\$26,879.81	\$18,647.05
<hr/>				
Income	1983	1984	1985	
Corn	\$33,906.99	\$91,263.00	\$52,290.16	
Soybeans	5,282.58	5,448.71	16,406.15	
Gov't Pmts. & Coop. Div.	2,460.59	9,615.37	8,691.68	
House Rent	—	—	—	
Other	41.91	—	—	
Total Income	\$41,692.50	\$106,327.08	\$77,387.99	
Expenses				
A. Crop				
Hail Ins.	\$ 217.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 627.00	
Seed	406.05	579.81	1,206.50	
Chemicals	2,166.06	8,399.75	8,175.19	
Fertilizer	2,743.15	11,177.09	7,938.02	
Lime	219.56	—	3,832.92	
Drying	—	—	—	
Storage	84.53	250.29	—	
Shelling	383.93	21,161.99	20,934.91	
Mgt. Fees	4,125.52	5,848.07	3,116.62	
Subtotal	\$10,345.80	\$48,067.00	\$45,875.16	
B. Other				
Taxes	\$ 3,070.00	\$ 3,016.00	\$ 3,081.00	
Bldg. Ins./Liability	231.08	274.00	—	
Repairs to house, etc. Elec.	287.67	368.59	202.38	
Interest on loans	—	1,696.17	—	
Contributions	20.00	20.00	25.00	
Subtotal	\$ 3,608.67	\$ 5,374.76	\$ 3,308.38	

Table 2. continued

C. Capital Imp.			
Land (terraces, etc.)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Other	22.00	1,597.00	—
Subtotal	\$ 22.00	\$ 1,597.00	\$ 0.00
Total Expenses	\$13,976.47	\$55,038.76	\$49,183.54
Net Income	\$27,716.03	\$51,288.32	\$28,204.45

what the IAS can expect to receive each year from the Farm in the next five to ten years, assuming there are no major changes in the operation of the Farm or significant fluctuations in crop prices.

During these past 25 years, the Farm has provided a total net income of about \$316,000. Again, assuming that no major changes will occur during the next 25 years (and disregarding inflation), the Farm should provide the IAS with a total net income of at least \$764,000.

Table 2 identifies the specific income sources, which are from commercial and seed corn, soybeans, government payments and coop dividends, and house rent. Expenses include both farming and non-farming items as well as insurance and property taxes. All of these figures were derived from the Hertz Farm Management Annual Reports (1970-71 thru 1985-86) and Horner (4).

CROP YIELDS

The major income derived from the Farm is from corn and soybean crops. Over the years, corn has been the major crop. Until about 1973, most of the Farm land, except the woodlot and building site, was being used for crop production. In 1973, the six-acre native prairie was established north of the woodlot. Aside from these diverted acres, about 216 of the 240 acres were tilled each year through 1977 (Table 3.). Because of the addition of terraces and the setting aside of several acres for wildlife cover and road right-of-way, the tillable land is now at 200.9 acres.

From 1971 through 1980, corn and soybeans were rotated on the Farm land. The number of acres tilled, the yield in bushels per acre and the average price per bushel are also listed in Table 3. After soil conservation practices were instituted, the yields for both corn and soybeans have been typically higher than the average for Grundy County.

In 1981, a seed corn contract was negotiated with the Pioneer Hybrid Seed Plant in Reinbeck. This contract has been especially attractive because of the yields produced and the guaranteed prices per bushel. The Farm has secured a similar contract each year from then to the present.

Sale of the crops is left to Hertz. Again, reviewing average prices per bushel over the past 15 years, it is evident that the crop prices received usually have been above average.

The Farm also has participated in government programs to divert or set aside some of its acres. The most extensive program occurred in 1983 when the Farm joined the Payment-in-Kind (PIK) program by setting aside 97.4 acres in alfalfa. Payment from this program was based on 157 bushels of corn per acre as demonstrated by Hertz for the Farm. This average yield compared quite favorably with the average in Grundy County of 130 bushels per acre.

It is impossible to predict what the future will bring in terms of crop yields, government programs and seed contracts. However, it is predictable that crop yields will continue to surpass county averages; the Farming operation will continue to be efficiently run and cost effective under the guidance of Hertz and the Schildroths.

CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENTS

The biggest challenge on the Farm has been to reduce soil erosion

on both the 160- and 80-acre tracts. Prior to 1970, crop rows were run up and down the slopes. Along with heavy herbicide treatment, particularly atrazine, soil erosion was rampant. The first steps taken to correct the erosion included stopping plowing in the fall, contour plowing and employing conservation tillage through use of chisel plowing.

Farming Conservation — In 1974, the Soil Conservation Service surveyed the Farm and recommended the addition of a series of terraces and new drain tiles (Fig. 2.). Horner (4) showed a photograph of the first tiling carried out on the SE corner of the 160-acre tract prior to the formation of six terraces. Thus, there began a seven-year project (1974-81) of adding terraces (Table 4.). In all, 2.98 miles of terraces and 1.83 miles of tiles were completed. The majority of the costs (\$27,543.61) was shared by federal and state subsidies (\$15,567.59); the Academy's cost was only \$11,976.02. A portion of these terraces can be seen in an aerial photograph of the 160-acre tract shortly after a heavy rain, looking SW (Fig. 3.). Only the SW corner of the 160-acre tract still needs to be terraced. In order to accomplish this, a larger tile main would have to be laid through the farm and all the way to the Black Hawk Creek located just north of Reinbeck. This tiling will not be done until the farmer to the south is interested in tiling his land. In the meantime, a recently reshaped grassed waterway has reduced the erosion problem (Fig. 2, area 5).

Building Site — In 1960, the Farm had eleven structures and buildings clustered on the east side of the 160-acre tract south of the woodlot. Because of their deteriorated condition, six of them were removed during 1971 and 1972 (3). In 1973, a multipurpose mobile classroom was added with the intent that it would be used for meetings and other educational purposes. During the same year, two circular steel bins were purchased to increase the seed storage capacity on the Farm.

The Farm house was considered inhabitable in 1971 and was rented out to various house tenants from 1971 to 1982. During this latter period, the house condition deteriorated and it generated considerable debate between the Board of Directors and the Farm Committee. The Farm Committee contended that it served as reasonable low cost housing and the presence of tenants provided security for the other buildings and the stored crops. However, increasing repair costs and continued deterioration of the Farm house and its sewer and water systems led to its razing in the fall of 1982 (Figs. 4, 5).

The multipurpose mobile classroom was used only sporadically. It was never developed as an education center because of its limited facilities and relatively remote location, although student groups did tour the Farm periodically to study conservation practices. For these reasons, the mobile unit was sold in 1980. The remaining concrete foundation serves as a reminder of its former location.

The old hog house was also removed in 1975. At the present time (1986), the existing buildings and structures remaining on the Farm are the converted corn crib, two circular steel bins, the two-car garage, and the small granary.

The building site is neatly maintained now and the area around it is part of the non-farming conservation program. The large Academy sign is still next to the highway and identifies the Farm as Academy property.

There were suggestions to consider building a modern, model farm

Table 3. IAS PARISH FARM Crop Yields for 1974-1985

Crop Year	Acres Tilled ^a			Commercial Corn			Seed Corn			Soybeans		
	per 240 acres	Acres	Yield bu/a	Acres	Yield bu/a	Ave. Price	Acres	Yield bu/a	Ave. Price	Acres	Yield bu/a	Ave. Price
1974	216	106.1	126.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	110.2	38.6	\$5.85/bu.
1975	216	110.2	133.2	—	—	\$2.47/bu.	—	—	—	106.0	47.8	\$7.91/bu.
1976	216	107.0	129.0	—	—	\$1.70/bu.	—	—	—	109.2	39.7	\$6.04/bu.
1977	216	109.2	139.5	—	—	\$2.19/bu.	—	—	—	107.0	38.3	\$6.84/bu.
1978	202.3	100.6	155.1	—	—	\$2.41/bu.	—	—	—	94.2	42.8	\$5.68/bu.
1979	202.3	104.5	158.6	—	—	\$2.26/bu.	—	—	—	97.8	50.6	\$8.23/bu.
1980	202.3	100.6	129.2	—	—	\$2.97/bu.	—	—	—	101.7	48.6	\$5.87/bu.
1981	200.9	67.5	160.4	126.4	167.7	\$2.80/bu.	126.4	167.7	\$2.80/bu.	7.0	45.5	\$5.47/bu.
1982	200.9	— ^b	— ^b	184.2	130.7	—	184.2	130.7	\$3.01/bu.	2.5 ^d	21.7	\$7.90/bu.
1983 ^c	200.9	20.3	127.9	62.7	162.8	\$3.22/bu.	62.7	162.8	\$3.58/bu.	25.6	52.9	\$5.66/bu.
1984	200.9	—	—	161.7	187.5	—	161.7	187.5	\$3.32/bu.	21.0	45.8	\$5.08/bu.
1985	200.9	—	—	118.9	160.5	—	118.9	160.5	\$2.74/bu.	68.9	46.8	

^a Non-tilled acres include: building site; woodlot, native prairie; conservation wild-life areas.

^b 28 acres of grain sorghum were sown due to herbicide injury to corn; sorghum yield, 53.5 bu/a.

