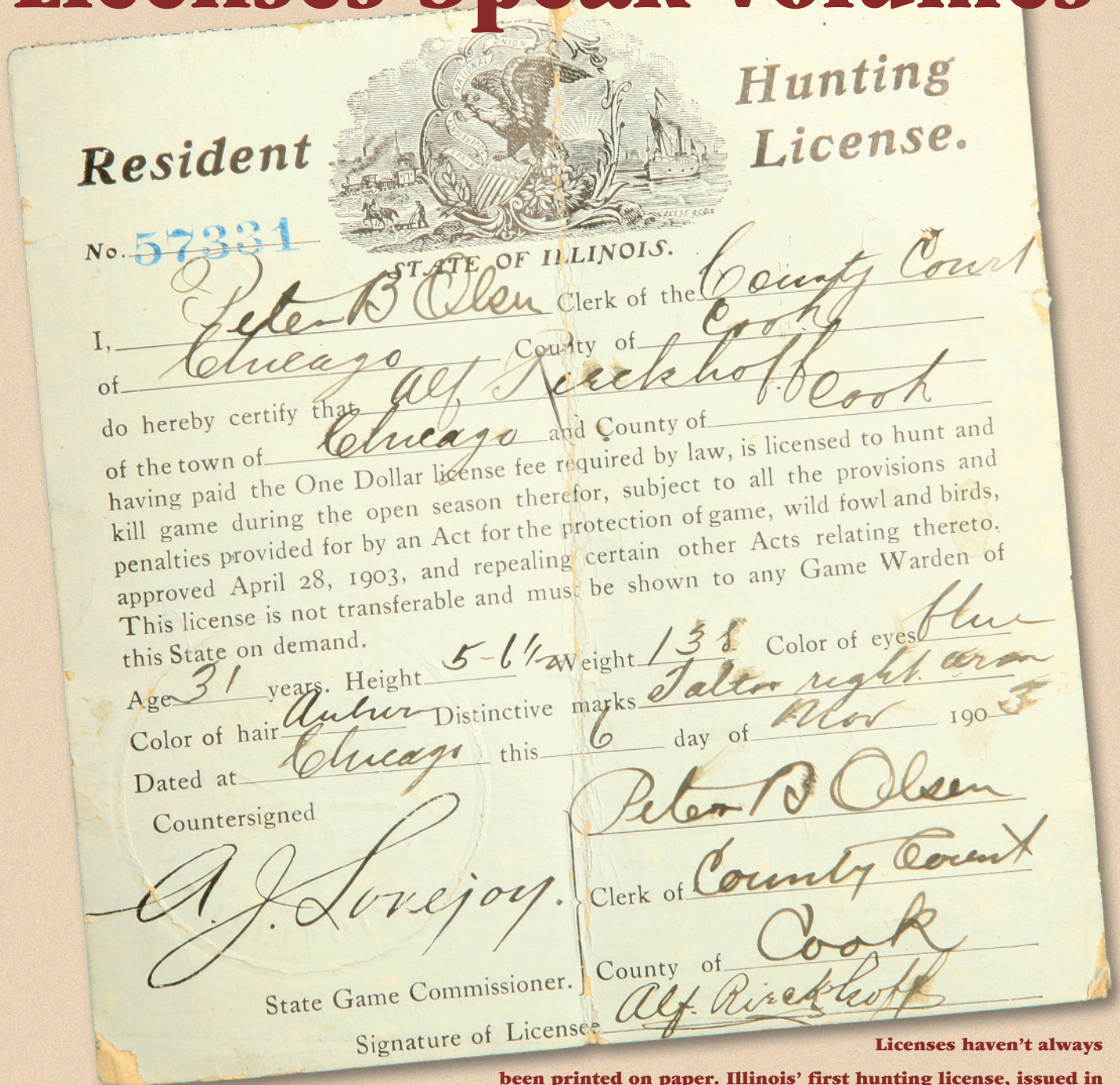


The recent authorization of increased license fees provides cause to reflect on 106 years of hunting license history.

Licenses Speak Volumes



Licenses haven't always been printed on paper. Illinois' first hunting license, issued in 1903, was printed on fabric. Not until 1913 were paper licenses issued.

