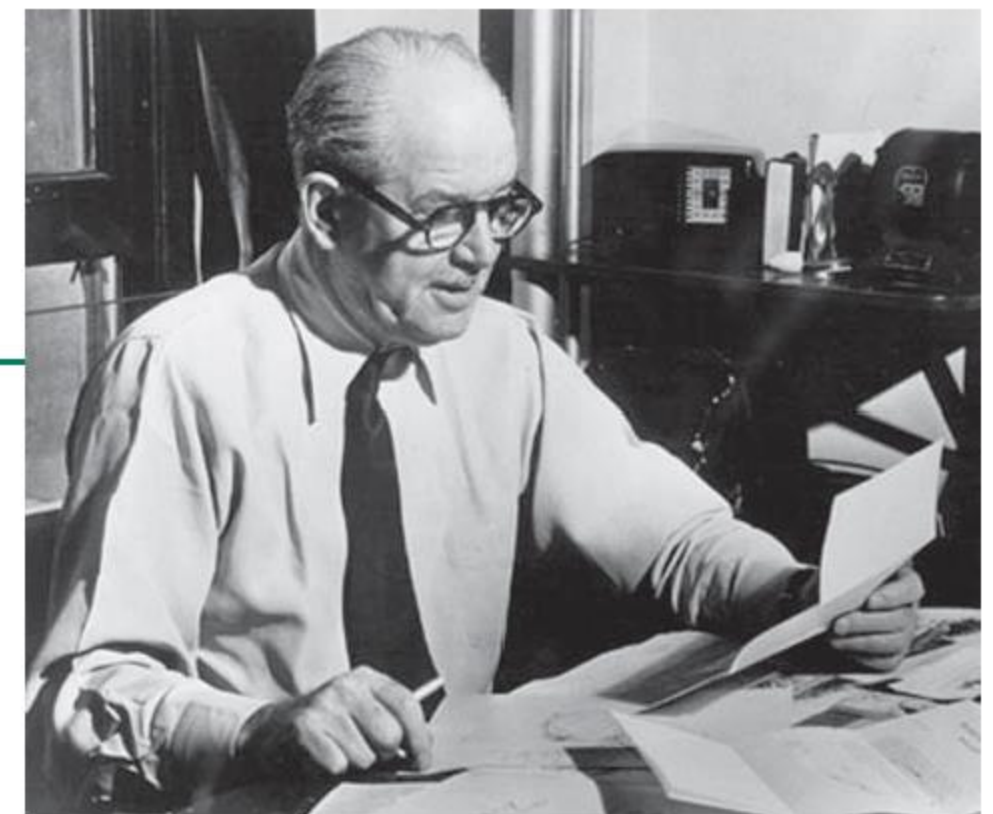


# Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling

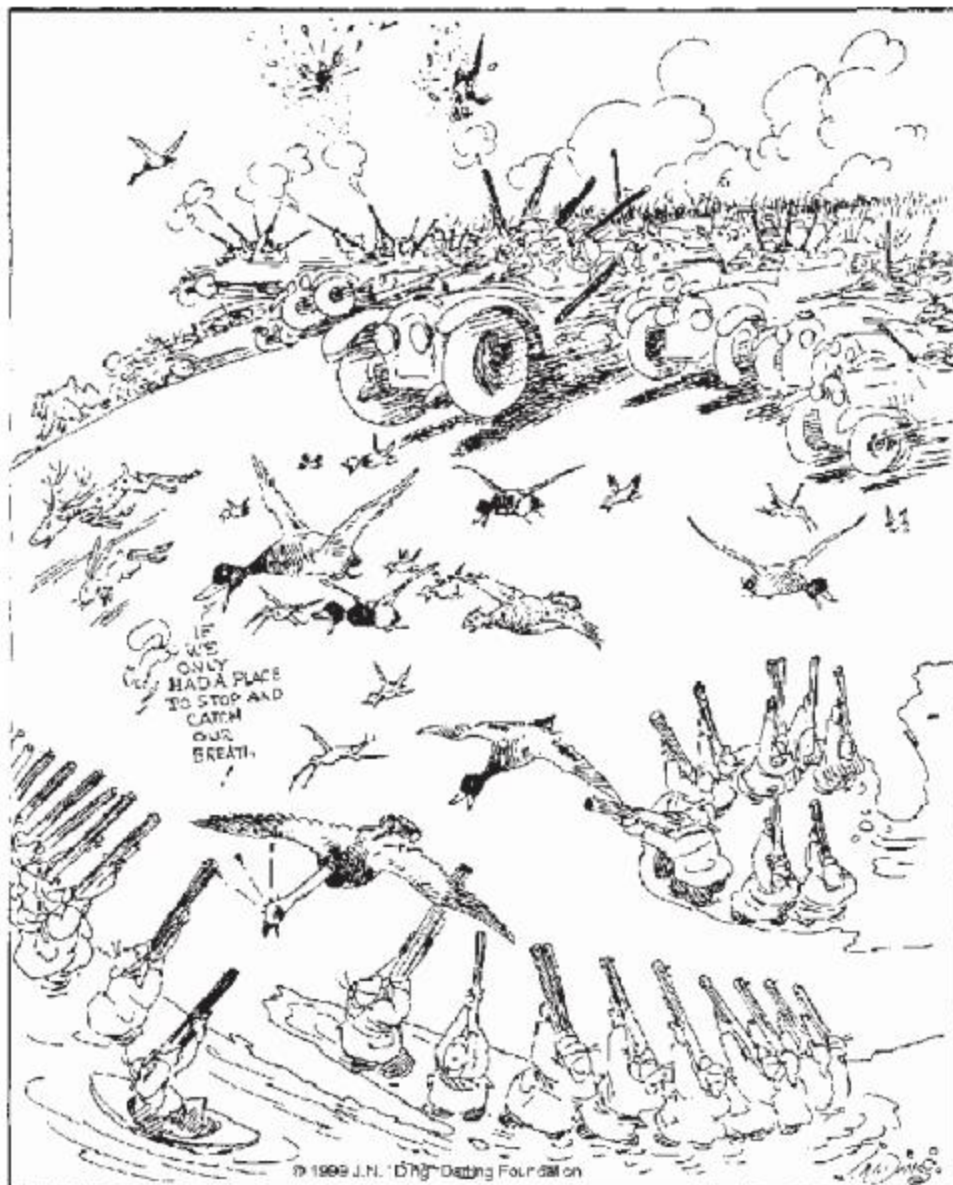
## American Conservation Hero



Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling, credit: "Ding" Darling Foundation

### Considerable Achievements

- Pulitzer Prize Winner, 1924 and 1942
- Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey (forerunner of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), 1934-1935
- Father of the Federal Duck Stamp
- First President, General Wildlife Federation (forerunner of National Wildlife Federation), 1936-1939



"Ding" Darling's famous cartoon illustrating the threats and resulting decline for waterfowl, credit: "Ding" Darling Foundation

Born in Michigan in 1876, Jay Norwood Darling was to become one of the most well-known men of his era. A nationally syndicated editorial cartoonist, he was famous for his witty commentary on the many different subjects that concerned the nation.

Darling began his journalism career in 1900 as a reporter with the *Sioux City Journal*. However, "Ding," who came by his nickname when he shortened his last name in his signature to "D'ing," was a talented artist and was soon drawing cartoons for the paper.

He began a long award-winning career with the *Des Moines Register and Leader* as a cartoonist in 1906. In 1924, "Ding" was honored with a Pulitzer Prize for a cartoon that espoused hard work. He would win this prestigious award again in 1942.

An avid hunter and angler, Darling became alarmed at the loss of wildlife habitat and the possible extinction of many species. As an early pioneer for wildlife conservation, he worked this theme into his cartoons and influenced a nation.

In July 1934, despite Darling's lack of experience in wildlife management and his lack of support for New Deal



The first duck stamp, credit: USFWS

programs, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to run the Bureau of Biological Survey, the forerunner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In his year and a half tenure, Darling created the Federal Duck Stamp Program. The program was the result of the passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting Act in 1934, requiring all waterfowl hunters 16 years and older to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp.

Proceeds from the sale of stamps were used to purchase wetlands for the protection of wildlife habitat. Darling even designed the first Federal Duck Stamp, which sold for \$1. Duck Stamp sales in 1935 raised \$635,000. Since Darling's first stamp, over \$700 million have been raised and more than 5.2 million acres of habitat have been purchased for wildlife.