^c Payment In Kind (PIK) program reduced crop acreage from 200.9 to 108.6 acres.

^d Isolation acreage for seed corn.

house. This has not proved feasible.

Non-Farming Conservation — Besides the farming conservation practices and building site improvement, much consideration was given to non-farming conservation needs for the entire Farm. The plans for this aspect of the model farm concept were begun in the early 1970's (4) with the establishment of the native prairie north of the woodlot and the cleaning up of the woodlot by burying refuse and removing undesirable trees. The badly damaged walnuts in the woodlot and the windbreak west of the building site were cut down and sold during 1976-77.

At a July, 1977 Farm Committee meeting, a basic long-range plan was discussed to continue with these improvements. Robert Hibbs wrote a letter to Paul Christiansen, Jim Frevert and the Farm Committee, on August 2, 1977, in which he provided the preliminary draft of a plan for development of the non-farming conservation aspects of the Farm. This plan was the forerunner of a long-term project that was later submitted to Bob Hibbs by Samuel K. Gooden of the Grundy County Conservation Board on September 14, 1977. A Farm Committee conference call on November 16 resulted in approval of an amended proposal, which was then sent to the Board of Directors for consideration.

On April 5, 1978, a 10-year lease was signed with the Grundy County Conservation Board to develop two tracts of land totaling 20 acres (6). The major tract of 14 acres adjoining the building site was partly planted to trees for wildlife habitat and timber production, and partly to prairie for wildlife habitat (Figs. 2, 6). The second tract, a 6-acre triangle at the NE corner of the 80-acre tract, was planted to trees and grasses for wildlife cover (Figs. 2, 7). Also, the ditch forming the western boundary of the triangle was bulldozed to clear trees and straighten it for better drainage.

During this last eight-year period (1978-1986), thousands of plantings have been made, and now serve as excellent wildlife cover. Both Robert Hibbs (State Forester, Marshall Co.) and Sam Gooden (Conservationist, Grundy County Conservation Board), as well as many others, have been instrumental in carrying out this aspect of the Farm restoration.

The north-south highway (T 65) that goes through the Farm was scheduled to be improved and resurfaced at the time of the writing of the first Farm article (4). About 2.4 acres of the Farm were needed for widening the road right-of-way. The surface of the new road was to be blacktop but this was later changed to concrete. This new road is a welcome addition and provides an excellent view for seeing the Farm as one travels north out of Reinbeck on T 65.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PUBLICITY

Throughout the last 15 years the Farm has received sporadic publicity through Academy presentations and publications, and local and state news media. Most of these have been related to events that have occurred on the Farm. After the Centennial Year (1975) article about the Farm (4), only two general articles dealing with the Farm have been published. The first appeared in the *Waterloo Courier* in 1978 (7) and the other was in the *Reinbeck Courier* in 1985 (5). Both of these articles emphasized the IAS goal of developing a model farm using the best farming and non-farming practices available. The latter article also covered the 25th anniversary celebration.

In 1978, the Grundy County Conservation Service established conservation plots at the SE corner of the 160-acre tract. The purpose of the four tillage plots observed at the "field day" on June 13th, was to evaluate the stand of corn and weed control, and to demonstrate that corn would grow with lots of crop residue left on the soil surface (8-10). The success of that "field day" was presented in the *Reinbeck Courier* (11).

During the fall of 1978, two articles (12, 13) dealt with increasing construction of terraces within Grundy County. The Parish Farm

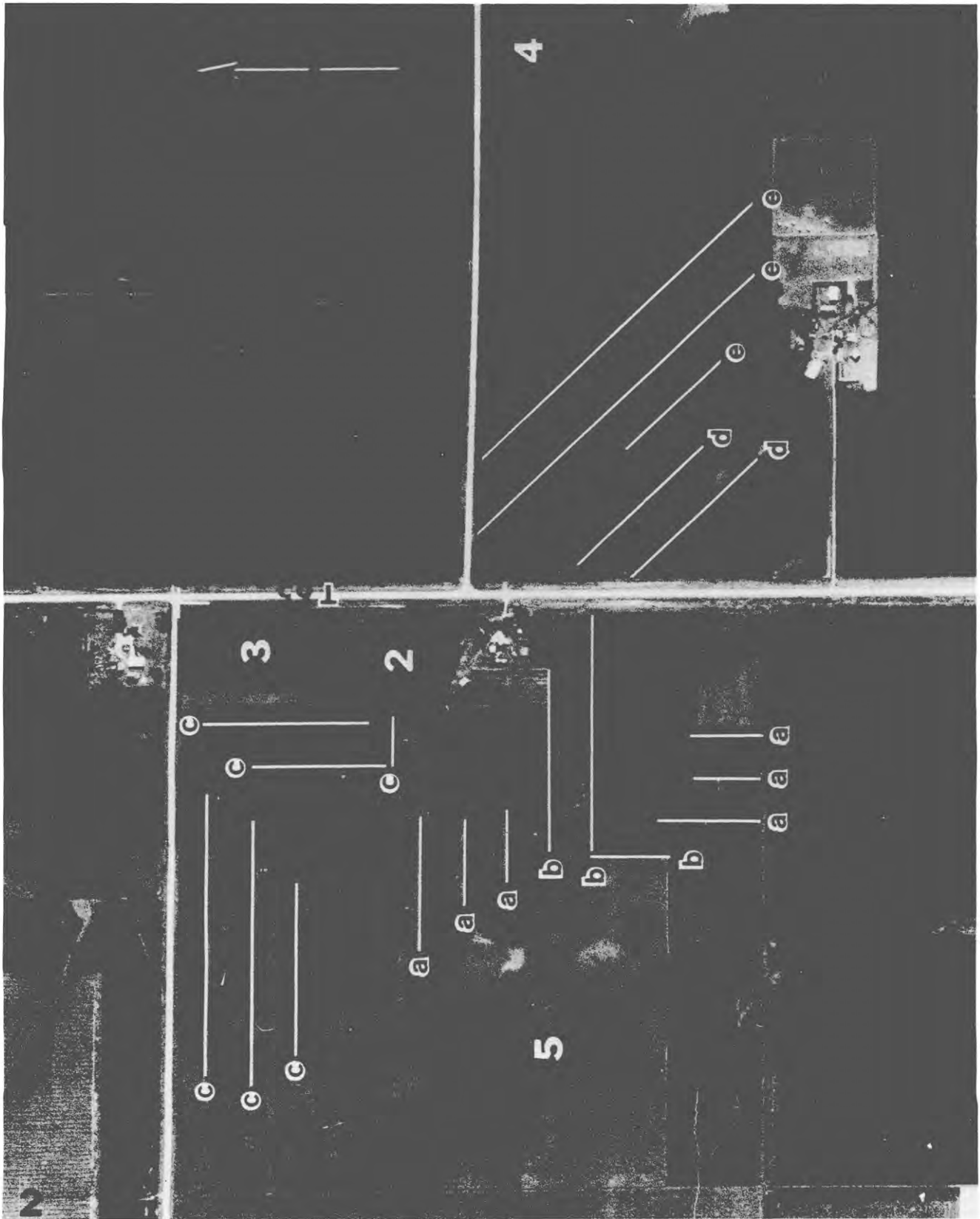
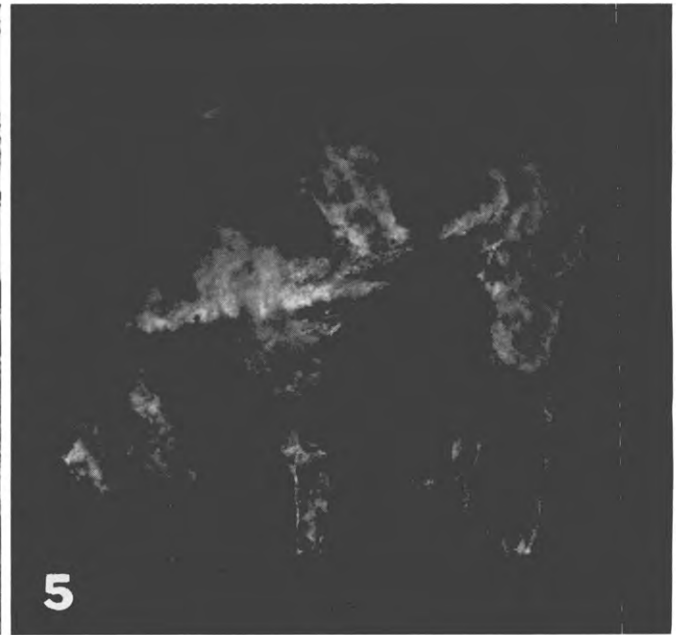
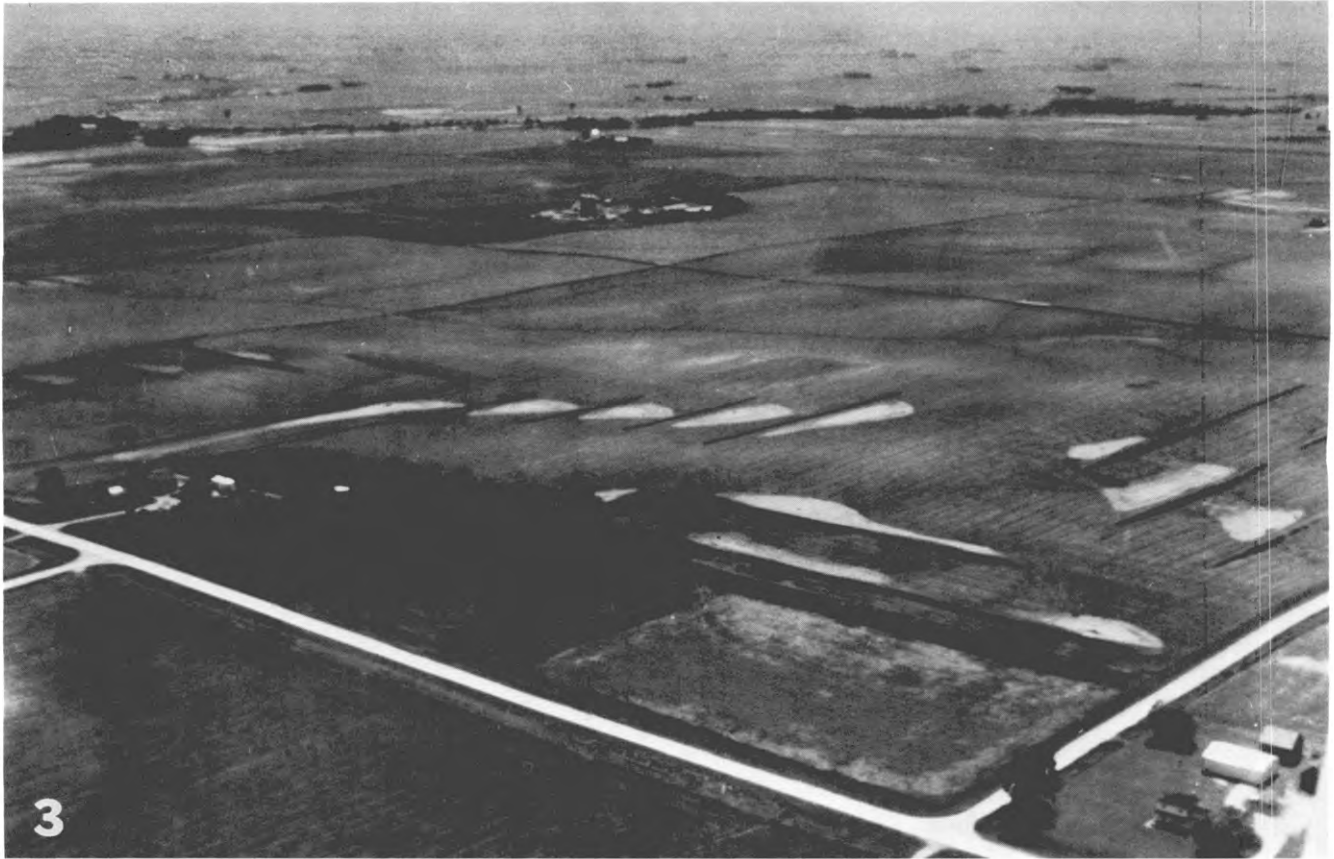