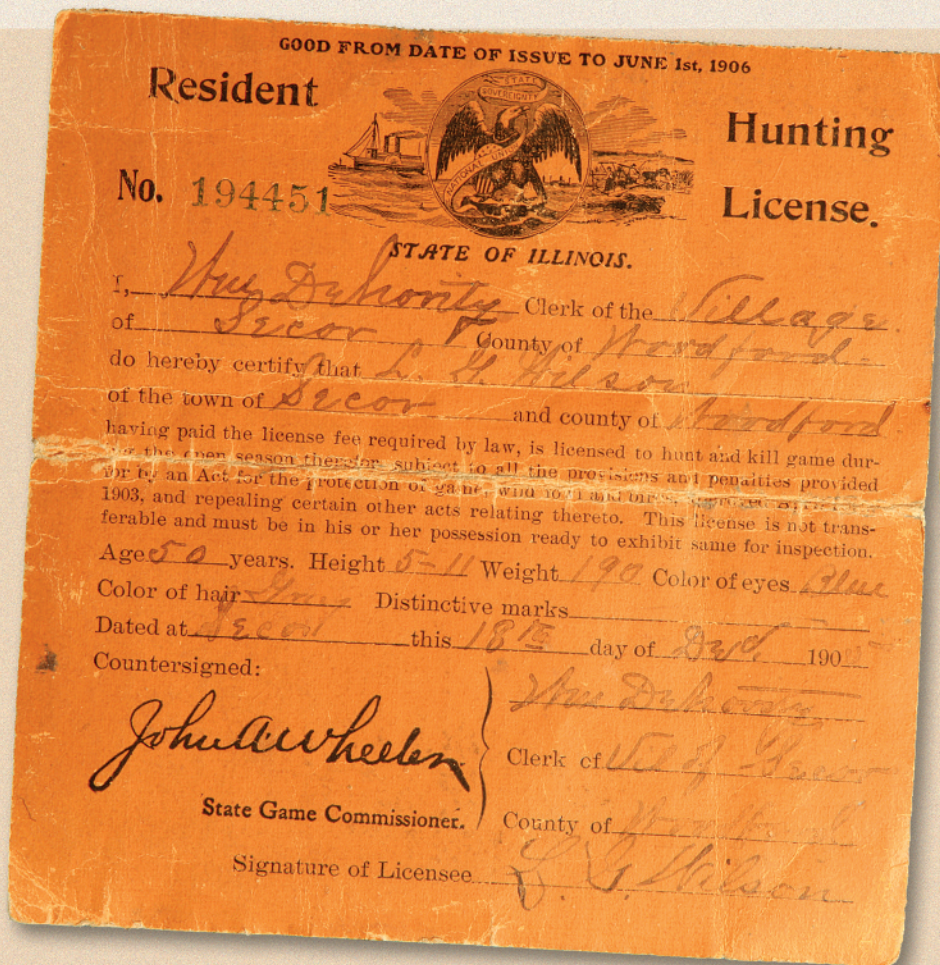
Story By Kathy Andrews, Photos By Adele Hodde

Phil Houser's collection of 106 years of Illinois hunting licenses started when he set aside his first license, purchased in 1963

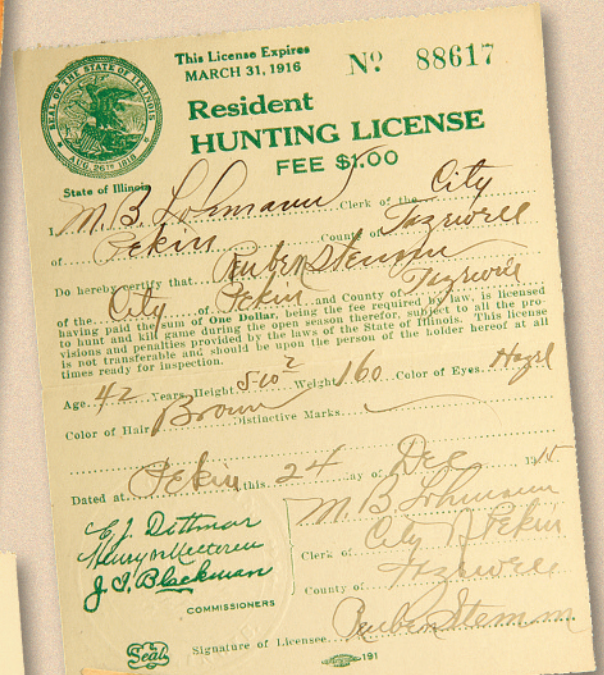
at the age of 10. Each year, he saved his license and his father's, and over time picked up a few from friends or while visiting a sports show. Only recently

did he start a concerted effort to fill in the gaps.

