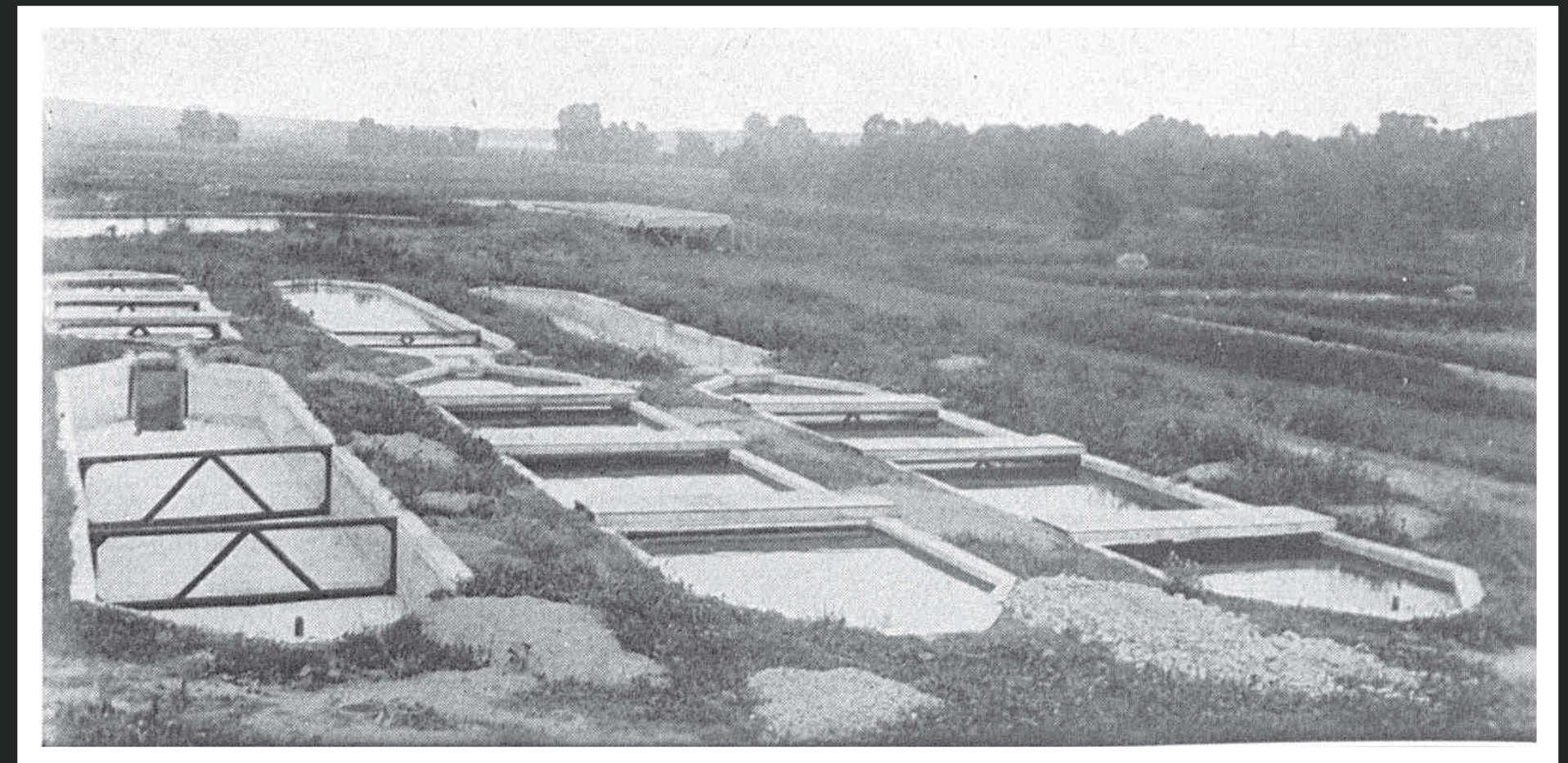


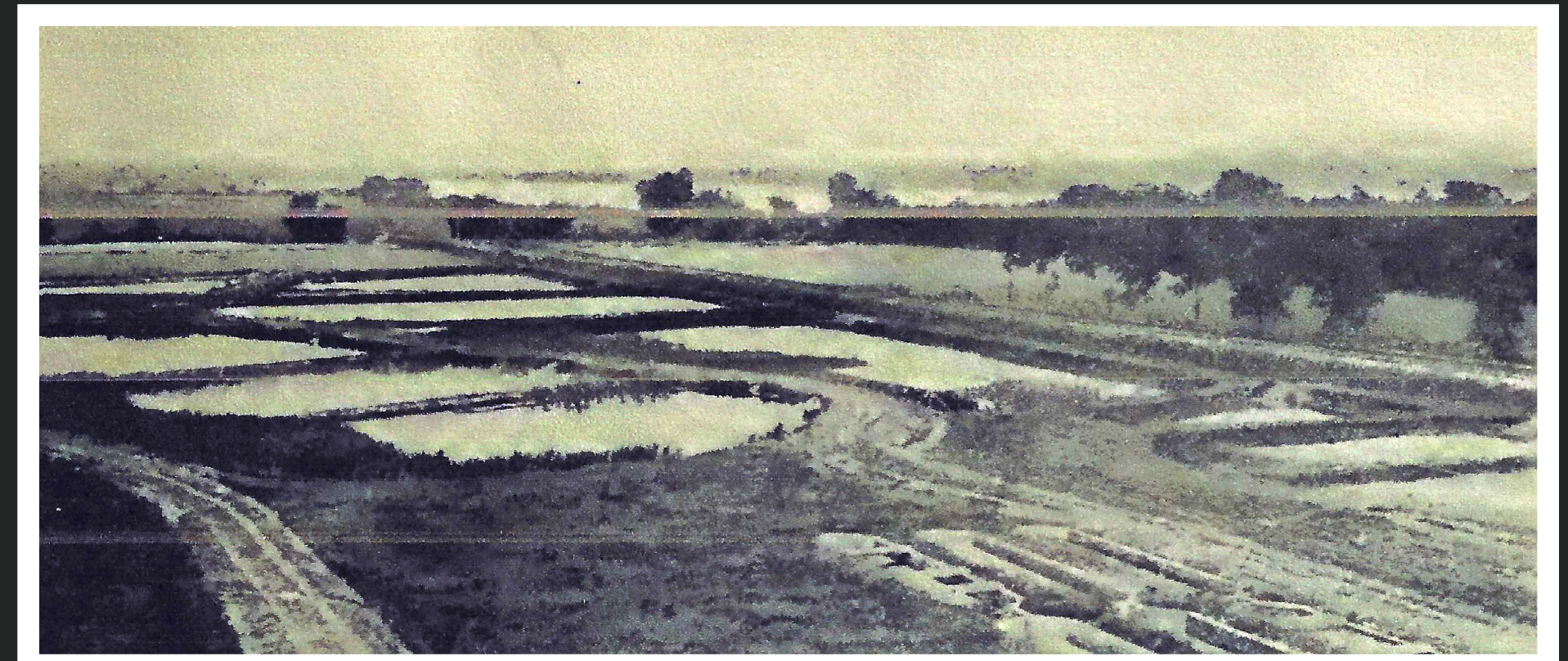
#13 Fish Ponds

The Fairport Fish Hatchery provides a wide variety of fish for the DNR's stocking program. Walleye, bluegill, northern pike, red-ear sunfish, and large and smallmouth bass have all been raised in recent years in the earthen ponds. Today fish raised at the hatchery are stocked in public waters throughout the state to provide fishing opportunities. In past decades, fish were also used to stock the Mississippi River and other rivers and ponds in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri.

Fingerling fish, i.e., 2-3 inches in size, are the primary fish raised here. Some species, like walleye, are stocked in hatchery ponds as fry. In the spring, walleye broodstock are collected, gametes are gathered, fertilized eggs are hatched in jars, and hatched fry are then moved to the ponds to grow for roughly 35 days. In other species, such as bluegill, adults are stocked to spawn naturally in the ponds and the fry allowed to grow to roughly 2 inches. At harvest, the fish are collected, the ponds are drained, and the fish are taken to ponds and lakes throughout the state. All ponds are supplied with river water from the main reservoir, and contain a water supply valve, a drain valve, a kettle structure for fish collection, and screens to keep the fish in the ponds. Although the configuration and number of ponds has changed several times since 1914, the current configuration and number of ponds has remained unchanged since 1954. Cleaning silt from the ponds and repairs to the ponds are conducted on an as needed basis.



Overview of concrete ponds for mussel propagation behind Tank House in 1922, facing east.



Overview of earthen ponds for mussel and fish experimental work 1921, facing east.



Aerial overview of hatchery showing new pond construction in mid-1950s, facing north.



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