Fig. 2. Photo/diagram (aerial photograph) of IAS Parish Farm showing both 160- and 80-acre tracts with asterisks denoting boundary of Farm: building site and conservation area (1); woodlot (2); native prairie (3); conservation triangle (4); grassed waterway (5); terraces added in 1974-75 (a); terraces added in 1975-76 (b); terraces added 1977-78 (c); terraces added in 1979-80 (d); and terraces added in 1980-81 (e).

terraces were featured in the photographs.

The conservation tillage plots were again featured on January 11, 1979 at a clinic concerning area farmers' experiences with various

types of conservation tillage (14-17). The corn yields on the four plots harvested earlier were also made available (spring plowing, 155.7 bu/A; chisel plowing, 152.9 bu/A; double disking, 150.0 bu/A; Buffalo



Figs. 3-5. Fig. 3. Aerial photograph of terraces on 160-acre tract shortly after a heavy rainfall. Fig. 4. Farm house before it was razed. Fig. 5. Farm house being burned.

Till planting, 143.1 bu/A).

Another special event involved Janet Schildroth, one of the joint tenants on the Farm, who developed an educational project (Parish Project) for young children in a course she took at the University of Northern Iowa. The project included a variety of learning experiences and instruction dealing with conservation practices (types of soil, erosion and soil preservation, and good farming practices) and outdoor education (prairie, woodlot and wildlife areas). Janet was encouraged to present her project before the Science Teaching Section at the 1981 IAS annual meeting at Coe College in Cedar Rapids. Her efforts, along with those of George Davis, a former high school teacher in Reinbeck (4), clearly show how the IAS Parish Farm can act as a focus for farm and conservation-oriented educational experiences.

Paul Christiansen and Bob Hibbs created an impressive poster display (Fig. 8) for the Annual IAS Meeting in 1981, at Coe College. The poster included information about the progress that had been made on the Farm during the previous ten years with respect to both the farming and non-farming programs. They exhibited a large color photo of the terraces (Fig. 3). The poster drew a great deal of attention from those in attendance, and was exhibited, again, with the State Department of Soil Conservation display at the Iowa State Fair in August of that year.

The most recent special event which drew local publicity (4) was the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the bequest of the Parish Farm to the Academy. This celebration occurred on Saturday, June 15, 1985 at the Farm and consisted of tours, a catered lunch and a one-hour program. The weather was perfect, sunny and warm. Jim Frevert, Melvin and Janet Schildroth, and the Farm Committee all acted as hosts throughout the day by providing tours of the fields (Fig. 9), terraces, woodlot (Fig. 10), windbreak rows (Fig. 11), prairie, and wildlife habitats (Fig. 12). There were many questions asked about the Farm and the Academy by the crowd (Fig. 13), which consisted of about 150 area residents and Academy members. For most, this was a first-time visit.

The formal program after lunch (Figs. 14, 15) was hosted by the IAS President, John Downey (Fig. 16). He introduced various IAS officers in attendance, the Farm Committee and invited guests. Individual presentations were then made by Iowa Agricultural Secretary Robert Lounsbury (Fig. 17), Harry Horner (Fig. 18, Farm History), Jim Frevert (Fig. 19, Farm Manager), Samuel Gooden (Fig. 20, Grundy County Conservation Board), and Melvin Schildroth (Fig. 19, Farm Operator). After the program, many remained to visit or to continue seeing different parts of the Farm.

The celebration was a success and served to educate an ever increasing number of people about the Farm. Hopefully, this memorable event will stimulate additional special Farm Days in the future.

THE FARM: A RESOURCE OR A LIABILITY

Up to now, the article has dealt with what has happened on the Farm during the past 25 years and, more specifically, during the most recent 15 years. These 25 years, however, consist of two diverse periods of time: the first ten years is represented by a period of confusion, indecision, and lack of membership involvement in the Farm; the last 15 years, in contrast, have been guided by a definite plan to develop the Farm that has seen a great deal of membership involvement.

Although they are not dramatic, there have been strong undercurrents of hopes, frustrations, conflicting ideas, and member interactions that have taken place during the past 15 years. Anyone reading the Academy records (particularly Board of Directors and Farm, Finance and Social Implications committees' minutes and correspondence related to them) will sense these emotions. I believe it is important to document some of them, not to dwell on any individual, personal internal differences but to honestly present an Academy that

has struggled with the issue of having a Farm, and has actively debated its intended purposes.

It is clear that the Farm was given with the intention of providing income for the Academy for a period of at least 75 years. In addition, the bequest stated that the Academy should pay property taxes and insurance, and maintain the Farm. Because the Academy's membership includes few farmers, farm managers and professional investors, the management and long-term plan for the development of the Farm were difficult problems to tackle. I believe this is why the initial 10-year period of neglect occurred. However, times changed with new officers and a revitalization of science and science education in the mid to late 1960's and 1970's. The plan to develop a model farm was conceived and approved in 1970. The involvement of the Academy officers, as well as others, was a natural outcome of these events. Also, by 1970, the Academy was expanding its programs, the membership increased in number and in its interest in Academy affairs, and the national economy was starting to rapidly change.

The early 1970's, then, represented a period of growth in Academy activities, under the direction of Dr. Robert W. Hanson, Executive Director. The Academy budget increased and with it the need for more income. The Farm was considered a major potential source of this income since it was becoming apparent that state support would be decreasing in future years. These events immediately raised questions among some officers about the efficacy of promoting the model farm concept which would reduce the number of tillable acres and possibly require a significant amount of the yearly Farm income for land improvement. It was argued by some that the latter would not substantially increase the income in future years.

These comments serve to set the stage for explaining the countless hours of discussions and written commentaries about the Farm. It will have to be left for the next generation of IAS members and officers to decide whether the events about to be presented were an important catalyst, or a detriment, to the overall growth of the Academy.