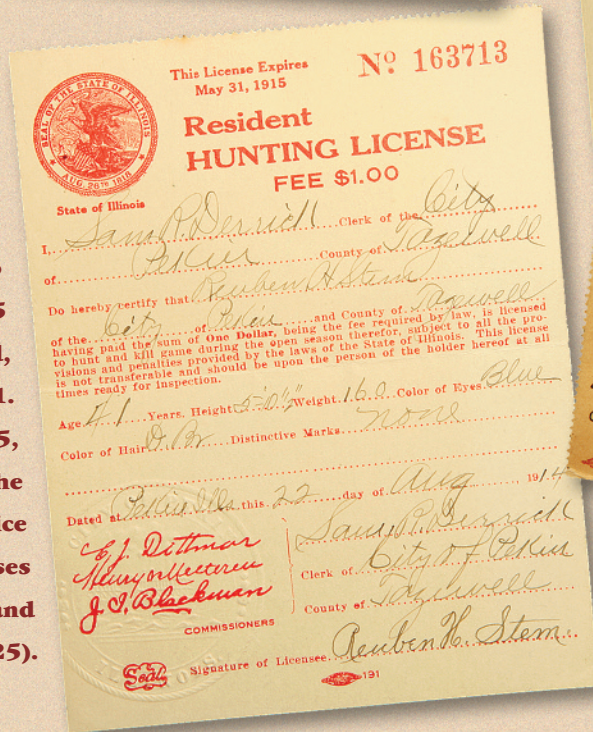
Many see the pages of Houser's binders as a collection of personal memories from strangers. Faceless people residing in distant corners of the



Two versions of the 1905 license were printed, the result of a mid-year change in the Illinois state seal. The wooden ship was replaced with a steamship, the horse-drawn plow with a tractor and the eagle pose redesigned. In 1913 the seal was changed again—back to the original design.



The license fee—\$1—was first printed on the 1914 hunting license. Only once in Illinois' history has the license fee decreased—in 1935 the fee was reduced to \$0.75. A year later, a \$0.25 clerk's fee was implemented, raising the price back to \$1. The price doubled in 1945, and in 1954 an increase in the issuing fee brought the price to \$2.25. Subsequent increases occurred in 1957 (\$3.25) and 1979 (\$7.25).



A distinct change in license size occurred in 1916, and that style remained fairly consistent until 1950 when the style used until 1989 was developed.

state, they doled out what may have been, for them, a significant sum of money for a simple slip of paper or a scrap of cloth, something they'd have to repeat the following year.

Yet John Doe benefitted enormously

from that expenditure. It allowed him to put food on the table during the Depression and war-time rations. He valued the time spent and miles walked with family and friends, and passing hard-earned knowledge of the hunt and

wildlife to the next generation. Some watched as Illinois' prairie-chicken population plummeted, yet were there to celebrate the long-anticipated return of the white-tailed deer and wild turkey.

The federal duck stamp was implemented in 1934 and cost \$1. Stamps were printed in various monotonies through 1958, when full-colored stamps were introduced. Many consider the 1934-1936 federal duck stamps the most famous, possibly because for those three years hunters were not required to sign their stamp. In addition to being historically significant as the first full-color stamp, the 1959 version is the only federal duck stamp to include anything other than a duck or goose (a dog).

Licenses became a vehicle for spreading important messages in 1937 when "Be Cautious Prevent Fires" appeared on the back side. The following year the message was changed to "Help Prevent Forest Fires."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 1935
MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP

BE CAUTIOUS PREVENT FIRES

For bearing animals to take with this stamp, see regulations. No closed season for any game animal. No closed season for any game animal. No closed season for any game animal.

