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THE STATE CONVENTION IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE HOLD SUCCESSFUL MEETING

Last Friday, Saturday and Sunday, a number of delegates from the various chapters of the state, met in the K. C. opera house in O'Neill and held one of the most successful business sessions in the history of the organization.

Dr. S. P. Cresap of Nebraska City, president of the state organization, with Miss Mildred Malone of this city, secretary, called the convention to order at nine o'clock Friday morning. Following the invocation by Rev. H. D. Johnson, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of this city, Mayor C. E. Stout gave the address of welcome, presenting the large key of the city to Dr. Cresap in a pleasing manner; the Dr. responded in behalf of the convention in his pleasant and efficient way.

Dr. G. E. Condra, Dean and Director of the Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska, spoke Friday morning at the meeting, of the Izaak Walton League on the subject of "The Conservation Problems of Nebraska." He told of the Platte River becoming bone dry in the middle channel, while the eastern and western channels are full of water; this is caused by the fact that this section is underlaid by gravel; the waters are draining off and the underflow goes to make up the Blue and Little Blue Rivers, and are drained off into the Republican too. The effect on wild life and fish is tremendous due to this. If an investigation now under way, proves that reservoirs and the soil can hold the flood waters, the river can probably be made continuous and a regular movement of fish and other wild life can be made along its channel.

The lake levels must also be regulated so that wild life will not van-

ish. The two-fold purpose of thickets was shown when Dr. Condra told of their value as a refuge for wild life and also an aid against erosion and loss of land.

Dr. Condra closed by calling attention to need of good sportsmen; the contacts between the Waltonians and ranchers must always be cordial; a true sportsman does not destroy property, nor does he wantonly and carelessly kill and shoot at livestock or horses.

Following luncheon Friday, Dr. S. P. Cresap, president of the Nebraska Division, delivered his message to the convention; he told of the progress of the organization during the past year; he stressed the fact that it is a militant organization and is set for the protection of wild life and the out-doors; that it is furthermore an ideal organization; that it is not just a fish and gun club, as many people think, but is idealistic in its teachings of unselfish devotion to the principles of conservation. Dr. Cresap referred to ex-President Coolidge and President Hoover as each ardent supporters of the Izaak Walton League and each have expressed themselves as regarding the League as our most effective organization for national conservation. Dr. Cresap at this time asked that his name be not considered by the committee on nominations for the office of president for another year.

During the afternoon vocal selections were rendered by Mrs. Hawley W. Heriford and Miss Amelia Merrill, which were greatly enjoyed by the convention.

Following is the address of M. K. Reckord, general manager of the Izaak Walton League of America, whose home is in Chicago, Illinois:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Izaak Walton League of America, a national non-profit organization without political or religious affiliations, is the defender of our woods, waters and wild life, and is saving the great out-of-doors of our ancestors for posterity.

The whole country is interested in the League's program as never before, and that interest grows by leaps and bounds every year. The call of the out-of-doors has not been responded to at any time by our people as it is at this moment, and that call will be heeded constantly more and more—but what is being done to protect and perpetuate our outdoor attractions?

The American tourists spend \$750,000,000 annually within the United States. The statistician tells us that more than 40,000,000 people of this country are constantly traveling the highways—in Canada alone the visitors from our country spend over \$300,000,000 each year and it has been officially stated that there are 15,000,000 anglers, hunters and trappers within our boundaries.

Just these few items alone prove beyond a question of doubt the great economic value of every effort to conserve our outdoor resources.

One of the greatest believers in the out-of-doors is President Hoover, who has been Honorary President of the League for several years. Our President goes camping and fishing and has stated that he does so in order to relax and return to the woods and streams with their simpler life of the frontier from which every American springs.

If we are to continue this rather strenuous fast moving life that we are all leading today, won't we have to return to the simpler life of the frontier ever so often to rest our jagged nerves and relax from the worries of our every day world? Some persons call it recreation, but isn't it really "re-creating" our people so that they will continue to be useful and better citizens?

The League, which was founded in Chicago on January 14, 1922, by fifty-four far visioned men, has grown tremendously and is recognized as our country's most outstanding and authoritative general conservation organization. Why is that? It is because you, members of the League and in fact most of our American citizens realize that we are charged with the trust of preserving our outdoor resources for future generations. You want your boy and your girl and their children to have that soul stimulant of the simpler life of the frontier. You dread to think of the consequences that would face our children if they did not have the great out-of-doors and if modern civilization were allowed to advance without thought of conserving our outdoor heritage.

Because of the strong membership of our chapters, representative of every part of the United States, the League has accomplished many conservation achievements of a national character. I am going to take the time to briefly mention a few of these gratifying projects.