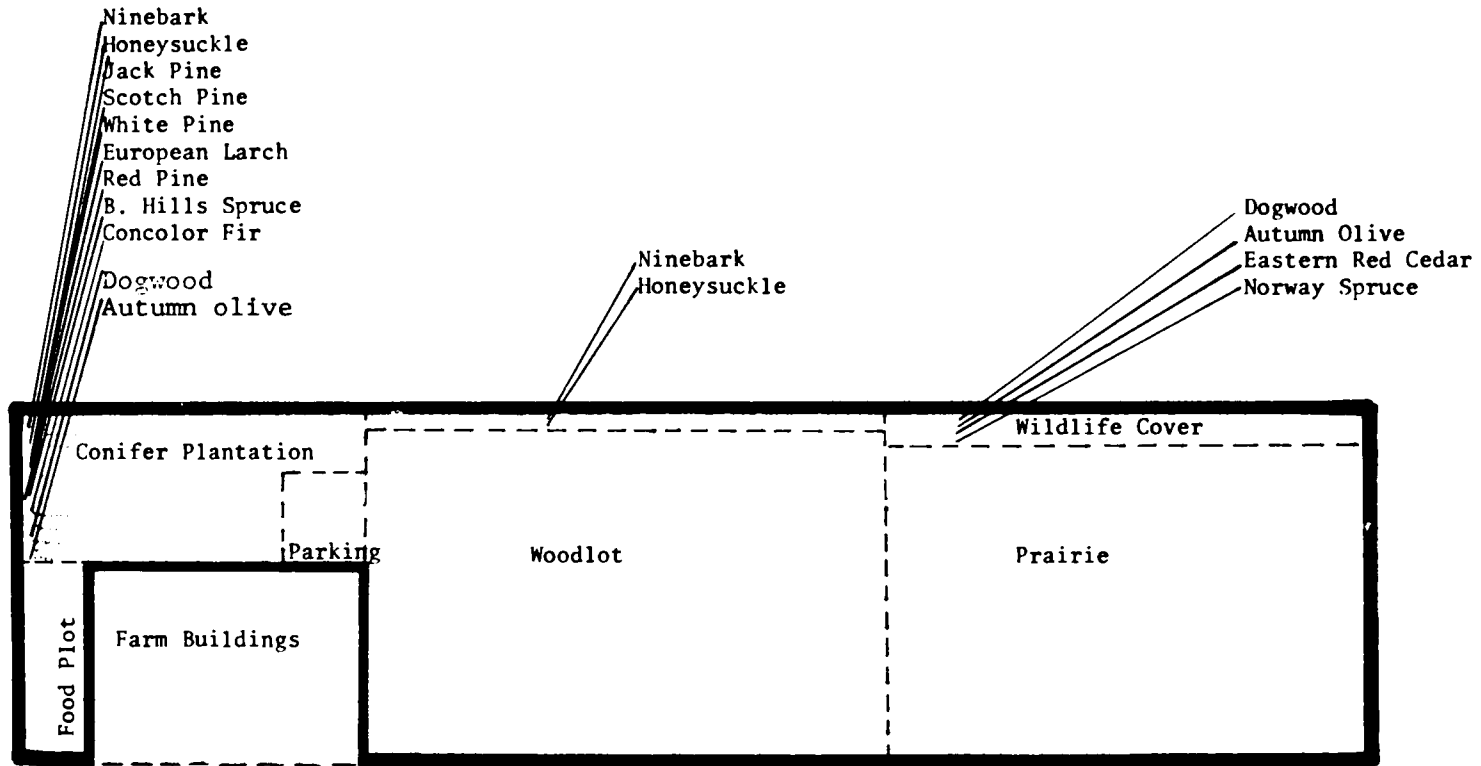
The period between 1970 and 1975 was a time of exploration and discovery about the Farm after the initial model farm concept was established. The many time-consuming discussions within the Board of Directors up to this time were summarized in a letter by Paul Meglitsch, then President (1975-76), to the ad hoc Farm Committee on July 21, 1975. The letter adroitly dealt with the model farm concept, the need for maximum income, and yet a desire to see a balance struck with the non-farming practices. Concern was raised about the educational aspects of the concept and particularly the "all-purpose mobile classroom building." The letter suggested that the Farm committee and the Social Implications Committee should develop a plan with regard to this concern and present it at the fall Board of Directors meeting.

The two latter groups met on September 15, 1975, at the Farm. Fifteen committee members and officers were present; Paul Joslin, chairman of the Social Implications Committee, presided. A question-answer session centered around how the Farm could be used for educational purposes. The value of the mobile classroom was discussed as well as the projected longevity of the house. These points, as well as the basic one of what is the purpose of the Farm, all seemed to emphasize the income aspect to the exclusion of anything else, as noted by Robert Hanson. Joslin said it was his intention to digest all of this information and write a report with recommendations to be sent to the Board.

On October 6, 1975, a report was submitted by the Social Implications Committee to the Board of Directors. The report consisted of two "Facts," two "Implications" and 12 "Recommendations." To summarize, the Farm was given to the IAS for "their use of and income." Owning a farm is a social responsibility at the highest level for a society of scientists and teachers; and management of the farm should provide *income to the Academy* and *use by its members for a term to exceed fifty years*. The 12 recommendations basically supported the

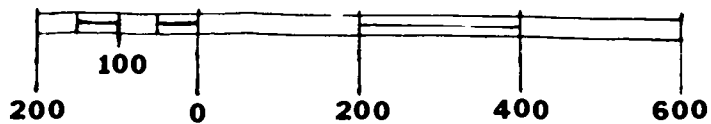
6

IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE FARM GRUNDY COUNTY IOWA
 GRUNDY COUNTY LEASE
 TRACT NO. 1



scale

1" = 200'



LEGEND

- BOUNDARY OF COUNTY LEASE
- BOUNDARY OF VEGETATION TYPE



Fig. 6. Diagram of 160-acre tract non-farming plantings as determined by Grundy County Conservation Board lease (see also Fig. 2, areas 1-3).

EXHIBIT "B"
 IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE FARM GRUNDY COUNTY IOWA
 GRUNDY COUNTY LEASE
 TRACT NO. 2

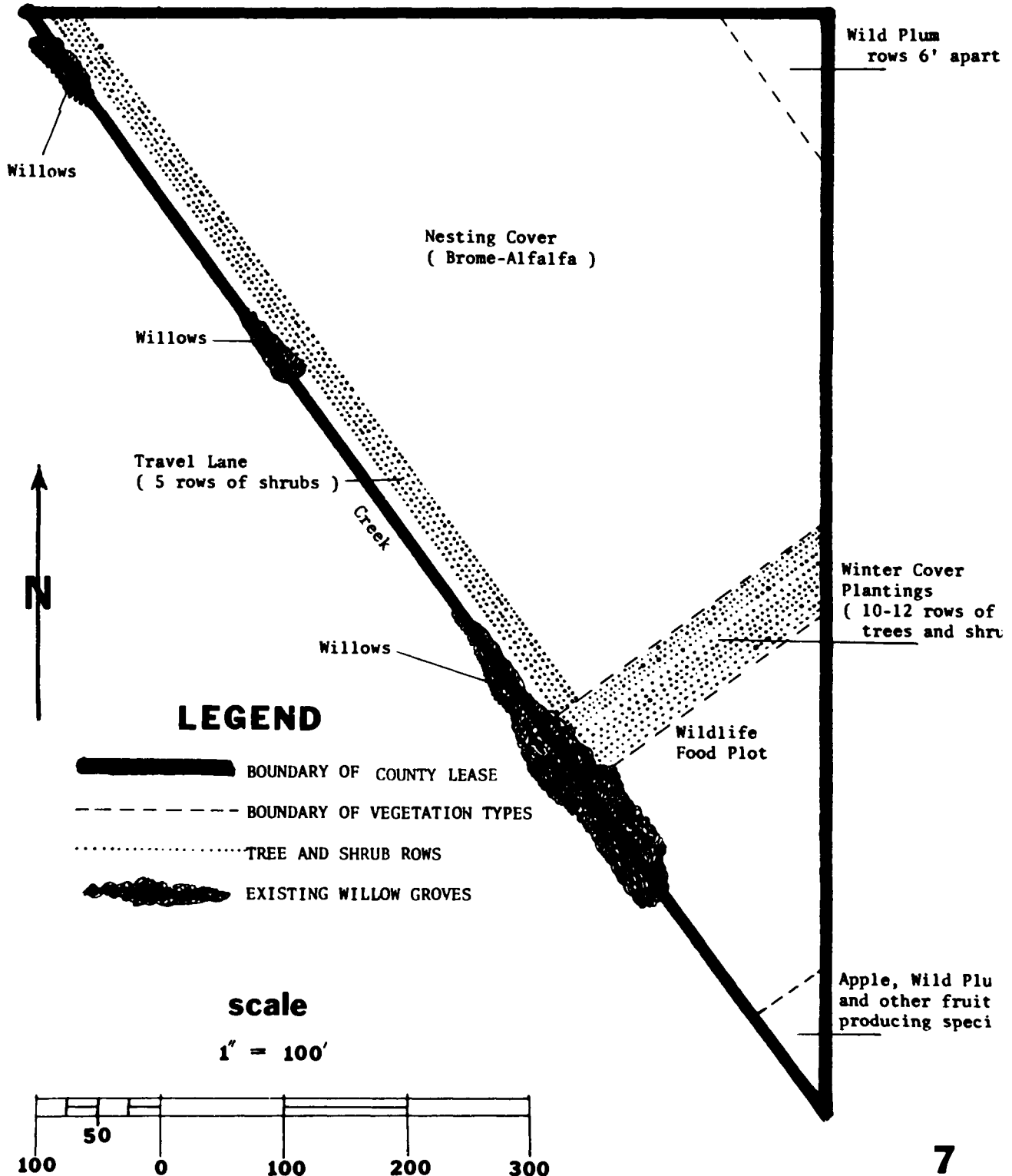


Fig. 7. Diagram of 80-acre tract non-farming plantings as shown in Grundy County Conservation Board lease (see also Fig. 2, area 4).