OPEN SEASONS
(All Dates Inclusive)
Bob White Quail—Nov. 10 to Dec. 10
Partridge—Nov. 10 to Dec. 10
Squabblers—Nov. 10 to Dec. 10
Squirrels—Northern Zone, Aug. 1 to Dec. 1
Squirrels—Southern Zone, Sept. 1 to Dec. 1
Mourning Dove—Northern Zone, Sept. 1 to Dec. 1
Cock Pheasants—Northern Zone, Sept. 1 to Dec. 1
Rabbits—Northern Zone, Sept. 1 to Dec. 1
Rabbits—Southern Zone, Sept. 1 to Dec. 1
Eggs—Northern Zone, Sept. 1 to Dec. 1
Eggs—Southern Zone, Sept. 1 to Dec. 1

Use of Firearms in Taking Game Birds and Animals is prohibited. Use of Firearms in Taking Game Birds and Animals is prohibited. Use of Firearms in Taking Game Birds and Animals is prohibited.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING BRANTS, COOTS, DUCKS, GEESE, RAILS AND SNIFE will be announced at the time of their issuance by Federal authorities.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 1936
MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP

HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES

This license does not permit the taking of fur bearing animals.

Species	Zone	Season	Limit	Daily Limit
Squirrels	Northern	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	16	8
Quails	Northern	Nov. 10 - Dec. 9	24	12
Rabbits	Northern	Nov. 10 - Dec. 31	24	12
Cock Pheasants	Northern	Nov. 10 - Nov. 15	6	2
Squirrels	Central	Aug. 15 - Nov. 30	16	8
Quails	Central	Nov. 10 - Dec. 9	24	12
Rabbits	Central	Nov. 10 - Dec. 31	24	12
Cock Pheasants	Central	Nov. 10 - Nov. 15	6	2
Squirrels	Southern	Aug. 1 - Nov. 30	16	8
Quails	Southern	Nov. 10 - Dec. 9	24	12
Rabbits	Southern	Nov. 10 - Dec. 31	24	12
Cock Pheasants	Southern	Nov. 10 - Nov. 15	6	2

Use of Firearms in Taking Game Birds and Animals is prohibited. Use of Firearms in Taking Game Birds and Animals is prohibited. Use of Firearms in Taking Game Birds and Animals is prohibited.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 1937
MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP

HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES

This license does not permit the taking of fur bearing animals.

Species	Zone	Season	Limit	Daily Limit
Squirrels	Northern	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	16	8
Quails	Northern	Nov. 10 - Dec. 9	24	12
Rabbits	Northern	Nov. 10 - Dec. 31	24	12
Cock Pheasants	Northern	Nov. 10 - Nov. 15	6	2
Squirrels	Central	Aug. 15 - Nov. 30	16	8
Quails	Central	Nov. 10 - Dec. 9	24	12
Rabbits	Central	Nov. 10 - Dec. 31	24	12
Cock Pheasants	Central	Nov. 10 - Nov. 15	6	2
Squirrels	Southern	Aug. 1 - Nov. 30	16	8
Quails	Southern	Nov. 10 - Dec. 9	24	12
Rabbits	Southern	Nov. 10 - Dec. 31	24	12
Cock Pheasants	Southern	Nov. 10 - Nov. 15	6	2

Use of Firearms in Taking Game Birds and Animals is prohibited. Use of Firearms in Taking Game Birds and Animals is prohibited. Use of Firearms in Taking Game Birds and Animals is prohibited.

Section III
HUNTER'S LICENSE
FEE \$2.00

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
ADLAI E. STEVENSON, Governor

Resident Hunting License

NAME: James Stearns
CITY: Belleville
COUNTY: Macoupin
STREET: Macoupin
AGE: 38, HEIGHT: 6'2", WEIGHT: 155, COLOR OF HAIR: Brown, COLOR OF EYES: Blue

In hereby authorized by this license to take Wild Game Birds and Mammals in the State of Illinois during the open season and subject to all the provisions and regulations provided by the Game Code of Illinois.

Dated at Belleville, Ill. this 29th day of August, 1949.

Signature of Licensee: James Stearns
Signature of Clerk: Adlai E. Stevenson
Director: Leonard Schwitz

NO. 133382

RESTORE WILDLIFE HABITAT

This license permits the hunting of fur-bearing animals, except beaver, mink, and muskrat.

