POLK HANDGUN SALES DOUBLE

Expect Ouster of Decker From D.M. Project 2,081 GUNS

CHURCHMEN **ALSO WANT** AN INSPECTOR

Move to Assure Quality Housing

By James Risser

The Des Moines Area Council of Churches is expected to tell the City Council Monday night that Omaha builder Don Decker will be dismissed as construction manager of the church group's low-income housing

The churchmen reportedly also plan to recommend the hiring of an independent architect as a sort of super-inspector to keep an eye on the construc-

Certify to City

When the 300-unit Homes of Oakridge project is completed, the architect would certify to the city that it has been built properly and according to specifications.

Officers and directors of the Council of Churches' housing corporation met in private Thursday morning in the office of their attorney to discuss recent disclosures of Decker's background, which includes a federal court conviction for making false statements to oblain a loan insured by the Fed eral Housing Administration

Spokesmen for the church group declined to say what took place at the meeting, but said a statement will be presented to the City Council at its regular meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at City Hall. E. First and Locust streets.

The Sunday Register learned from reliable sources, however, that "Decker will go." The churchmen agreed to ask their contractor, Lloyd E. Clarke of Des Moines, to see that Decker does not take part in the project, the sources said.

The FHA-approved project, designed to partly alleviate the acknowledged need for housing for low-income families here. will be built on 16 acres of Oakridge urban renewal land

DECKER -Continued on Page Six

WEITZ TO BUILD **POST OFFICE**

The Weitz Company, Inc., of Des Moines has signed a contract to build the new \$7-million University avenues, it was an on how this country should be run. nounced Saturday.

postal facility is a joint venture would do if they were a candi- war"-John Ferden. of C. H. Leavell and Co., of El date for presi-Paso, Tex., and McCloskey Co., dent. Their Inc., of Philadelphia, Pa.

Both firms are in the construction business. The Leavell firm, which is the sponsoring tion's problems and goals partner, picked Weitz to do the actual construction.

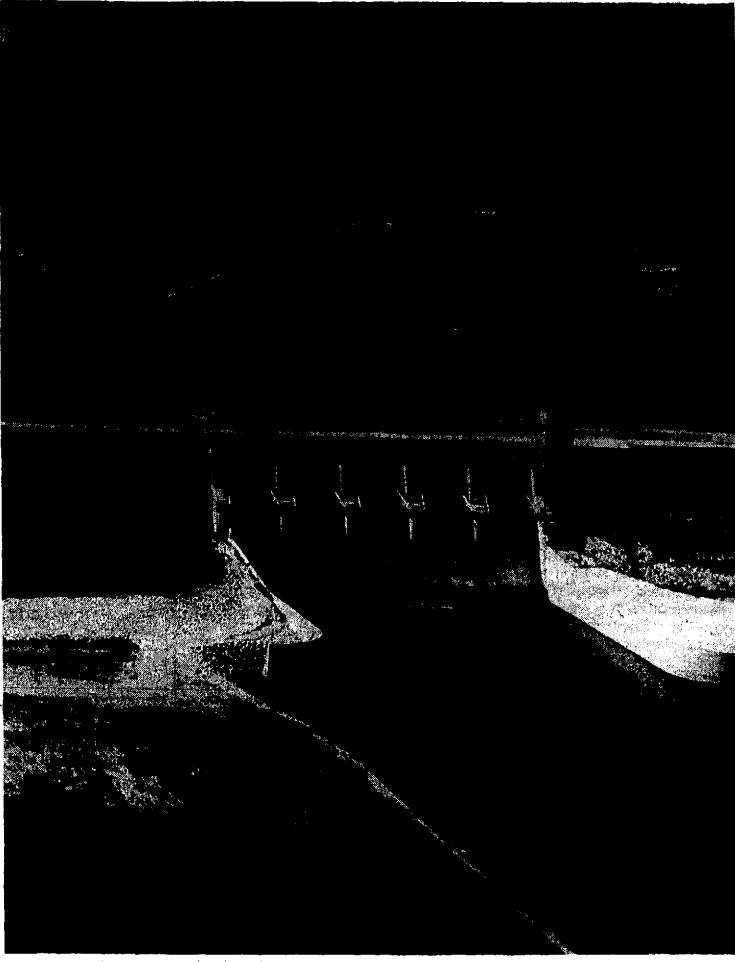
The 113-year-old Weitz firm has built many large Des Moines buildings and currently is constructing a parking ramp at Fifth avenue and Locust street, an addition to

the Des Moines Art Center and several other large proj-Construction of the new, main;

distribution facility will begin never stop" -- Tim Holden. immediately on the southeast corner of Second and University, in the River Hills urban Wong. take two years.