Fig. 8. Parish Farm poster display.

tenor of the bequest and the model farm concept, including further development of the woodlot and prairie. However, no significant effort should be made to develop or promote use of the farm for educational purposes. The classroom building should not be sold at present but serious consideration should be given to razing the house and replacing it with a new one.

An amended version of these recommendations (Appendix B to the minutes of the Board of Directors, November 8, 1975) was sent to the Farm, Finance, and Social Implications Committees on November 10th. The amended recommendations number 10, a shortened version of the original 12.

Donald Pilgrim, Chairman of the Finance Committee, wrote to Roger Landers, Chairman of the Parish Farm Committee, about the referral of the recommendation (# 11; of the original 12) regarding the razing of the present farm house. Both committees were to be canvassed and a joint report submitted to the Board at its spring meeting. On March 27, 1976, the Parish Farm Committee submitted its report directly to the Board of Directors. Besides noting all of the discussions and concerns generated by various groups within the Academy about the Farm, and emphasizing the progress made during the past year, the Committee submitted five recommendations: 1) that the Farm Committee be responsible for the operation of the Farm along with Hertz; 2) that replacement of the Farm house not occur before five years and not later than 10 years; 3) that no experimental facilities be used on the Farm; 4) that 25% of Farm net income be set aside each year in support of the model farm concept; and 5) that a specific plan for the model Farm be developed with professional help for approval and display at the 1977 Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors discussed this report at its March 27, 1976, meeting with regard to previous Board actions of November 2, 1974, and November 8, 1975. Robert Hanson responded to the Farm Committee on March 31, 1976, with the Board's position concerning the use of Farm income. Basically, the Board accepted the recommendations with the exception of the status of the Farm house, which it referred to the Farm and Finance Committees for separate study. The area for continuing discussion was the budget. The Board adopted the principle that a fixed dollar amount from the Farm income should be earmarked for Academy income generally, in accordance with the bequest. This amount was to be determined by the Finance Committee and the Board. In Hanson's response there were several more remarks made about the Farm house that continued

to surface later on.

On May 3, 1976, Robert Hanson notified the Officers, Directors and Farm Committee Members that more repairs were made on the Farm house. The letter was intended to place pressure on all concerned to dispose of it. My records do not show any response by anyone to this letter. The result was that the Farm house continued to exist with tenants living in it.

The Board of Directors, Farm, and Finance Committees received a letter from Bob Hanson dated November 30, 1977, Re: *Prospects for State Support*. The letter described Bob's meeting with the State Government Budget Sub-Committee of the Legislature (Bob made biannual presentations on behalf of the IAS to obtain state support). The letter stated that he had asked for \$12,500 plus \$5000 for indexing of the Proceedings. This total amount was higher than the \$8000 the IAS had been receiving previously. The Committee authorized only \$4500. This reduction led Bob to vent his frustrations about the pending reduced income, the fact that no Academy officers were there to support him, and his displeasure with the recent past decisions regarding the development of the Farm. Bob felt vulnerable in having to answer questions by legislators about why the Farm was not being operated to provide *maximum* income. Some legislators had thereby criticized the IAS for its 'poor' farm plan and management. The letter ended by asking for feedback.

Hanson received at least two written replies. A letter from Robert Hibbs, dated December 16, 1977, directly responded to the Farm question. Even though his remarks were personal, they represented the position of the Farm Committee. The remarks touched upon the farm income, the management service, the lease arrangement with the tenants, and the pending lease agreement with the Grundy County Conservation Board. Each point was backed up with specific supporting information. The main point was that as a responsible organization, we could not milk the Farm for its maximum income and live with a good conscience.

Hanson replied to Hibbs on both December 19 and 21, 1977. He basically said that he has supported all of the soil conservation practices on the Farm but not on spending \$5000 for the all purpose building or maintaining the farm house. He had found it difficult to develop a case for state support when the Academy only receives about \$17,000 from a farm that is worth about \$500,000. Hanson suggested a simple solution: sell the Farm because it is not consistent with the goals of the IAS to operate a farm. The proceeds could then be invested more profitably and the amount of time spent dealing with Farm problems would be eliminated. The monetary investment could then be used for more clerical help and expansion of programs [the implication here was that the Academy income was shrinking at a time when Academy activities and involvement were rapidly increasing]. Hanson's closing statement on these issues was that "we need more money from wherever it can be obtained, and we also need a fresh look at what the IAS is doing besides conducting an annual meeting and putting out two publications and running a farm." The December 21, 1977, letter included a question as to whether a better lease agreement than the 50/50 crop share could be negotiated.

As one who was involved in these debates, I remember that I had had the attitude that Bob Hanson was continually pushing the Academy to rethink its position about everything, including the Farm. He was sincere in his point of view and he honestly believed that the Farm was a detriment to the Academy, except for the income it provided (which he considered minimal under the present arrangement). Bob's frustrations about the legislative meeting and the Farm were reiterated at the Board meeting on April 20, 1978, at the request of President Lois Tiffany. The "farm problem" as it was coming to be known, was discussed at length, especially with regard to seeking a more favorable lease agreement. No decision was reached as to whether the Board or Finance Committee should negotiate a new lease.

The minutes of the June 28, 1978 Finance Committee meeting included a part dealing with Hanson's recommendaton (see memo to committee dated June 23, 1978, note no. 24) that an allocation of Farm income to IAS operating expenses be raised to \$18,000 in 78-79 (instead of \$16,000 previously; neither of these figures were implemented as an operational fiscal policy). There was considerable discussion since it was stated that this proposal did not take into consideration the history of improvements made to date; no firm commitments for discretionary funds for the Farm Committee had been established; and a fixed amount should be set aside for use in 1978-79. The approved motion was to set aside \$1500. It was further moved to allow for a carry-over each year of up to a maximum of \$5000.

Paul Christiansen sent a letter and report to the Farm Committee on June 26, 1978, notifying its members that President Gene Goellner had reappointed him as chairman of the committee. He said he had said yes, and then presented an update on the 1977 crop per Frevert's recent report. He made three suggestions for the current year's activities: 1) prepare a comprehensive report to the membership on recent farm management, including projected terracing and other improvements; 2) review the lease to GCCB; and 3) develop an income-expense summary for the last several years. The report was to include both a written report and a poster for the annual meeting and the State Fair. Two other suggestions were to study the conservation possibilities on the 80-acre tract and evaluate the Hertz Farm Management's performance.

During this time, Bob Hanson had finished an extensive report on the Farm titled *THE PARISH FARM AS AN ACADEMY RESOURCE, 1970-78*. The report was sent to the Farm Committee on July 18, 1978. The report began by stating that the Farm should be considered for its income, not as an asset, as presented in the Parish will. Details of the income and expenses were given in seven tables with the idea of demonstrating that the Academy might be receiving less than its fair share of the income. Crop yields, their prices per bushel and land improvements did not seem to show any correlation as interpreted from one table. Bob mentioned that the house rent income was not significant. The next issue was the lease agreement. Bob outlined the costs of the tenant (machinery depreciation, fuel, labor and his own tax savings) and then specific costs that the Academy bore such as taxes, insurance, management fees, interest, repairs and improvements. The question he raised was whether the expenses of the tenant were equal to those of the Academy and if not, what arrangement other than 50/50 would be equitable. Bob's final points dealt with the value of the land and the net income yield of only 4.6% for 1977-78. The final paragraph of the report, however, provided an enigmatic ending: "The important thing is that the intentions of the bequest be honored and that the social responsibility of the Academy as a landowner be respected, while at the same time maintaining a balance between the goals of the Academy as stated in the Constitution, the Academy's financial needs, and the Academy's programs and activities outside those pertaining to the farm."

Some of these comments were reiterated by Hanson in the Annual Report of the Iowa Academy of Science 1977-78 (18). One portion summed up his feelings: "Executive Director Hanson raised questions throughout the year concerning the fairness of the lease arrangement to the Academy. The Farm Committee and the Finance Committee took the view that they were content with the arrangement. Hanson, on the other hand, continued to question the appropriateness of the Academy operating a farm, and he expressed some concern about preoccupation with the farm detracting from other goals of the Academy."