LICENSEE'S BLOOD TYPE

Regulations governing Open Seasons, Limits and Methods for the taking of Migratory Game Birds are subject to Federal Regulation.

All seasons, bag limits and possession limits (other than those set by Federal Regulations) are established by administrative order of the Department as provided by legislative authority.

Refer to State Game Laws for further hunting regulations.

PRACTICE GUN SAFETY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP
VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 1950
\$3

HUNTER'S REPORT OF KILL FOR SEASON
Give Number and County Where Taken

Species	No.	County
RABBITS	No.	County
PHEASANTS	No.	County
DUCKS	No.	County
DOVES	No.	County
MISCELLANEOUS	No.	Species

Section 53 of the State Game Code specifies: Every person taking Game Birds, Migratory Game Birds, and Game Animals shall make a report to the Department of such species, numbers, and the county where such species were taken, not later than February 10th following the close of the hunting season.

STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PROVISION IS REQUESTED.

NO. G327957
DUE FEBRUARY 10, 1950

DOC recognized the opportunity to collect harvest information from sportsmen in 1941 when licenses included detachable "Kill Cards."

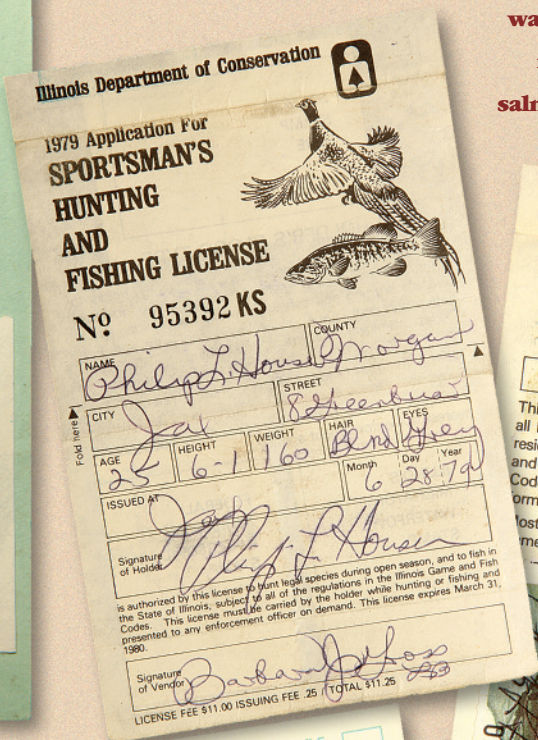
"Distinctive marks," such as tattoos, were noted on the personal information required on early licenses. Starting in 1956, hunters were encouraged to note their blood type.

Study each page of the binders closely and a surprisingly rich historical record of Illinois unfolds. Reading between the pages, stories emerge of war and peace, advances in technology and the structure of Illinois govern-

ment. And, the books tell tales of the evolution of our understanding of managing natural resources. "If it has to do with hunting or fishing and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources I probably have some

Illinois implemented a \$5 state duck stamp in 1975, with an increase to \$10 in 1990.

The combination Sportsman's License became available in 1979, allowing those who hunt and fish to purchase one license at \$11.25 (a \$0.50 issuing fee in 1980 raised the fee to \$11.75; an increase in 1982 brought the fee to \$13.75 and in 1994 the fee was raised to \$19.25). The sportsman's license also included the salmon stamp, introduced in 1976 at a price of \$2.



Illinois introduced two new stamps in 1990—the Pheasant Stamp and the Furbearer Stamp, both at \$5. Three years later, those stamps were merged into a \$5 Habitat Stamp. The Salmon Stamp evolved into the \$6 Lake Michigan Trout and Inland Trout stamps in 1994.



The most important license in Phil Houser's collection always is his own. This dedicated outdoorsman bought his first hunting license in 1963.

type of collection put together," Houser remarked. "I enjoy everything about hunting and fishing, and things like licenses and stamps and pins are such an integral part of the sport." Houser enjoys studying the licenses

and learning what each can reveal. "There's a lot of history about the state that people don't know, but can discover when they really look at all the information in these books," Houser concluded.