Your organization sponsored the legislation which resulted in the setting aside of the Mississippi Wild Life and Fish Refuge, an area of over 300,000 acres.

Other refuges which are of great importance were created by the state of Wisconsin purchasing the Horican Marsh containing 40,000 acres, and the establishment of a permanent lake and wild life refuge of 20,000

acres in the Cheyenne Bottoms in central Kansas.

The restoration of Albermarle Canal Lock in Virginia will also restore 300 square miles of waterfowl wintering grounds and bass waters.

The League took a prominent part in securing the act of February 18th, 1929, authorizing an expenditure of eight million dollars for a ten year program to establish a nationwide system of inviolate Federal Bird Refuges.

The great elk herd at Jackson Hole Wyoming was saved from starvation by the League raising \$40,000 and purchasing and maintaining 2,000 acres of hay lands.

Enactment of Federal laws to stop the marketing of Black Bass over the entire United States, and to provide funds for hatcheries and laboratory development devoted largely to game fishes, are outstanding accomplishments.

Of course you all know that the saving of the Superior National Forest in 1924 as a wilderness area for recreation, the only area of its kind in the United States, was a huge task for the League. This was the first step towards making this magnificent likeland territory located in Canada and the United States an international playground. The project was further advanced when our 71st Congress passed legislation that will control natural water levels and protect shoreline timber in this area.

I think one of the most appealing conservation activities was the legislation which your organization secured for the reclamation of the Bear River Marshes in Utah, thereby saving from destruction millions of waterfowl.

The League has assisted materially in obtaining legislation for an extensive nation-wide forest purchase project, for which the Government has allowed eight million dollars.

The destruction of outstanding scenic assets of our country, such as the Royal Gorge, in Colorado, the Potomac Falls near our national capitol and the Cumberland Falls in Kentucky has been prevented.

The devastating Mississippi Flood of 1927 seriously affected our conservation programs in the Mississippi Valley, therefore, the League cooperated in drafting and securing the enactment of national flood control legislation for the territory.

This will give you a fair idea of the scope of our broad national program, and in addition, you must not overlook the stupendous local conservation accomplishments by the chapters of the League which are located in practically every section of our country.

Your national headquarters is actively promoting other national projects that when successfully completed, will still further protect our natural resources for the coming generations.

You are proud to have had a part in such a program—all of us are. I like to think that the League is not only consecrated to conservation, but is also consecrated to the service of humanity.

The Chapters of the League are the effectiveness and the force which makes these accomplishments possible—without the support of an active membership in the local chapters, your national organization would be ineffectual, and the message I want to leave with you is the necessity of concentrating your efforts of giving service to the community in which your chapter is located, and interest your citizens in being identified with the League. Make your chapter a real power in the community and keep your members interested in the obligations they have undertaken.

I cannot fail to mention the League's publication, Outdoor America, which is recognized as the authority on all conservation matters, and is of vital interest to every person who is giving support to the activities of the League, or in any way in protecting the God-given out-of-doors.

It is gratifying to all of us, I know, to look over the long list of distinguished and noted writers and artists who are contributing each month to this publication without one penny's compensation. They, like such men as George E. Scott, president of the Izaak Walton Conservation Foundation, which has been formed to endow the work of the League; George Edgar Vincent, our national President; Willoughby G. Walling, chairman of the executive board, and thousands of others of our American citizens voluntarily give unstintingly of their time and effort to further this great movement, and are saving the great out-of-doors of our ancestors for posterity.

W. C. Henderson, associate chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., addressed the convention on the subject "Wild Life Conservation Developments." He very interestingly told of the development of various species of game and wild life in Canada and Alaska, as well as parts of the United States. He also explained what the government is doing to promote the conservation program and the protection of bird and game life through its jurisdiction.

The convention, through Mr. Henderson, is endeavoring to move the closed season on ducks and geese

from September 16th to October 1st; and to secure the services of a deputy game protector on the Missouri river from Sioux City, Iowa, to the eastern boundary of Montana.

A bridge party for the ladies who accompanied their husbands to the convention, was held at the Country Club, Friday afternoon; the party was sponsored by the O'Neill Woman's Club.

Friday evening a band concert was held on North Fourth street, west of the Golden Hotel, in which the Orchard, Page, Ewing and O'Neill bands participated; there were fifty pieces in the band under the leadership of Dr. C. H. Lubker, director of the O'Neill band.

At ten o'clock Friday evening, at the Royal Theatre, Frank B. O'Connell, secretary of the Game, Forestation and Parks Commission of the state, assisted by George E. Condra, state conservationist of Nebraska, showed his moving pictures of Nebraska Wild Life and explained them as they were shown.

Friday evening was rounded out with a balloon and confetti ball given by the American Legion of O'Neill at the K. C. opera house, with Standiford's dance band furnishing the music.