Darling was instrumental in convincing President Roosevelt to call the first North American Wildlife Conference in 1936. The landmark session addressed the need for an organization to unite and speak for the diverse

individuals and groups seeking to protect wildlife and wild places. From that conference and Darling's vision grew the General Wildlife Federation — forerunner of the National Wildlife Federation — with Darling as its first president.

Darling officially resigned from the *Des Moines Register* in 1949 and stopped drawing cartoons, aside from a few for special conservation purposes. He died in Des Moines,

Iowa, on February 12, 1962.

### More information about "Ding" Darling

J.N. "Ding" Darling  
National Wildlife Refuge  
<http://www.fws.gov/dingdarling/About/DingDarling.htm>

"Ding" Darling Foundation  
<http://www.dingdarling.org/>

Political Cartoons  
<http://www.dingdarling.org/cartoons.html>  
<http://www.lib.drake.edu/heritage/ding-darling/index.html>

National Wildlife Federation,  
Conservation Hall of Fame  
[http://www.nwf.org/about/inductees\\_darling.cfm](http://www.nwf.org/about/inductees_darling.cfm)

Detailed Biographical Information  
[http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll/MSC/ToMsc200/MsC170/MsC170\\_DarlingDing.html](http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll/MSC/ToMsc200/MsC170/MsC170_DarlingDing.html)

Lendt, David L.  
*"Ding: the life of Jay Norwood Darling"*  
Iowa heritage collection ed. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1989, c1979. xi, 204 p., [60] p. of plates







- 1920 -



1930





" IF ELECTED I  
PROMISE . . . "







OK! HE'S FROM MY DISTRICT

OK! LAND

U.S.A.

