

## 1911-12

**Pearl button industry Labor Strike/Owner's Lockout** in Muscatine; 1 policeman killed, Iowa National Guard and Pinkerton's called in to quell unrest

# 1920s

Scientists urge need to protect mussels from overharvesting and polluion; **Grand Opening of Second Laboratory after original** burned down in 1917

1925

1925

**Button industry acknowledges** 

urban & industrial waste is

degrading riverine habitats and

contributing to decline

of mussel populations

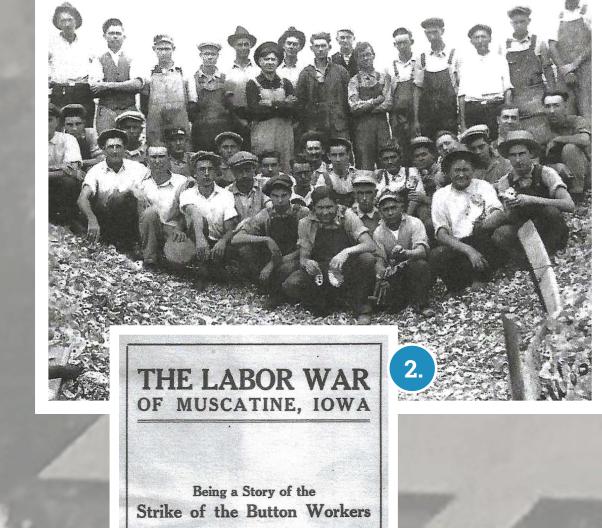
# 1930s

FBS efforts focus on pond culture for farm stock ponds to feed people during the **Great Depression**; FBS #1 faciltity in US for pond culture



# 1967

New pumphouse is constructed on top of the original temporary laboratory; last pearl button company in Muscatine goes out of business



University of Iowa, Institute of Hydraulic Research -Hydroscience and Engineering, constructs the Lucile A. Carver Mississippi River **Environmental Research Station (LACMERS)** for the purpose of researching water quality in the Upper Mississippi River Basin and tributaries



# 2023-24

**Grand Opening of Interpretive** Trails, construction of pedestrian bridge and commemerative **Educational Pavilion** 

mussels is invented, less damaging to mussel beds; First warnings of overfishing

1897-1900

**Crowfoot hook for harvesting** 

1895

Secretary of Dept. of Commerce, 100s of researchers, 5,000+ people

1915

1914

**Grand Opening of FBS attended** 

by US Congress members,

# 1931-32

**Depression era budget cuts** terminate all mussel research (1931) and fish research (1932) at FBS; mussel research shifted to Ft. Worth, TX

# 1945

**Between April and November,** 310 German POWs housed in the Main Lab; POWs work at Heinz plant, Wilton canning plant, or in agricultural fields near Muscatine.

1945

# 1950s

1955

on a wide scale; button companies close or transition to making plastic

# 1965

1972

The unoccupied laboratory is

demolished; state begins new

fish stocking program for

privately-owned farm ponds

1975

OLIVER C. WILSON

PRICE, 25 CENTS

1985

1995

2025

1891

John Boepple manufactures first freshwater pearl buttons; by 1900 over 60 button area employ over 50% of labor force.

1908

1905

**US Congress establishes the** Fairport Biological Station (FBS); first interior research faciltity of the Bureau of Fisheries

1913

Keokuk Hydroelectric dam built; dam

prevents skipjack herring from migrating

upstream thereby eliminating ebonyshell

mussels in the Upper Mississippi, the

preferred mussel in button industry

## 1916

Peak of button production in Muscatine, 40,000,000 buttons produced in that year

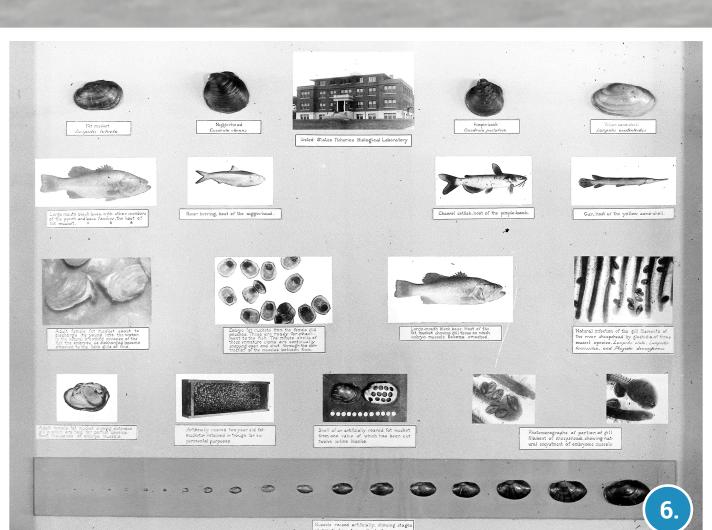
# 1930s

1935

**Congress authorizes Army Corps to construct** 23 dams between MN and IL to maintain 9-ft channel for commerce; dams eliminate natural stream flow, increase sedimentation, and destroy habitat for many species of mussels and fish

# 1953-54

Major new construction of buildings and ponds; pumphouse converted to holding house; several original buildings sold at auction





# 1996

**USFWS** transfers title of **Fairport Fish Hatchery to the Iowa DNR; State Historic Preservation Office reaffirms** their 1984 position that pre-1930s buildings (pumphouse, barn) are eligible to the National Register o **Historic Places** 

**Friends of Fairport Fish Hatchery** formally organized; recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the Community Foundation of **Greater Muscatine** 







**US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS)** ceases operations and leases property to Iowa Conversation Commission, later renamed the **Department of Natural Resouces** 