Project architect is Emery-Prall and Associates of Des safe" -Randy Schmidt.

The Leavell and McCloskey robbing" -Pam Anderson. ity, leasing it to the federal on every corner" - Kevin government at an annual rent of Sutton. \$684,575 for 30 years. The Leavell-McCloskey joint bid was Tammy Yezek. the lowest of nine bids received by the Post Office Department | tions" -Sherry Hennigar. and the contract was awarded to the two firms on Apr. 16.



A Step Closer to Completion

Completion of the huge Red Rock Dam on the Des Moines River moved a step closer last week when the Army Corps of Engineers diverted the river through the dam to signal the final stage of construction. The diversion, which had been planned for late June or early July, was decided upon last week when a weather forecast indicated the usual

June floods would not be forthcoming this year. With the river now flowing through the dam's outlet structure, construction of the dam's earth embankment across the old river channel has been started. The dam, which will back up 9,000-acre Lake Red Rock, is scheduled to be completed June

Campaign Plank: Waste Baskets on Every Corner

PLYMOUTH, IA. — The first grade students of Mrs. Ellen main post office at Second and Harris at Plymouth Elementary School have some definite ideas

The first graders were asked, The owner-lessor of the new by their teacher what they

p latform state-DES MOINESS ments clearly sum up the na-

in a few short words: The young 'pray' -Wayne Solomon. candidates have also discovered - But perhaps Tammy some problems that not even Aguilera had the most winthe adults knew existed.

what should be done to correct birthdays," says Tammy.

ing birds" — Lorna Stone.

"I would have puppet shows" -Debbie Severson.

schools'-Becky Johnson.

"I would stop people from

"I would stop the war" --"I would answer good ques-

—Mike Garvey.

, "I would burn papers" David Hamilton. "I would stop the killing"

Kehan Knapp. "I would want everybody to

ning campaign slogan.

The first graders' views on "I would give everybody two

"I would say no more shoot- Seventh Day of Summer Heat

Hot, summer-like weathers business of covering an impost office and regional mail "I would say the world would continued in lowa Saturday for the seventh straight day, and is "I would stop riots" -Henry expected to remain in the state

renewal area. Construction will "I would not let kids quit Saturday's high temperatures ranged from 96 at Mason City "I would keep the animals to 87 at Dubuque. Des Moines' high was 91.

Light thundershowers moved firms will own the postal facil- "I would put waste baskets across the extreme northwestern counties in the morning and: again in the evening.

Winds were again from the south at 15 to 25 miles an hour. In the eastern counties there "I would help stop bad fires" were occasional gusts of more than 30 miles an hour.

Over the Coffee.

Film Replaces Real Tragedy

TUDGED AS a communica-U tions medium, on the basis "I would help lowa with the of day-to-day performance. television ranks somewhere between a Captain Midnight Secret Code Badge and a commencement speaker with laryngitis.

> In times of crisis, however, it sometimes falls to lower

As the California primary moved toward its moment of horror early Wednesday, viewers of KRNT-TV in Des Moines were watching a third-rate Italian movie.

While other stations were involved in the unrewarding Portant election, KRNT was running off "Stromboli," a film whose chief distinction is Power Fails in that its star, Ingrid Bergman, and its director, Roberto Rossellini, carried on a scandalous love affair during its production some 15 years ago.

This is not to say that KRNT-TV ignored the election. No, it carried the CBS

But the coverage was so expeditious - so efficient that the station felt secure in leaving the scene early, much in the manner of a

bright student who finishes an exam ahead of his slow-

er-witted compades.

 $B^{\mbox{OTH NBC}}$ and ABC, frustrated by the sluggish vote count in California, waited hours before firmly predicting a Kennedy victory.

CBS, on the other hand, was confidently forecasting a big Kennedy victory minutes after the close of the polls. With less than one per cent of the vote counted, and with Eugene McCarthy holding a 46-41 percentage point lead, the network was projecting an eventual 48-41 Kennedy win.

An hour later the projection bad risen to a 52 per cent Kennedy majority. NBC and ABC, clinging

Continued on Page Seven

three hours Saturday night it ,

spokesman said the power out vard turn off student spokesman said the power out. Parnell was taken to Vetage occurred about 5 p.m and eran's Hospital where he was. The envelopes, each contain- grades won't be able to keep was repaired about 8.30 p.m. treated for lacerations. ing grade slips for each pupil, quiet about it for too long.

