

## ADDER PROVES EXPERT IN FISHING FOR HIS DINNER

John Gill Tells Entertainingly Of Unusual Outing Experience.

Few in Oregon are more familiar with the fish and game of the state than John Gill, of Portland. He is familiar with them because he loves Nature and the things that are Nature's. The following story of "The Fishing Adder," or "The Gift of the Adder," by Mr. Gill, is an entertaining account of an unusual experience that is not likely to come to but few:

Saxons, Angles or Frieslanders, they found in Britain a snake familiar to them in their fatherland. How long they called it "ein matter" I know not, but it has for many centuries been corrupted to an adder.

Thus we have deceptively a Spanish name for a Mediterranean fruit, "una Naranja," into an orange; and yet another, which our forefathers received as "una prigoda," into an apricot.

The Asiatic and scriptural adder was a viper. Wycliffe wrote, "The Eddre sayde unto Eve," etc. All the American snakes known as adders are harmless. The one common in New England is called the striped snake—and we always made two syllables of "striped." Ours of the Oregon meadows is close kin to the Yankee species and is frequently called garter snake. The skin of the snake that inspires this story would have made a marvelous necktie or handband.

I was fishing on the Tidigate creek one morning in late July (1925), and had come to the one best bit of water. Many a day I have cast my flies fifty times upon that riffle—not more than thirty yards in total length—without a rise, and then struck a fine Clark trout, possibly annoyed by the ceaseless flailing of his hover. I stood in tall rank grass, which in highest tides is often a foot or two under the salt water. It is useless to fish this little creek until low tide, when the water from little brooks above winds down the meadow and brings a few trout down to feed upon shrimp which have remained in the pools.

From a low rocky point on the south shore an adder swam leisurely on the surface to the bank on my side of the stream. The current has cut the bank away there steeply, two or three feet, and from this a narrow shelf of mud and boulders extends a yard or two into the water. The snake crawled out upon this slope and evidently meant to climb up into the grass where I stood, but was alarmed by the strange object which which was not there when he crossed before. I stood motionless, watching the snake as carefully as he watched me, his head lifted and his vibrant forked tongue darting out impudently.

I have read recently that snakes hear by or with their tongues. Stooping very slowly, my face within a yard of his, I hissed, whistled, shouted, but apparently he was "deaf as an adder," for he heeded me not; but at any sudden slight movement he was alert and rigid. When he tried to climb into the grass I stamped and in a moment he plunged into the stream and to its bottom, where I lost sight of him for a minute. Then I saw him enmeshed in a clump of thick weed which loves the brackish water, a yard deep.

I supposed from his struggle that he was trying to extricate himself. It was fully a minute before he rose to the surface and swam out to the muddy shelf at my feet. He had some writhing eel-like creature in his mouth, and the victim lashed about, coiling around the snake's head and neck, striving to break the hold of his captor. I watched the snake swallow the creature, anxious to make him release it, but knowing that he would be off into the stream at my first movement. I could see the lump of the still living victim slowly moving down the slender body of the snake.

Again he moved slowly toward the grass, and as his head was hidden by a boulder I stooped to pick up a stone. The head passed the boulder and I "froze" until he had gone behind another. When next he came where he could see me I was standing ready to crash the stone upon him. I meant to kill the snake and open his belly to examine his prey. But at my motion in throwing the stone he flattened between two small, round stones and my missile struck upon these without harming the snake, and in an instant he was again deep in the water, lost to sight.

Never before had I seen an adder plunge into the depths. Always they swam upon the surface. I

another writhing leech-like thing watched a minute and more to see him emerge on the farther bank five yards away. Two minutes, and again I saw him struggling in the clump of weed. Again he swam to my side, with flapping and clapping about his head and neck.

This time he crawled out upon a half-dried muddy space and a yard or so from the water. Busy with his frantic victim, I got near enough to stamp upon his neck and his jaw opened and the creature fell flopping and wriggling upon the mud. I paid no more attention then to the snake, but tried to prevent the escape of the reptile or fish, which, bedaubed with mud, was unrecognizable. I loathed to touch it, and with a stick pushed it farther from the water among stones, dried and warmed by the sun, which I was sure would soon finish his struggles. Twenty minutes passed, however, before I took him up and carefully wiped his slimy body clean with grass.

He was a rather pretty creature; at least beautifully marked in a regular pattern of brownish bars or spots on a mauve background. I had thought when I saw them in the adder's mouth they were young salmon or trout, for the marks seemed parr-like. Four inches long, and about half an inch wide (rather too broad for an eel), a small eel-like head, dorsal continuous, very little raised above the body, interrupted at the tail, which was also separated from the anal fin by a notch, the anal reaching one-third of the length forward. Two rudimentary ventrals and rounded pectorals, high up, close to the gill opening.