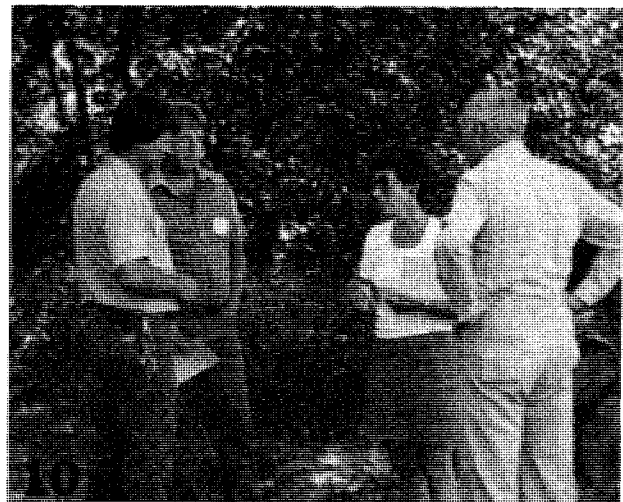
The fall of 1978 was filled with several Board and Farm Committee meetings in which the "farm problem" became somewhat volatile. Hanson's Report of the Executive Director to the Board of Directors on September 1, 1978 (p. 2) included a Farm Income Analysis in which Bob alluded to his 1970-78 analysis. He also mentioned that no deed to the Farm existed but that the Abstract substantiated ownership. He had the abstract updated. Bob suggested that the Academy should obtain a legal opinion with regard to selling the Farm (just for the records). He did interject that he had "heard many expressions from knowledgeable Academy members that we should sell the farm if possible either because (a) our preoccupation with it detracts from other goals of the organization, or (b) the economic predictors seem to indicate a widespread saturation of the psychology that produces an inflationary spiral; this is likely to result in a massive and perhaps catastrophic readjustment in the economy in the next four to twelve years, when such property bought for capital gains will be liquidated, with the result of deflated prices for real estate and land, producing at least a leveling-off if not lower market value." Eight recommendations were listed for Board consideration: #2. stated "that a legal opinion be obtained as to the conditions, if any, under which the Parish Farm might be sold."

A supplement to the Executive Director's Report to the Board (September 16) and a report by Paul Christiansen (September 15) to the Board outlined the 1977-78 Farm income, expenses and improvements, both with comments and additional information. Bob's final statement indicated that past figures would suggest that \$18,000 could be budgeted out of farm income for Academy operation. A September 18th, letter to the Finance and Farm Committees from Hanson outlined a method for budgeting the amount available for discretionary use by the Farm Committee.

I wrote to Paul Christiansen on September 19th, outlining the various items that the Board had discussed on September 16. Along with the items (Farm minus buildings, Farm buildings, lease agreement, Management, and Finance Committee recommendaton and Hanson's writeup), I included suggested recommendations for Committee discussion since I would be unable to attend the meeting. A copy of the letter was sent to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. On September 21st, I received a letter from Hanson in which he stated that it was inappropriate for me to suggest any recommendations since I was only a liaison to the Farm Committee, and not a voting member.

Table 4. Addition of Tile and Terraces to IAS PARISH FARM from 1974-75 through 1980-81

Year	Tile	Terraces	Total Cost	Federal/State Cost Share	IAS Cost
1974-75	3,248 ft.	2,700 ft.	\$ 6,603.73	\$ 4,150.00	\$ 2,453.73
1975-76	—	2,700 ft.	\$ 3,538.98	\$ 2,654.83	\$ 884.75
1976-77	—	—	—	—	—
1977-78	2,202 ft.	5,050 ft.	\$ 6,968.40	\$3,651.05	\$ 3,317.35
1978-79	—	—	—	—	—
1979-80	—	1,250 ft.	\$ 2,283.59	\$ 1,158.54	\$ 1,125.05
1980-81	4,218 ft.	4,050 ft.	\$ 8,148.91	\$ 3,953.77	\$ 4,195.14
Total for 1974-81	9,668 ft.	15,750 ft.	\$27,543.61	\$15,567.59	\$11,976.02



Figs. 9-14. 25th anniversary: Fig. 9. Jim Frevert explaining field plantings. Fig. 10. Janet Schildroth discussing woodlot. Fig. 11. Robert Hibbs, Sam Gooden and Gene Goellner (left to right) observing windbreak plantings near building site. Fig. 12. Mother opossum and babies trapped in wildlife area. Fig. 13. Lois Tiffany answering questions about Farm and Academy. Fig. 14. Barbequed chickens being readied for lunch.



Figs. 15-20. 25th anniversary: Fig. 15. Lunch is served. Fig. 16. President John Downey presiding over program. Fig. 17. Iowa Agricultural Secretary Robert Lounsberry. Fig. 18. Harry Horner presenting Farm history. Fig. 19. Paul Waite (president-elect), Melvin Schildroth and James Frevert (left to right) discussing weather matters as they relate to Parish Farm crops. Fig. 20. Sam Gooden explaining non-farming conservation practices.

At a second Board meeting on October 3rd, the issue of obtaining a legal opinion about the sale of the Farm was debated. I objected to the recommendation since it had no bearing in light of the original bequest. A substitute motion was introduced by Dr. McCollum "that a legal opinion be obtained as to what should be in the Academy's Articles of Incorporation concerning the disposition of the assets of the Academy in the event of its dissolution." The motion passed. Later, another motion was made by me to earmark \$2500 for soil conservation practices on the Farm in 1978-79 and that any unused balance be carried over. The motion passed. Letters from the chairs of the Finance and Farm Committees supported this motion.

These last events precipitated a rather long Parish Farm Committee meeting report on November 4, 1978 in which defense of the bequest and the Farm were presented. Then a review of the Farm was made related to house, classroom building, terraces, public relations, lease arrangements and wild life plantings.

About this time, Paul Christiansen sent a letter to President

Goellner about Hanson's "self serving" attitude in his report of Farm Committee activity in 1977-78. Paul was upset at the continual bickering that had been going on and concerned about the need for clarification of the role of the Farm in the Academy affairs. Hanson responded to this letter on December 4, 1978 to the Board of Directors in which he felt Paul's allegations were serious and unfounded. Bob spent a good portion of this letter reiterating various issues and criticizing the Farm Committee for its lack of reasonable communication. The Board was to meet December 16th.

Hanson sent out a report to the Board of Directors on December 7, 1978 in which three items were significant. The first was a statement made by him on page 2: "Since the last Board meeting I have written two memos to the Board, one in connection with the executive needs of the Academy and my own workload, and another last week in response to a rebuttal from the chair of the Parish Farm Committee [Christiansen]. One sound principle of association management that I violate consistently is 'write only when it's absolutely necessary.'

Between the misunderstanding of what I read and the misunderstanding of what I write, the wisdom of that principle is all too clear. I have managed to generate a lot of extra work for others as well as myself in matters related to my workload, the state appropriation, and the Farm, along with some understandable resentment. However, things are more recently looking better (to me, at least) and I trust that we can move along now to accomplish important things for the Academy." The other two items were that an independent auditing firm, Sid Smith Co., would audit the Hertz account for the Farm and a report would be made from an attorney, LeRoy Redfern, with regard to the status of the Farm in terms of the IRS reporting and any changes in the Articles of Incorporation (Redfern's letter was attached).

It is worth diverging for a moment here to summarize the body of Redfern's letter (seven pages). In it he stated that "... unless the Academy can show that the farm is unproductive, or the income therefrom is insufficient to sustain the Academy as an entity, or some similar compelling circumstance, it is unlikely that a court of equity would authorize sale of the farm." Redfern further felt the farm should be listed as an asset and that no change need be made in the Articles since the Board and Academy members would decide how the assets would be distributed upon dissolution. As a result, the December 16, 1978 Board meeting was relatively free of discussion of the Farm.

Arising out of earlier discussions of the overall management of the Farm came a suggestion from Bob Hibbs (Farm Committee Chair) and Stan Grant (Board member) to contact State Representative Cooper Evans. Representative Evans owns the farm directly east of the 80-acre tract. The purpose was to follow up on a phone call by Stan Grant to Cooper Evans about assistance to the Board in reference to management of the Farm. The Farm Committee met with Cooper Evans for lunch in Grundy Center on December 27th. His comments indicated that the Farm could be operated without the need of a management service, that the 50/50 crop-share lease should be reevaluated, and that an Academy member living close to the Farm could manage it with only about two hours per month of time involved. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss the Academy in general and to provide background about the Farm. As Hanson stated in the January, 1979 IAS Bulletin (19), "Everyone left the meeting satisfied that the effect of the conversation was positive in every aspect."

The Board meetings in 1979, dealt very little with the Farm, and for once the officers and directors turned their attention to other matters. I was on sabbatical leave during the academic year 1979-80 so this period represents a void for me. Other matters such as the creation/evolution issue and the Iowa Natural Heritage book were in progress. The Board minutes for April 5, 1980, however, included two items worth noting: a motion was passed to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate the sale of the "all-purpose" building at his direction (this request came from Hibbs of the Farm Committee); and, based on further deterioration of the Farm house and additional repair costs (including possible damage to the Academy's reputation should a fire or other disaster occur there), a motion was passed unanimously to request the Farm Committee's concurrence with the Board's decision that the house be razed for salvage. This latter motion was addressed in a letter to President Don Huffman from Paul Christiansen on July 10, 1980. Paul said he had canvassed the Farm Committee and they agreed that the house should *not* be razed but that the present policy of rental be continued until such time that extensive repairs were needed. Paul did express disappointment toward the Board for taking such action without first consulting the Farm Committee.