The convention listened to three-minute talks Saturday from chapters present, on Chapter Activities, that was very interesting and instructive. W. A. Rothschild, past secretary of the South Dakota Division, gave an interesting talk on what is being done in South Dakota to promote conservation and the protection and propagation of game and fish. His talk was well received.

Saturday afternoon the convention was addressed by Karl E. Mundt, president of the South Dakota Division, who took as his subject "Walticism, a Patriotic Obligation."

During the afternoon Mrs. George Agnes and the Reardon sisters rendered vocal numbers that were greatly applauded.

Governor Weaver was unable to address the convention as scheduled because of an accident that occurred at the state capitol building that required his presence at an investigation that day.

Ira D. Kyle, secretary of the Omaha chapter, and who is the president elect, gave a very interesting talk on Chapter Activities; he stressed the fact that each chapter must have a definite working plan, and the co-operation of its members as well as from the people generally, to carry on successfully.

Sheridan Simmons, one of the oldest sportsmen in the state who is

taking an active part in the affairs of the Izaak Walton League, was present and made an interesting ten-minute talk to the convention telling of his experiences in Nebraska among the buffalo in the early days.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

State President—Ira D. Kyle, Omaha.

State Secretary-Treasurer—Miss Mildred Malone, O'Neill.

Vice-Presidents—

1st District—John Flynn, Sr., South Omaha.

2nd District—H. D. Swalley, Nebraska City.

3rd District—Fred Gordon, South Sioux City.

4th District—F. C. Pollock, David City.

5th District—W. J. Nisson, Oxford.

6th District—I. A. Goff, Hay Springs.

Directors—

W. C. Betzer, Lincoln

Chas. W. Kellar, Omaha

Art Baldwin, Fremont

A. A. Misk, Valpariso

D. M. Shaffer, Alexandria

M. F. Kirwin, O'Neill

Norfolk was chosen as the city in which the next state convention will be held.

The business session of the convention came to a close Saturday evening with a six o'clock banquet in the K. C. hall at which 150 covers were laid. The menu was served by the ladies of the M. E. church.

The following program was given:

All sing "America"

Toastmaster—Rev. O. A. Fortune

Invocation—Monsignor M. F. Cassidy

Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission—Webb Rice, Vice-Chairman G. F. & P. C.

Address, Congressman Edgar Howard

Vocal Solo—Thelma Riley

Wild Life Pictures—Fred Gordon

—Menu—

Fruit Cocktail

Fried Chicken Vegetable Salad

Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Creamed Peas Rolls and Butter

Olives Celery

Pie with Whipped Cream Coffee

Ice Tea

Sunday was Sports Day. A trap shoot was held throughout the day at the Gun Club grounds east of the city where many enthusiasts remain-

ed throughout the day taking part in and watching the events.

During the afternoon K. M. Beegle well known crack shot, who is also a representative of the Peters Cart-ridge Company, was present and gave a very fine exhibition of fancy shooting, doing many shots that ordinarily seem impossible.

Those who cared to make the trip were taken to the Hydro-Electric dam north of O'Neill on the Niobrara river where they viewed the immense proposition.

During the afternoon a bait casting contest was held on a down town street where the wind was not so severe.

In the one-half ounce event, Dr. J. M. Perrigo, Norfolk, won first, and Henry Marquardt, Norfolk, second.

In the five-eighth event Eddie Martin, Fremont, won first and Henry Marquardt, Norfolk, second.

In the contest for boys under 16 years, Earl Marquardt, Norfolk, won first and Robert Lubker, second.

The three days program came to a close with a barbecue at the Country Club at six o'clock in the evening.

The convention from a point of attendance was not as large as it should have been but from a view of the information received and work accomplished it was one of the best conventions yet held by the Nebraska Division.

The business men of O'Neill responded generously to the request for decorations appropriate to the convention and as a result almost every window in the city was beautifully decorated. It is impossible to mention the windows individually but we must say that many were considered by the judges in their summary before they finally concluded that the bakery window was entitled to the \$10 prize for the best decorated window.

RESOLUTIONS

In submitting its resolutions your resolutions committee feels heavily the weight of responsibility it has been asked to assume and solicits your full thought, discussion and comment to the resolutions which follow:

WHEHEAS, under the present game laws of the state of Nebraska the open season for shooting ducks, geese and other migratory birds opens on September 16th and at that early date in the fall many birds are still too young to protect themselves from hunters and great numbers of said migratory birds are slaughtered only to spoil on account of the

(Continued on page five.)



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	29x5.00 — \$10.45	O. S. — \$6.90
	31x5.00 — \$11.25	
	TRUCK—A. W. T.	
	30x5.00 — \$20.50	
	32x6.00 — \$32.40	

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