I think nobody has seen this fish in our streams; certainly no mention of it occurs in books; descriptions in the best, I know of not noticing. From my examination of it I regard it as certainly a blenny—probably a lilliputian, for it bears the tribal traits of adults of that family, to which the wolf-fish belongs. One trait of a California blenny, mentioned by Doctor Jordan, convinces me of kindred—the habit of remaining hidden among seaweed after the tide has left the weed stranded. I preserved the creature—unharmful by the mauling of the adder—in formaldehyde, and added it to the collection of the Oregon game commission.

The adder was a beauty, thirty inches long; only an inch thick midships. Very small head, like many a eel; a pale yellow, narrow stripe following the line of the spine, and one on each side. Between these and the dorsal stripe a ground color of ochreous red, upon which regular dark brownish maculations about the size of beans, a bit irregular in shape, making a gorgeous pattern. The lower body bluish green.

I never suspected the adder of living habits. How did he learn that his table is spread among those fat, Lethaean weeds? Two weeks later I fished the Tidigate creek again. I approached the riffle warily through the rank grass. From the very spot where I had seen the garter snake described above, another slipped into the stream and swam on its surface to the far side. A blenny was writhing about the head of the snake.

There's something defiant, un-canny in this incident. I had fished that very spot a hundred times before and nothing of this sort ever occurred. And though I have examined the stomachs of many trout caught in that riffle, I found only small shrimp and land insects. The trout would probably relish a blenny, but not seeking that prey in the matted weed from which the snake dragged it, evidently with long and strenuous effort.

H. O. Seale Jr. Thursday was appointed receiver of the Calapooya Springs company to take charge of the property at London. Suit of the Union Savings and Loan association against the company is pending.

## REEDSPORT WOULD ASSUME COUNTY LIABILITY

Seaport City Proposes Way That Will Enable It to Get Good Roads at Once.

That the Reedspport section of Oregon is serious in wanting good roads is evidenced by statements made by Joseph Lyons of Reedspport in a recent interview in the Roseburg News-Review.

Mr. Lyons suggested that the territory along the contemplated Umpqua scenic highway from Drain to Reedspport be permitted to form a road improvement district with power to levy a tax of 30 mills for three years. It was the proposal of Mr. Lyons that the money thus raised be used in meeting upon a 30-40 basis the \$80,000 offered for the scenic highway by the federal government and also to meet half of the \$57,500 required from Douglas county for the completion of Roosevelt highway through the county.

Mr. Lyons stated that this was the first time a section of a county had offered to assume a portion of the liability of a county. Douglas has already had its share of state money, so that there is no hope of getting money from that source, and to wait until the counting has funds would mean to leave the Reedspport section without adequate roads for many years. The live wires in that section propose to do something toward helping themselves.

The Umpqua scenic highway was given impetus by a recent picnic at Scottsburg in which Cottage Grove participated.

**Miller Heads Pioneers.** George Melvin Miller was re-elected president of the Lane County Pioneers association Wednesday at a meeting in Eugene. J. G. Stephenson was elected vice president and W. L. Bristow was re-elected secretary.

A total of 78 new members were enrolled at the meeting, at which about 200 were present. The association advocated the construction at the fair grounds of a permanent building for use of its members.

Salesbooks for merchants—The Sentinel.

## FOOTPRINTS OF PIONEER DAYS

Interesting Events in the Lives of Those Who Laid Sturdy Foundation for the Present Generation

Remarkable improvements have been made in the past 35 years in methods of transportation, communication and all things which have to do with making life easier and more pleasant. Improvements no less striking, but perhaps less noticeable to the layman, have been made in the matter of handling and disseminating news. Aside from its primary purpose the newspaper of today is vastly different from the newspaper of 35 years ago.

Illustration of this was afforded The Sentinel recently when it was handed a copy of the Oregon State Journal, printed in Eugene February 8, 1890. The paper was mailed to J. Weeks and has been in possession of the family the 35 years since its publication.

The paper, which was a weekly, was edited by H. R. Kincaid, pioneer newspaper man of Lane county, who bore the title of editor, publisher and proprietor.

In those days the publisher was not greatly worried by delinquent subscribers. The first page contained the interesting information that no papers would be discontinued, except at the option of the publisher, until all arrearages were paid. Subscribers could not be forced into payment of subscriptions upon threat to discontinue the paper, under this plan.

