Most of the businesses returned less than $10 a day to management and family labor. Part-time enterprises provided supplementary incomes for many farmers on an investment of less than $15,000. But the full-time efforts of at least one worker and an investment of over $50,000 were required for an income sufficient to support a family. This investment is comparable to that required in many types of farming.

Experience with enterprises.—Six types of recreation enterprises are briefly discussed to demonstrate the variety of situations represented.[12]

Fishing waters include streams, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and tidal waters. There are wide variations in the type of services offered by fishing enterprises. Some operators merely place a money receptacle at the entrance of their farm pond or stream where the user deposits a fee. There is no regular attendant, and the cost of operation is small, as are the returns. At the other extreme is the specialist who has separate ponds or lakes for trout and for warm-water fish. Ponds are stocked regularly. The operator may also rent boats and sell bait, cold drinks, sandwiches, and tackle. A picnic area may also be provided.

Capital required for building a farm pond or lake varies from a few thousand dollars to more than $50,000, depending on the size, the value of the land, and the facilities developed to accommodate the fishermen. In the Arkansas study, cost of construction averaged $175 per surface acre of water.

A fishing guide service consists of guiding individuals or parties over large bodies of water. The customer is provided with a guide, boat, motor, tackle, and necessary supplies. The capital requirements for guide services are not large. Many camps that cater to fishermen and hunters provide guides as an added service. The usual fee for guide services is about $1 an hour.

Commercial shooting preserves provide facilities where domestically bred gamebirds are released for fee hunting. An analysis of 10 shooting preserves in 4 States showed that those having net returns to family labor and management of more than $4,000 had capital investments of over $40,000.

Nineteen private campgrounds in three States showed that receipts from camping fees alone did not cover operating costs and depreciation. These operators sold food and camping supplies or provided other services for a fee to their customers. They usually had a few cabins for rent. Some campgrounds cater to the transient trade, and fees are usually higher than those charged at vacation grounds because special facilities such as showers, laundries, and snack bars have been added.

Riding stables in six States were analyzed. The most successful businesses were located near population centers or large recreation complexes. Stables near public riding trails had the highest intensity of use and the lowest capital investment. When stables were located near a suburb and the operator used his own land for trails, his major investment was in land. To cover the high fixed cost on this type of enterprise the facility had to be intensively used. Riding school

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[12] Bird and Inman, pp. 9-16.