POWER AID

RURAL AID

HOME AID

DRAINAGE AID

BANKERS AID

TRANSIEN AID

SOLDIER AID

HOUSING AID

FARM AID

GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO GO INTO POLITICS

MOSQUITOS

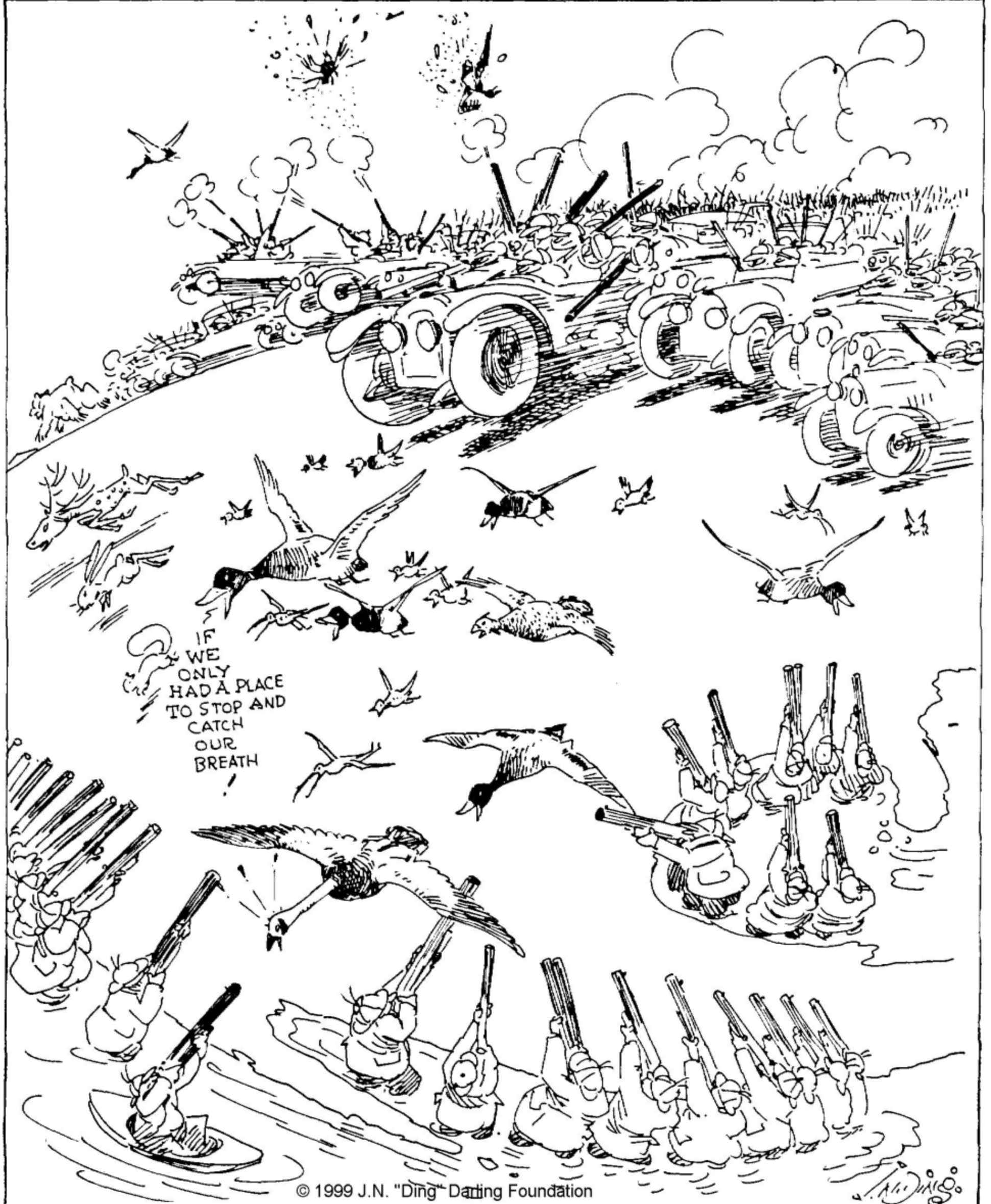
TOM MEEK





*Drying Up Wild Life*





IF WE ONLY HAD A PLACE TO STOP AND CATCH OUR BREATH