Marriage and death notices not over five lines were inserted free. Over that amount a charge of five cents per line was made.

The makeup of the front page is interesting. Three full columns of the six are devoted to advertising, some local and some foreign. News stories on the page carry eight point heads of such exciting character as "Scientific Miscellany," "How Burr Killed Hamilton," "Poor Humanity," "Advice to Mothers," "Calvin's Creed" (not Silent Cal) and "Arniea Salve."

On an inside page a story states that W. H. Abrams and T. G. Hendricks have withdrawn a petition asking for a new county court house. This action was taken because a number of county bridges had been washed away by recent

floods and finances were somewhat crippled for the time.

A story told of the visit in Springfield of officials of the Southern Pacific railroad, who secured options on a large tract of land adjacent to that city. This is the land upon which the recent controversy concerning S. P. car shops was centered.

After the company had secured a bond on the land, the story states, there appeared a "full corps" of Southern Pacific engineers. They ran lines in all directions and told interested citizens the company planned to erect large car shops, a depot, hotel and other adjuncts of a metropolitan railroad center. They informed their inquirers that it was planned to construct a railroad west from Springfield to the coast through the Siuslaw valley and east from Springfield over the McKenzie pass to Boise, Ida. They also said a line would run through the then newly discovered north fork pass to connect with the Central Pacific at Winnemucca, Nev.

The former generation had some of the same problems to consider that trouble people today. An editorial made mention of the fact that a son had asked to have his name changed because his father had disgraced it and suggested that if fathers of "fast young men of today" should demand names changed for the same reason there might not be enough names to go around.

## Everybody Wants To Buy Bathub

Evidently everybody has decided that he wants to take a bath, and wants to take it now. The editor of The Sentinel has frequently read in the columns of his paper of the wonderful results that may be secured from the use of Sentinel watanas, so when he found he had a bathub and sink that he did not want, he tried one. There were 25 or more replies and the articles offered were sold almost before the newsboys had delivered the papers. The most interesting thing in connection with the results obtained is that the articles were sold for a 50 per cent advance over the price advertised.

The tonic for the business world—newspaper advertising.

## ANDERSON & MIDDLETON ADD TO WOODS CREW

Two Sided Camp to Be Operated At Rajada; Resumption At Mill B Not Certain.

The Anderson & Middleton company has doubled its woods crew at Rajada, at which point it will operate a two-sided camp. It also has a railway construction crew there. Logging machinery has been moved from Culp Creek to Rajada to be used in putting the second camp into operation.

This company is now operating only one of its two mills, mill A at Latham. The doubling of the woods crew does not necessarily mean putting mill B into operation, as the company follows the policy of storing logs at mill A, where the reserve supply has been depleted.

## MRS. L. S. PHILLIPS DIES FOLLOWING FALL

Former Resident of Cottage Grove Born in England in 1836.

Word was received here last week from Mrs. J. W. Buckley, of Portland, that her mother, Mrs. Libbie S. Phillips, had died in that city September 19. Death followed a fall September 4, in which Mrs. Phillips sustained a broken hip. Both women are former residents of Cottage Grove.

Mrs. Phillips was born in England August 14, 1836, and came to America when she was 10 years old. She was married in Wisconsin in 1863 to U. A. Phillips. Mrs. Buckley is the only surviving child.

Mrs. Buckley and Mrs. Phillips moved away from this city about three years ago. They were members of the Presbyterian church here.

Funeral services were held in Portland and interment was in the Mount Scott cemetery.

## EUGENE COTTAGE GROVE GAME SET AHEAD

Elvens to Meet Here October 16 On New Gridiron.

The Eugene high eleven will meet the Cottage Grove high gridsters here Friday, October 16, instead of October 17, the date originally set in the schedule and the new Tenth street football field of the local school will be dedicated on that day. A delegation composed of O. W. Hays, Earl Hill and S. L. Mackin went to Eugene Thursday and after conferring with Eugene school officials secured their consent to set the game ahead one day.

The local stores will be closed the afternoon of the game. Members of the Eugene team will be excused from school Friday afternoon to make the trip.

## WOODEN RAILWAY TO GO TO BLACK BUTTE

Officials of Company Propose To Spend \$100,000 Here.

The wooden railway does not die. Encouraged by favorable comment in the leading newspapers and magazines of the country, the wooden railway people, of Junction City, have gone ahead raising capital for the proposed building of one of their units from here to Black Butte. Representatives of the Arnold Auto Rail company, who were here during the past week, reported that they expected to spend \$100,000 here and had their plans well under way.

## Dead Town

(Lelanon Pioneer) If Chicago keeps up its murder record it will soon be a dead town.