A letter written by Hanson on July 16, 1980 to the Board raised the question of the relationship of Board prerogatives and action to committee recommendations, using Christiansen's letter as the example. The gist of this issue was a request that the Board decide who has the authority to make decisions.

The issue of selling the Farm came up again at the October 20, 1980 meeting of the Finance committee. The report of the Finance Committee praised the Farm Committee for its varied efforts on the Farm and agreed that the major improvements were about completed. There was a consensus that the Farm income generally exceeded what could be expected from the operation of the Farm. However, the returns did not reflect the earnings that could be obtained by investing the monetary value of the land in other ways. Several reasons were given for a possible sale: present 4-5% return could be 10-13%; reinvestment of cash value would demonstrate to potential IAS supporters that the IAS was properly utilizing its assets; sale of cropland would return land to the farming community; cash value would provide a broad financial base with interest from it supporting most IAS programs; and, higher return for assets would provide an incentive for potential financial help from other interests for the maintenance and/or the development of programs. The Finance Committee further discussed research of a "local lawyer who has a highly regarded reputation for his integrity and ability [unnamed]." His opinion was that the Farm could possibly be sold through court assessment and action. The meeting concluded with a request that the Board consider the sale of only the cropland along with the buildings but not the woodlot and the existing prairie.

Paul Christiansen addressed the issue of razing the Farm house at the Board meeting on November 1, 1980. He reviewed reasons for not razing it at the present time. The discussion took several different directions with William Brown saying that the discussion may be moot if sale of the Farm was to be considered. Brown argued that the Farm was not providing the necessary income and the ongoing farm programs were not unique. Further discussion ensued. It was finally decided that the original Board motion to raze the house was inappropriate. Another motion was introduced to postpone the question of razing the house but directing the Farm Committee to install some kind of fire escape from the second floor. The motion passed.

On November 5, 1980 Hanson sent out the minutes of the November 1st, Board meeting. He added a personal reaction to the meeting in which he again criticized spending so much time talking about a \$700,000 valued Farm that brings in only \$20,000 each year and ended up deciding to install a fire escape in a sub-standard farm house.

Christiansen informed the Farm Committee of the Board's decision in a November 13th, memorandum. He stated that the real problem in the next few months was to develop convincing arguments that the Farm is a benefit to the Academy in ways other than financial. I think Paul, as well as others like myself who believed in retaining the Farm and developing it, felt that there was a serious hiatus developing between the Board and the Farm Committee. Obviously, the Academy's costs were escalating, thus the need for additional income was accentuating the "farm problem."

Christiansen sent a first draft of the position paper to the Farm Committee on January 6, 1981 and the completed one to President Huffman on March 16th. The paper titled "What Does the Parish Farm Mean to The Iowa Academy of Science" covered the same points presented many times in the past by the Farm Committee. The position paper was discussed at the annual Board meeting with what Bob Hibbs characterized as "Why don't you..." questions. The Farm Committee was asked to meet on June 12th, to again go over these concerns with the possibility of writing the answers to why the committee did or did not carry out the points that were raised.

In May, I was asked by the Board to enlist experts who could provide an in-depth review of the Farm. I made several contacts within Iowa State University and was directed to Sydney C. James, Department of Economics, and Larry D. Trede, Agriculture Foundation/Agriculture Education. They agreed to carry out an independent review of the Farm and to determine whether the Farm was providing

optimum income while demonstrating desirable conservation practices. Specifically, the Board and Executive Director wanted them to address the following points: to assess the management by Hertz; to assess the tenant; to review the farming and non-farming practices with respect to optimum income associated with the most acceptable conservation practices; to review the status of the farm buildings and, particularly, the farm house in terms of their value to the farm operations and suitability for habitation; and to determine whether the present agreements with the management service, farm tenant and house tenant were equitable and to the best advantage of the Academy. It was requested that the report be ready for the June 12th Farm Committee meeting. I said I also would transmit it to the Board of Directors.

The report, completed on June 8th, covered all of the points outlined in the initial letter sent by me. The report was basically complimentary to the way the IAS had developed the Farm through Hertz Farm Management Service. The main points in the report were: that the house was substandard and should be reevaluated when it is vacated; the current lease was equitable, however, under different conditions a cash override or custom farming may be more advantageous; the Farm crops have provided yields higher than the averages for the county; the manager and the operator are well-qualified, professional people; the Farm is earning a return on investment equal or better than crop share rented farms in Iowa; a question was raised about the value of the woodlot and prairie to the Farm's income; and, the farm manager should report to the Board as well as the Farm Committee in order to prevent future misunderstanding about decisions affecting the Farm.

The Farm Committee met on June 12th, to discuss the report and go over other Farm matters. The Committee's discussion centered around the terms of the lease and division of the profits. Income figures were questioned. These questions were addressed in a letter by Hanson to Drs. James and Trede on June 16th. Hanson's letter contained an addendum in which he asked further questions: is the management of the farm being handled adequately and is the owner/operator crop-share lease fair to the Academy; and, is the farm, as an asset, yielding the best income for the Academy that it could — i.e., is retention and operation of this valuable asset as a farm really the best way of providing income for the operation of the farm?

Drs. James and Trede responded to Hanson on June 25th, by answering all of the questions posed by the Farm Committee as well as the two additional ones by Hanson. The answers to the last questions were presented in general terms because of the complexity of the bequest with regard to the 75-year stipulation. However, the summations were that the management was fine and that under the present arrangement our income was optimum. Sale of the Farm at this time would probably bring more than \$2870 per acre (minimum \$688,800; an unnamed source not listed in the report suggested about \$840,000).

Hanson summarized the report to the Board on June 30th, as indicated previously. On October 15th, Hanson submitted a Report of the Executive Director to the Board in which he expressed the hope that the *ad hoc* Long Range Planning Committee would address the issues of "... the future directions of the IAS and whether the Academy wants, needs, or can afford full-time administrative staffing. This question is sufficiently broad to allow for many things, but the central issue will turn out to be the financial base of the Academy if expanded activity is contemplated. The possible selling of the farm may be a dead issue in view of the positions taken by our president [Grant] and our president-elect [Horner], to say nothing of the deterioration of the economy. Predictions in this area are relatively worthless, as the record of the past 10 years shows so clearly."

The October 31, 1981 Board meeting included discussions of the James and Trede Report and an extensive report of Farm activities given by Jim Frevert and Bob Hibbs. The Board seemed to be

satisfied with the contents of these reports. Actually, the Farm was now at a point where all the major capital improvements were complete and a seed corn contract had been negotiated with Pioneer Seed Co. The issues still remaining in the minds of some officers were the state of the Farm house and the possible sale of the Farm.

Hanson submitted a Report of the Executive Director for the period of November 1, 1981 to April 15, 1982. In it he also stated this was the last year he would be responsible for the Annual Meeting because of the addition of the new Associate Executive Director (James Macmillan). Near the end of the report Bob added a paragraph worth noting as it relates directly to the Farm. "I have some recommendations to make but at the same time, without recommendation, I would encourage the Board to consider whether we have need for a Parish Farm Committee now that the capital improvements are completed for the foreseeable future. I would suggest the possibility of returning this Academy asset to the concern of the Finance Committee where it belongs and where it was before the Farm Committee was created. While the Farm Committee has done a remarkable job of planning and executing soil conservation improvements, the split of responsibility for the financial aspects of the farm between the Finance Committee and the Farm Committee has obviously created some problems. I have fairly strong feelings about this, but I don't feel I should make a definite recommendation in view of my 'lame duck' status. I would agree that the Farm Committee be asked for their input, but it should not finally be that committee's decision about its continuation. This is another area in which the Board could be decisive."

The Farm Committee met at the Annual meeting on April 17, 1982. The committee decided to reject a request by Sam Gooden to convert the alfalfa/brome area to native grasses because of the potential hazard to neighboring property due to a prairie burn. Also, it had been learned earlier that the house tenant would vacate. The Committee had voted to raze it soon afterwards; a request was made to the Board for \$600 to raze the house and clean up the site. The Board approved both recommendations by mail ballot on April 21st (they were reported in the June 17th, Board minutes).

The attention of the Academy was now turning to other involvements such as replacement of the editor of the Proceedings, some changes in the bylaws, and external fund raising. The latter included a conference with Wayne Liljgren, President of the Iowa College Foundation. His visit with the Board on June 17th, provided an insight into the complexity of a campaign and the costs involved. As part of his presentation, he suggested that the Parish Farm bequest and management should be used to full advantage to encourage similar bequests to the Academy. This point was utilized in 1983 when a color brochure was developed by the Farm Committee, featuring the Parish Farm, and distributed to the membership dealing with gift giving.

On January 24, 1983 Hanson sent a letter to the Finance and Farm Committees notifying them that he had received information from Gerald Schnepf, Executive Director of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation dealing with the 75-year restriction on sale of the Parish Farm. Bob cited the Iowa Code (section 614.24; 20) that seems to release the Academy from the 75-year restriction because of a 21-year limit placed on such restrictions. Bob ended his letter by saying that "I'm not sending this around to support any argument in favor of selling the farm, but I think it is important for us to realize that it is no longer valid to argue against that on the basis of the 75-year ownership 'requirement' stated in the bequest. There are, of course, other arguments for the Academy keeping the farm, but they should be stated so that a continuing resolution about the farm can be adopted by the Board."