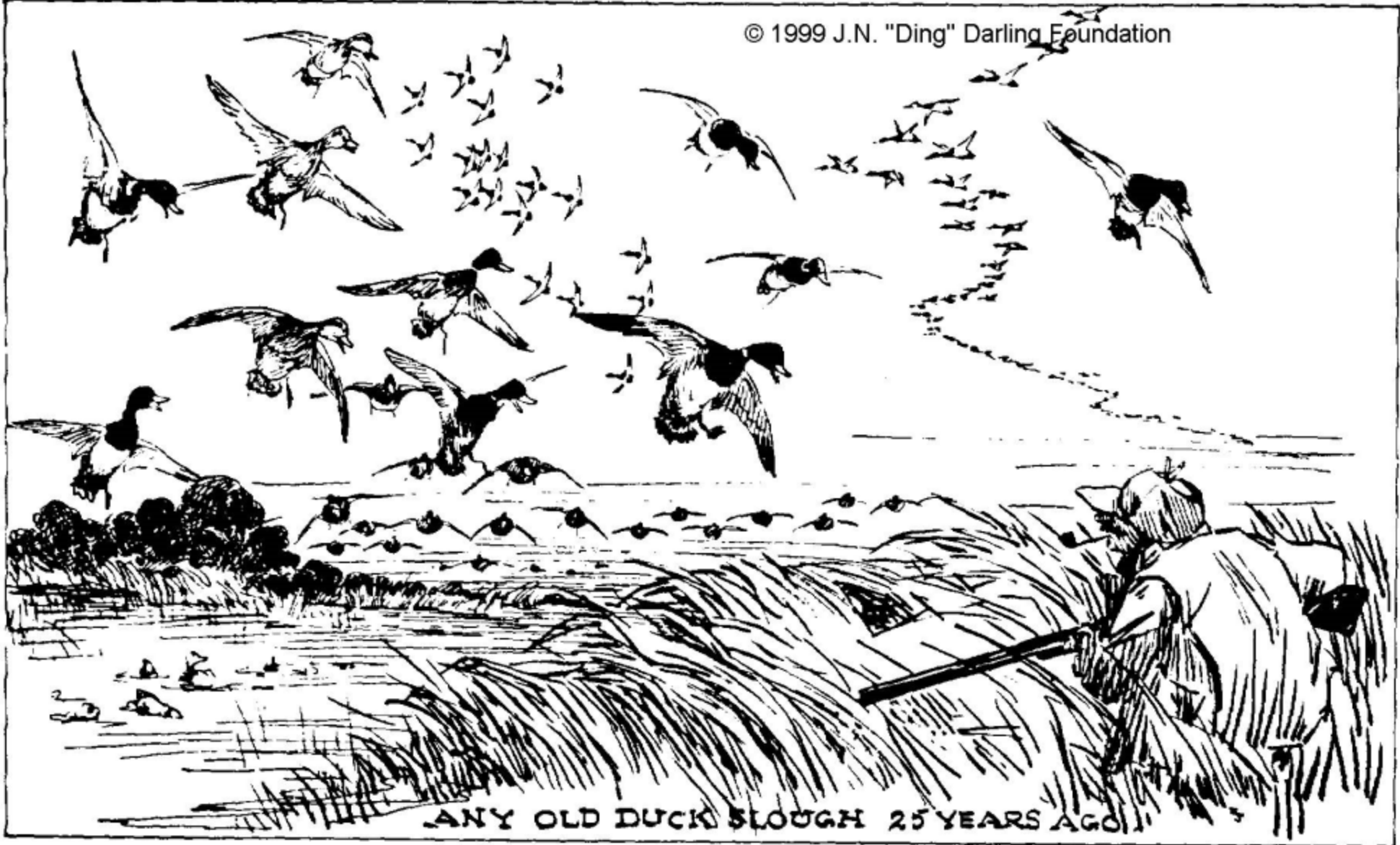


OH UNCLE JOHN  
PLEASE DON'T!

WAR DEPARTMENT







ANY OLD DUCK SLOUGH 25 YEARS AGO



THE SAME PLACE TODAY

Ding









- 1920 -



1930

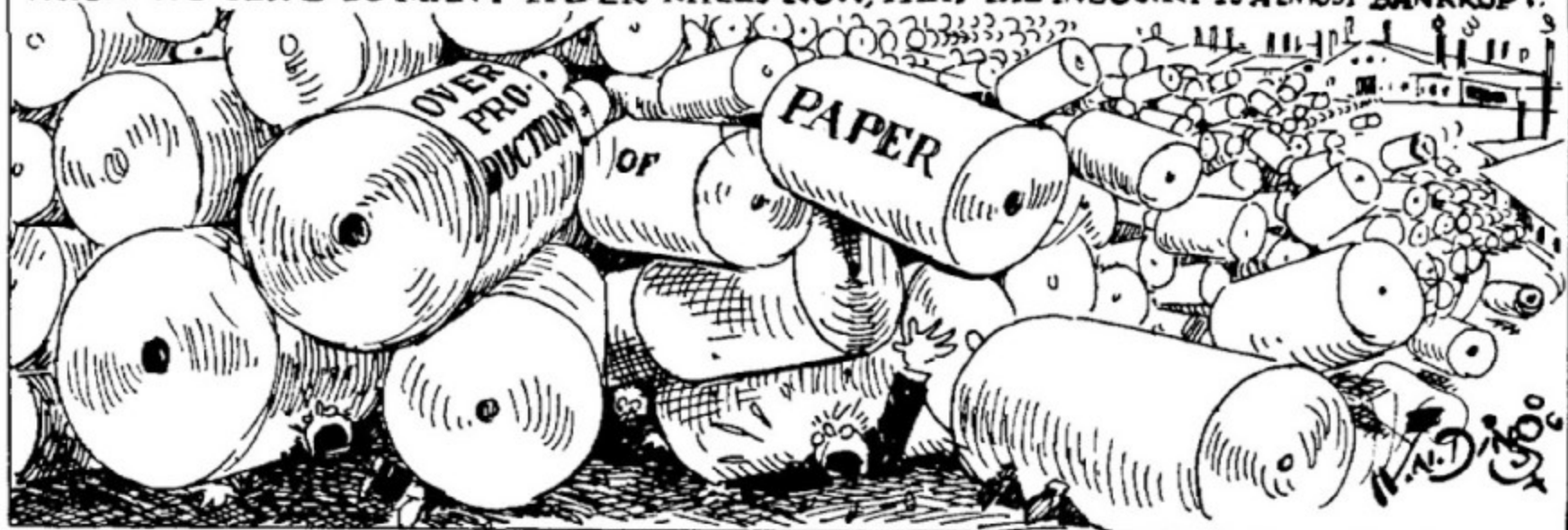






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WHEN WE HAVE SO MANY PAPER MILLS NOW, THAT THE INDUSTRY IS ALMOST BANKRUPT.