## LOUIS R. BOOKER IS WOUNDED BY OWN REVOLVER

Injured Man Is Taken to Hospital Where Physicians Hold Hope For His Recovery.

Louis R. Booker sustained wounds that may yet prove fatal when he was shot last Thursday night by his own revolver. He is in a Eugene hospital, where physicians still hold hope he may live. His intestines were punctured in 12 places by the bullet. Reports from the hospital today stated no infection was present and his chances were growing better each day.

The accident occurred on the road near Lorne at about 10 o'clock at night. Booker, who was accompanied by his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Pyburn, had stepped out of the car to investigate a tire and the gun, a 38 calibre, was in his hand. When Mrs. Pyburn handed him a flashlight he accidentally dropped the gun, the hammer striking on the running board of the car and firing the cartridge.

The bullet entered the left side and was removed by an operation the same night in the hospital. After he had been shot Booker was brought to Cottage Grove, where a physician examined his injuries and sent him to the hospital. He did not lose consciousness at any time and has been able to converse with those who have visited him.

## MOTHER RESCUES BABY FROM DEATH IN FLAMES

Mrs. Wm. Earnshaw Burned When She Saves Child; House And Contents Destroyed.

Dashing into her burning home at Wicks Spur Saturday Mrs. William Earnshaw saved her two-month-old baby from death and sustained painful burns herself in her heroic rescue of the baby. The child was burned about the face, head and arms, but physicians at a Eugene hospital, where the mother and baby were taken after the fire, said the burns would not prove serious.

Mrs. Earnshaw was hanging out washed clothes in the yard when she noticed flames coming from the house. The fire is thought to have started when clothes hanging on a line fell on the hot stove and ignited.

The house was completely destroyed, with all its contents. Mr. Earnshaw, who is employed at a logging camp near Star, was not at home at the time. He was called later and went to Eugene after his wife and baby had been taken to the hospital.

## W. C. T. U. WILL CONVENE HERE TOMORROW

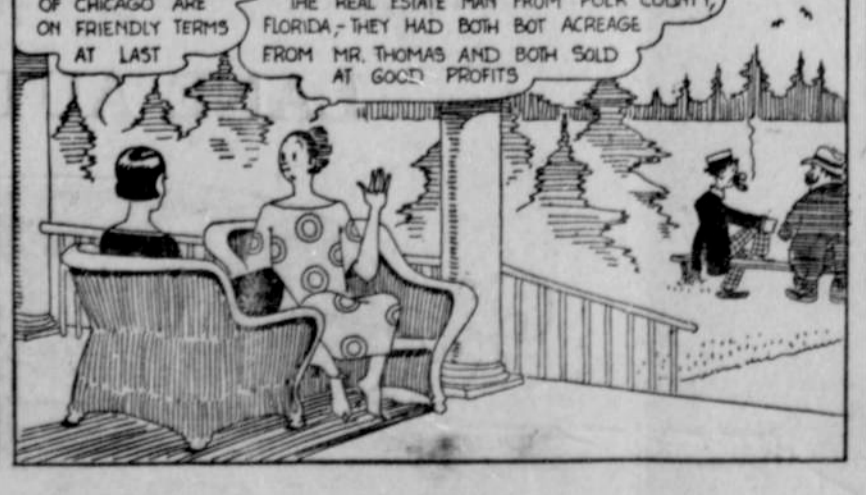
District Attorney J. S. Medley And Sheriff Taylor to Speak.

J. S. Medley, district attorney, Frank E. Taylor, sheriff of Lane county, and W. C. Webb, superintendent of the children's farm home in Corvallis, will address the annual Lane county convention of the W. C. T. U., to be held in the Methodist church tomorrow. Delegates from all the larger cities of the county will be in attendance at the meeting. The program for the day follows:

10 a. m. Devotionals, led by Mrs. Lee Roy Woods; Reading of minutes; Reports of unions; Appointment of committees; Election of officers. 12 m. Noonday prayer and lunch. 1:30 p. m. Devotionals, led by Mrs. M. D. Mitchell; Address, "Health and Drugs," Dr. Wheeler, Creswell.

## THE FEATHERHEADS

WHILE VACATIONING AT THE SHALLOW LAKE HOTEL, FELIX FEATHERHEAD HAS BEEN CONTINUALLY AT SWORD'S POINTS WITH A. F. MCKEOWN, A GUEST FROM CHICAGO, FOR THE REASON THAT MR. MCKEOWN OCCUPIES THE HOTEL BATH TUB TOO LONG.



By L. F. Van Zelm

## Home Town Boost