ON HIGHWAYS TO ASSASSINS

By James Flansburg Do the assassinations of Rob-the river. ert Kennedy and Martin Luther accidents?

there's the possibility.

Seven hours Saturday morn-

more than 22 years old; he was Eleven persons were injured n auto accidents during approx-

mately the same period. The eldest was 25. Of seven accidents, six were single-car accidents. The only two-vehicle crash involved the

32-year-old and the 25-year-old. In Des Moines, Colonel Miller reported that preliminary studies indicate a rash of single-car accidents in Iowa and most other states this spring.

He emphasized he was speak ing generally, and not specifically about any one accident, and then explained his view:

"I'm trying to blame it on a state of mind. I know that it's a hard theory to believe.

the whole generally-disturbed matter that settles to the river view people have of things right bottom. The lack of flooding this

"Quite a few of these noncollision type accidents-that's of such material. the term for an accident involving only one car-have involved oxygen in the water is used up the under-25 driver, the obvious- rapidly. The water temperature ly-concerned group.

driving is a full-time job. It needs your full attention, and you run dangers if you're involved mentally with other things.'

Convertible

Crash

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA. -Jayne Floyd, 17, and Steven the possibility of an unknown were injured in a spectacular samples of the river water will ing goods stores and pawn convertible crash about 2:30 be tested Monday at the State shops. One Des Moines are Saturday on old Highway Rapids.

driven by Donald Wermer, 17, bass and catfish. of Ottumwa, missed a curve, City personnel were patrolling traveled 300 feet through a the stream, warning people to small grove of trees, went over stay away from the water. a 50-foot embankment and flew 150 feet through the air, coming to rest upside down.

Wermer was at a Cedar Rapwere David Dillard, 18, of Cedar Rapids, listed in serious condi-

ACCIDENTS-Continued on Page Three

Car Splits in Two

only minor injuries Saturday in face to ferret a spectacular one car accident out "what Joe DES MOINES on the MacVicar Freeway in got in algebra."
which his automobile flipped But, it's an inover on its top and split in two exact process at best. Parnell, 27, of Altoona, appar- the Anamosa High School li- some, 3,200 individual grade

ently went out of control when brary, a can of beer at your slips (carbons of the originals) Sector of D.M. the right front tire blew out. The elbow, and thumb through the and get them into their proper car, which was going east on the final grades for the 580 students envelopes for mailing Wednes-About "seven to 15" homes freeway, skidded into the guard in the school. in northwest Des Moines were rail in the median and turned That's what happened here Thus far, Lambert said, offiwithout electricity for about over, pinning Parnell beneath last weekend

when an overloaded trans- of the car broke away from former at Forty-fifth street and the body and went about 90 the grades were to be mailed Beaver avenue blew a fuse. feet on the south side of the An Iowa Power and Light Co. freeway near the Easton boule-

LINKS DEATHS Probe Major Fish-Kill on Cedar River Rise in Permits for

By William Simbro (Register Staff Writer)

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA. - Of- Increasing numbers of law-Patrol Chief Tells ficials are trying to determine abiding Iowans have been armthe cause of a massive fish-kill ing themselves with handguns such as revolvers and pistols. Of Youth 'Concern' on the Cedar River resulting in Sale of such guns so far this hundreds of dead fish being year in Polk County has

King have a bearing on auto mission official expressed fears haps elsewhere. that similar fish-kills may be, Col. Howard Miller, chief of experienced around the state if lowa law on sale of such the Iowa Highway Patrol, thinks the present hot weather con- weapons is a prohibition tinues.

There were reports of dead ing-midnight to 7-saw seven fish as far downstream as persons killed on Iowa high- Palisades-Kepler State Park, 12 port the sale within 24 hours to miles southeast of here near Among facts required on the Only one of the victims was Mount Vernon.

> clampdown on all recreational and the make and number of activities on the river within the the gun. city limits.

The two main theories of . the cause were a combination of unfavorable natural factors and the possibility of an unknown pollutant being dumped into the stream.

ing with the investigation, were crime and violence. leaning toward the first theory.

Leigh said the sudden hot weather and the low river level combined with the lack of spring flooding could cause the fish-kill.