A statement of Farm Committee philosophy about the Parish Farm was, in fact, presented in that committee's Report to the Board of Directors on April 7, 1983. It is my understanding that Gene

Goellner was largely responsible for its contents. The statement of philosophy is as follows:

Why should the Iowa Academy of Science operate a farm?

Whereas, the Parish Farm was willed to the Iowa Academy of Science in 1960 with the stated intent to provide annual income for at least 75 years, this income having provided more than 25% of the IAS budget in recent years; and

Whereas, in addition, the IAS Parish Farm can and does serve as a model central Iowa working farm, where current and changing methods of tilling, planting, and cropping can be demonstrated free from the bias of commercial sponsorship; and

Whereas, at a time when every agricultural organization — federal, state, county, and private — expresses deep concern over soil losses, the IAS Parish Farm, in cooperation with the SCS, can show farmers, 4H and FFA clubs, and others, successful examples of conservation tillage, terracing, and grassed waterways; and

Whereas, as wildlife habitat and native Iowa flora shrink steadily as a result of fence removal, drainage, et cetera, the IAS Parish Farm, in cooperation with the Grundy County Conservation Board, includes 21 acres set aside for wildlife cover, food plots, trees, and a small prairie which, as it develops, will exemplify Iowa's most famous natural heritage, now largely converted by fire and plow to our rich croplands; and

Whereas, while most of these features are easily visible from the boundary roadways, successful "field days" for area farmers and field trips for local elementary, high school and church groups have been conducted, with good publicity for the IAS in major papers;

Therefore, we hold that the IAS Parish Farm serves not only as a source of income, while the basic land value is being well protected, but also as a unique educational tool for demonstrating good agricultural practices and disseminating enlightened environmental attitudes toward land use. Further, we believe that these features of farm management are in conformity with the broad educational aims of the Academy and enhance the Academy's image in this preeminently agricultural state.

Since 1983, the Parish Farm has not been the center of any major debates within the Board of Directors or committees. It has reached a stable level of operation with the completion of all major conservation practices, the 10-year GCCB lease is near term, and the Farm house is gone. The Farm is now producing a net income for the Academy of over \$30,000 a year.

All of the discussions and correspondence that have been just presented reflect the feelings and points of view of many members/officers of the Academy during the past 10-15 years. The differences of opinion were deeply felt and honest. They were expressed openly or written down for all to read. Thus, this saga of the early Farm history as it relates to the Academy is a contrasting one indeed. The Farm was given to the Academy in 1960 at a time when the Academy programs and yearly affairs were at a plateau.

Approximately seven to eight years later, an executive secretary position was created and filled by Robert W. Hanson. The Academy began to move. With the increase in activities there was an evident need for more income. In 1970, the Farm was reorganized under the model farm concept. This reorganization contributed to the increase in Academy activities but it was evident that the improved Farm income would not satisfy the Academy's expanding budget. Therefore, a conflict of interests arose which already has been well documented. All of this was inevitable because the importance of the success of both movements, expanding Academy activities and developing the Farm, were necessary to the well being of the Academy. Having been intimately involved in both aspects, I have spent many hours struggling with the arguments posed for and against the Farm. However, my early conviction of honoring the bequest of Jessie A. Parish that the Farm be retained by the Academy for at least 75 years, never has wavered. Others in the Academy also shared this point of view. Likewise, there were others in the Academy with the opposite view. I believe both points of view were important to the well being of the Academy and demonstrated the vitality of the organization. One

cannot choose a protagonist or an antagonist in this episode, only individuals whom I believe had honest points of view and who openly defended their position.

A VIEW INTO THE FUTURE

At the time of writing this article (summer 1986), the 25-year history of the Farm is behind us. The information regarding all aspects of the Farm operation, including income, are in the record. What will happen to the Farm in the future? Academy leadership changes at regular intervals as do the members on committees. Times change with regard to the economy and the directions that science and science education take. All of these factors will influence the Academy programs, policies and philosophy. Given enough time, any one of them will generate pressures that will stimulate discussions and written commentaries much like those reported in this article.

I believe that whatever happens in the future, the Academy's membership and officers will respond in the same open and honest ways that they have in the past. They will do so because they are professional scientists and science educators, because they have the responsibility of maintaining a scientific organization with a long and illustrious history, and because they believe in the democratic system of operating the Academy. It is also my belief that the Academy's officers will periodically review the place of the Farm within the Academy affairs, both financially and otherwise. Will it be considered a resource or a liability? I cannot answer this question for those who will follow; however, wisdom is attained through involvement and through an historical perspective, not through expedient decisions made to solve immediate problems.

I am pleased and honored to have been part of the Academy during this important and exciting period in its history. The experiences and personal interactions were most rewarding, and the opportunity to be part of the "farm problem" will forever be remembered. Jessie A. Parish will never know what excitement she bestowed on her future Academy colleagues. We certainly owe her a debt of gratitude.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

The information used to write this updated history has been derived from several sources: my first Farm article (4); Hertz Farm Management Service, Inc. 1970-1986 Annual Reports for the Parish Farm (#326 Parish); and my own file records and recollections as a member of the Finance and Farm Committees, Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Several individuals have contributed their time and information to make this history more complete. I especially want to thank Robert Hibbs, Nels Lersten, James Macmillan, Paul Christiansen and James Frevert for reviewing the manuscript, contributing information and checking accuracy. I also want to thank Robert Hibbs, Burton Loupee and James Macmillan for contributing most of the photographs, and Joanne Nystrom and Sharon East for their clerical help. The facts which have been presented here are correct as far as I know. Any deletions or misrepresentations of events or individuals are unintentional and any interpretations or specific emphasis placed on certain aspects of this portion of the Farm history are solely my responsibility.

1. The IAS was founded in 1875 and was active through the early 1880's, at which time it failed to meet for several years. The Academy was reconstituted in 1887 and has held an annual meeting every year, except for the war year of 1945, when the Office of Defense Transportation requested that no conventions be held (2, 3). The 1945 Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science was compiled from manuscripts of papers that would have been presented at the 1945 annual meeting. It was customary at that time for all contributed papers to be submitted in manuscript form prior to each meeting. The papers from meet-

- ings from 1887 through 1893 were published in Volume 1. There was no meeting in 1903 due to a change in the month of the meeting. For these reasons Volume 100 will be published in 1993.
2. HANSON, R.W. 1975. The Iowa Academy of Science: 1875-1975. *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 82:232. See p. 14.
 3. GOUWENS, C. 1945. Report of the Secretary. *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 52:20, 21.
 4. HORNER, H.T., Jr. 1975. The Iowa Academy of Science Parish Farm: A dream about tomorrow. *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 82:33-46.
 5. MOSER, L.A. 1985. Successful 25th for 'model farm.' *Reinbeck Courier, Iowa* 106(39):1, 2, Thursday, June 20.
 6. Lease agreement between Grundy County Conservation Board (Lessee) and Iowa Academy of Science, Inc. (Lessor) on April 5, 1978; Tract 1 term (March 1, 1978 thru February 28, 1988; Tract 2 term March 1, 1979 thru February 28, 1988.
 7. GRIFFITHS, L. 1978. Parish Farm at Reinbeck serves Academy. *Waterloo Courier, Iowa*, Sunday, April 30.
 8. ANONYMOUS. 1978. Grundy Co. conservation tillage field day June 13th. *Reinbeck Courier, Iowa*, June 8.
 9. ANONYMOUS. 1978. Conservation tillage field day Tuesday at farm near Reinbeck. *Grundy Register, Iowa*, June 8.
 10. ANONYMOUS. 1978. Conservation tillage field day is June 13. *Farm Bureau Spokesman*, June 10.
 11. ANONYMOUS. 1978. Tillage plots observed. *Reinbeck Courier, Iowa*, June 22.
 12. ANONYMOUS. 1978. Terraces constructed this year on 12 Grundy farms. *Grundy Register, Iowa*, June 22.
 13. ANONYMOUS. 1978. Terrace construction increasing. *Reinbeck Courier, Iowa*, September 21.
 14. ANONYMOUS. 1978. Conservation-tillage-clinic planned for Monday, Jan. 11. *Reinbeck Courier, Iowa*, December 28.
 15. ANONYMOUS. 1978. Conservation clinic scheduled. *Conrad Record, Iowa*, December 28.
 16. ANONYMOUS. 1979. Conservation-tillage clinic. *Reinbeck Courier, Iowa*, January 4.
 17. ANONYMOUS. 1979. Conservation tillage clinic slated here next week. *Grundy Register, Iowa*, January 4.
 18. HANSON, R.W. 1978. Annual report of the Iowa Academy of Science 1977-78. *Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 85:106-119.
 19. HANSON, R.W. 1979. Farm committee reps meet to share ideas on farm management. *The I.A.S. Bull.* volume 13, January.
 20. Iowa Code, section 614.24, page 3156.