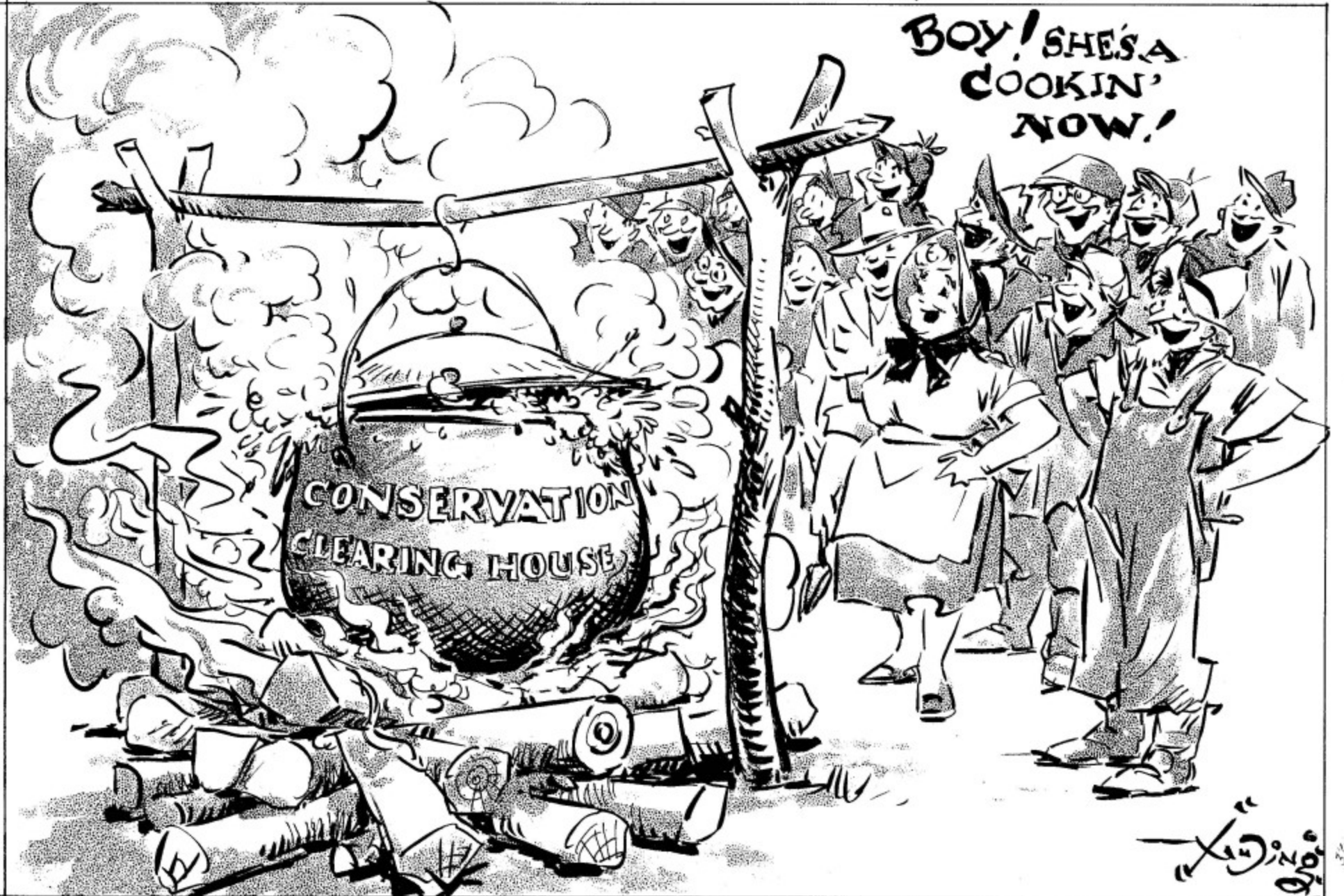




IT IS HARD TO START A FIRE WITH ONE STICK, BY YOURSELF.



BUT IF YOU COULD EVER GET THE FIRE LOGS TOGETHER IN ONE PILE —



200,000,000 (1945) 5,3145 (1945) (ref in newspaper) Not in 1945





THE BIOLOGICAL  
SURVEY  
WASN'T SO  
CRAZY  
AFTER  
ALL

**HOME COMING DAY ON THE OLD SLOUGH**