Leigh explained that flooding; "But I think it has to do with scours out pollution and organic spring means the river bottom last year or two, records show. contains excessive accumulation

was 85 degrees at the point of "We've always contended that one test Saturday, Leigh said.

Fish reportedly were jamming up near a dam south of Cedar Rapids. An official said this indicated a desperate search for oxygen.

correct, other parts of Iowa lation of approximately 275,000. may be in for similar trouble, Leigh said.

Officials were not discounting

The kill, no respecter of The Highway Patrol said the species, included minnows, car, believed to have been carn walleye northern nike carp, walleye, northern pike, gun sales in Black Hawk County

PURCHASED THIS YEAR

Concealed Arms

By George Mills

washed onto the west shore of reached 2,081-nearly double the

1.059 sold to this date in 1967. A State Conservation Com-Black Hawk County and per-Sales also are up sharply in The only restriction in the

against selling handguns to minors.

The seller, however, must rethe county recorder's office. report are: Name and address City officials ordered a of purchaser, age, occupation

> In addition to the sales increase, the number of permits required to carry concealed weapons also has risen sharply in Polk and elsewhere, One major reason why more

State Conservation officers lowans have been buying and Ralph Leigh of Marengo and carrying guns is the fear Robert Mineck of Tipton, assist- aroused by riots and increasing Public attention centered on

nandguns last week when Senator Robert Kennedy was assassinated in Los Angeles. He was slain by bullets from a .22caliber revolver.

Fear Riots

The interest of Iowans in weapons of that character has become more widespread in the

The Polk County Sheriff's office estimates that close to He said that on very hot days 6,500 permits to carry concealed weapons have been issued to county residents so far this year, compared with approximately 5,000 in the corresponding 1967 period.

It appears safe to say there are at least 10,000 revolvers, pistols and similar weapons in possession of private citizens in Polk County, which includes Des If this theory of the fish-kill is Moines, and which has a popu-

Guns \$16 to \$160

Places to buy such guns are not hard to find. They fre-Wharff, 22, both of Cedar Rapids, were killed and three others
were put on ice. They and in goods stores and nawn a.m. Saturday on old Highway Hygienic Laboratory in Saturday of nearly 50 handguns last City.

De tested Monday at the Iowa merchandising unit nad a display of nearly 50 handguns last week. varying in price from week, varying in price from about \$16 to \$160.

Waterloo figures show handrose from 645 in 1966 to 1,351 in

Continued on Page Four

Beer-Drinking Thieves Get ids hospital in serious condition with head injuries. Also injured Final Grades--Everybody's

By Robert Kistler (Register Staff Writer)

ANAMOSA, IA. --- High school students have never been noticeably reluctant to discuss grades -- especially if the grades

belong to someone else. At the end of a school term, had been left on a table in the they manage - through casual school library so teachers could But Driver Safe conversation, rumors, or just put final grades in them Satur-

A Navy recruiter suffered other student's Anamosa

Police said the car, driven So, imagine the feeling of raw Principal Joseph Lambert and by Signalman 1 C Garland G power to be able to sit calmly in his staff managed to re-sort

When school officials came to work Monday - the day to individual students — the 580 envelopes containing every student's grades were miss-

Vandals entered the school after noon Saturday and made off with the report cards. In their place, they left two full cans of beer and several empty cans outside the building.

cials have no idea who the cul-

"But, we'll probably come up with something. Some of the kids have already begun to accuse each other of taking the grades.'

It's a reasonably safe bet that the kids who know everyone's GUNS ---

Continued from Page One

1967. So far in 1968 a total of 997 such weapons has been sold there, or an annual rate of more than 2,000.

Black Hawk County sheriff's office records show 3,427 permits issued so far this year for carrying concealed weapons. well ahead of the 3,043 such permits issued in the entire year of 1967. The Black Hawk total of such permits in 1966 was 2.516.

The still-unsolved murder of Dale Redman of LaPorte City last March has spurred gun sales to residents of that Black Hawk County town.

Sheriff Elmer Hightower said he has issued more gun permits to La Porte City residents since the murder than In his entire 11 years in his

Mr. Redman was shot eight times in the head.

Sales of 10 handguns were recorded on the Polk County Recorder's books Friday. This included a 28-year-old dentist who purchased a .38-caliber revolver, a 27-year-old mechanic a .25-caliber gun, a 51-year-old postal clerk a .22, a 61-year-old plumbing worker a .25, and a 51-year-old Story County doctor

a secretary, 42; a teacher, 53; a cealed weapons, about 200 to clerk, 46; a manager, 61. Also law enforcement officers. on the list have been a retired nurse, a housekeeper.

Purchaser "Unemployed" cluded: Bus drivers, realtors, penters, service station employes, truck drivers, custodians, one person who called himself "unemployed," and a few each from Iowa State . University and Simpson College.

Some of the purchasers gave addresses as far away as Winnebago County.

One enforcement officer said most of the increase in gun purchases has taken place in the Des Moines area in the past year. He is disturbed because the number of guns in possession of private citizens "certain-

Also, he said, many individuals buying guns "haven't had training in handling them, which is dangerous." Of the many thousands of guns in the area, he said, perhaps onefifth of them "are outmoded, which also is dangerous."

Having a gun around, he said, can lead to trouble "due to loss of temper, bad judgment or carelessness."

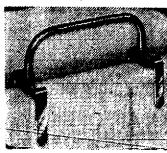
At Waterloo, Black Hawk Recorder Ramona Williams said some dealers "have been good about filing records on purchases and some have not." A Waterloo pawn broker has been ⊃ particularly conscientious, she said. Some dealers evidently are not aware they are supposed to file reports, she added. She expressed belief that "a lot more guns are being sold" now than formerly.

Reports in the recorder's office at Davenport listed 145 gun sales between Apr. 23 and June 4. The reports indicated lack of promptness in reporting some sales. The law says sales must be reported in 24 hours.

One supplier registered on June 4 a total of 55 sales that dated from as far back as Apr. 20. Another registered 30 on May 13 that dated in part

from Apr. 15. Most of the gun purchasers at

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New Des Moines Country Club

Architect's drawing shows new clubhouse and tects Associated, of Des Moines and Sioux City. pro shop for the Des Moines Golf and Country Club Contracts, totaling \$1,203,107, will be signed this to be built on a 475-acre site a mile and a half west week by W. H. Breiholz Construction Co., general of the Polk-Dallas county line. The three-level build- construction; Wolin & Associates, Inc., mechanical, ing was designed by Smith-Voorhees-Jensen, Archiand The Keating Company, electrical.

handgun purchasers. Two were liam (Blackie) Strout said he Linn County, perhaps 400 to en loaded gun for target practice if one in dangerous hands. other 42. Other feminine pur- has issued approximately 500 forcement officers and 1,000 to it is enclosed in a case too large. chasers included a cashier, 55; permits for the carrying of con-private citizens.

ficers for it, Strout said.

weapons in the year ended permit. Strout likes an Illinois law which gives a chief of police

authority to invoke a threeday waiting period on a gun buyer, between the time of of the sales in the county. purchase and the time of de-

Strout expressed belief that some persons are illegally; carrying concealed weapons in Davenport and Scott County but the sales record for his Sometimes, he said, he will Incidentally, he does not believe the original to the buyer "to does not know if the individual requiring registration of guns alert him that this gun is procures a recommendation by their owners and the collection in a permanent record." from a police officer. tion of a registration fee would Dubuque County Recorder

pressive, he said.

Police Check

Griffin suggested that en-He said he issues such per-forcement officers be given au-Other gun purchasers have in target practice and hunting pur from persons wanting to buy poses, but is reluctant to grant guns. A police check then could factory workers, porters, tavern such permits to persons for applicant to possess a gun. Grifoperators and bartenders, "protection." If an individual fin also recommended that ap-expressed belief the number of ness or on land he possesses. pharmacists, laborers, carfeels he needs protection, he plicants be required to take permits to carry concealed should ask law enforcement of training in the use of such guns, weapons presently in force "is Griffin said a photo or thumb- not too high for the population In Davenport there were 33 print should be required as ad- of the county." There are "a lot students, including at least one arrests for carrying concealed ditional identification on a gun more people engaging in target

> Kane reported 1,080 sales of want a weapon for protection. handguns in the county between

among individuals are reported, cars, he said. perhaps because of ignorance of Kane makes a photocopy of

Matt Rohner said all the dealers At the request of President Registration might act as a in that county co-operate in reg- Johnson, the staff of Gov. Hardeterrent in some cases but the istering sales of guns. Dubuque old Hughes last week began a over-all effect would not be im- Sheriff John Murphy said most study of the Iowa gun control permits to carry concealed laws. The President suggested At Cedar Rapids, First Dep-weapons are held by law en- "initiating any amendments

Davenport were between 21 and uty Sheriff George Griffin said forcement officers, bank mes- which may be necessary to pro- time of purchase also subjects A number of women have 40 years of age and many were 1,424 permits to carry concealed sengers and industrial guards. Vide additional safeguards and the individual to prosecution as been listed in recent weeks as industrial workers. Sheriff Wil- weapons have been issued in Murphy said Iowa law per- protection against deadly weap-

mits anyone to carry an unto be concealed on the person. Murphy said the law is vaguely five years in the penitentiary worded. For example, he added, for illegally carrying a cona person "could walk down the cealed weapon. The penalty apstreet with a loaded gun in his plies to the carrying of a dagmits to citizens principally for thority to receive applications hand so long as it was not ger, razor, stiletto or non-huntconcealed.' Target Shooting

shooting," he said, and an in-Linn County Recorder Pat creased number of persons who

He estimated that the number July 1, 1967, and June 4, 1968. of women with permits "may be Five dealers handle 95 per cent up in the hundreds." These include women who work at night Kane said few sales of guns and have to walk to parked

He said he turns down applicants he does not know as good citizens or who have no knowledge of how to use a gun. said they are few in number. permanent record. He mails issue a permit to somebody he

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ing knife, as well as a gun. No charge can be filed, however, if the act takes place in the indi-

The sheriff has the discretion as to whether he shall issue a

of up to \$1,000 fine and up to 30 days.

Polk Sheriff Wilbur Hildreth vidual's home or place of busi-

permit to an unofficial applicant

Unofficial Applicant

Iowa law provides a penalty tence in the county jail of 10 to

mits to sell from a chief of police, sheriff or mayor.

ment officers.

The Iowa Commissioner of Pub-

Dec. 31 Expiration

state officers and employes.

permit is subject to revocation the second time. Buying a gun and giving a false name at the a misdemeanor. Selling such weapons to minors carries a fine of \$25 to \$100 and a sen-

The Iowa Crime Commission has recommended: Better control of the movement of concealable firearms is needed at the point of purchase or distribution rather than through registration after purchase."

The commission said there is 'no effective way" that dealers can be forced to report gun sales to the recorder's office. The commission said there is

Applications must be made per-substantiate the value of gun ons problem — pawnshop and sonally with two exceptions. A registration in crime preven-bootleg sales." chief of police may apply for members of his department, tion." Such registration "would and officers of banks, transpor- be a costly and time-consuming mended a prohibition against altation, manufacturing and mer- alternative," the commission tering or defacing serial numchantile companies may apply said. Instead, the commission recommended "placing effective authorized under careful rules

issue permits to law enforce of sales and distribution . . ." A commission minority rec- for the purpose of committing a Permits to carry concealed ommended that all handguns in felony. weapons, issued by the sheriff. possession of private citizens be registered with law enforcement Boating Event are good all over the state, not just in the county of residence. agencies.

Spell Out Law

lic Safety may issue permits to The commission also recommended a law prohibiting sale of weapons, especially handguns, All permits are revocable and to persons suffering from menall permits expire Dec. 31 each tal disorders and to others, in- tures prevailed at the Iowa year. The issued permit must cluding drug addicts, chronic Great Lakes Saturday as the be carried on the person when alcoholics, "serious criminal of-second weekend of the season the concealed weapon is carfenders and the very young.' Possession and use by such Persons and companies selling groups also should be prohibsuch weapons must obtain per-lited, the commission said.

An agency such as the State Any person or company fail- tion would collect the informa- thirty-sixth annual sailing seaing to report such sales may be tion about gun purchases for son of the Okoboji Yacht Club, prosecuted for a misdemeanor centralized filing. Penalties for with 105 sailing craft, the larg-(usually up to \$100 fine or 30 violations would be more severe est in the history of the club, days in jail) the first time. The than the present misdemeanor. competing.

the commission said, would to carry a concealed weapon. "virtually no research data to 'help eliminate a serious weap-The commission also recombers. The commission further

suggested that an officer be The sheriff is required to centralized control at the point to search a person suspected of carrying a concealed weapon

At Iowa Lakes

(The Register's Iowa News Service) SPIRIT LAKE, IA. - Over-

got under way. Large early season crowds were present at the lakes.

Highlighting the weekend ac-Bureau of Criminal Investiga- tivities was the opening of the

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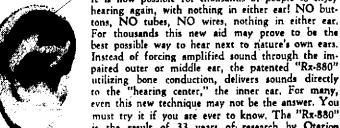
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