

FROM The RIVER'S EDGE

George MacAlevy



Why fish bite on some days and why they don't on others, is a question that is never answered completely. Over the years a great number of people, famous and otherwise have advanced theories and even positive answers which usually turn out to be partially usable. John Alden Knight's solar activity tables, based on the combined effect of Sun and Moon, is a good example of this.

Temperature is a factor that regulates feeding in some species, particularly if they are

resident in a particular area of water that changes uniformly. Rainbow Trout in a lake, for instance, reduce feeding activity as water temperature drops until they reach a point where they feed and move about at an extremely slow pace. Resident lake Rainbows are extremely inactive in 40 and 45 degree water temperatures. But their migratory stream cousin, the Steelhead Rainbow, is very active at the same temperature.

The only conclusion I have ever been able to draw on a temperature-activity ratio is

that it must be a variable and will differ from lake to lake and stream to stream as the mean temperature of these same habitats vary. So much for temperature. If you did all your fishing in one particular habitat you could correlate enough data to provide an excellent temperature-activity chart which would be valid for that body of water only.

Wind direction is a factor, noticeable to the angler, which seems to regulate fish feeding activity. Wind direction, as such, is only an indication of some, more major factor. There are too many exceptions to use it alone. What governs wind directions besides the meteorological patterns of the general windflow from West to East? Barometric pressure changes or differentials is the second factor. It is this writer's firm belief, based on many years of observations, that barometric pressure, and changes in it, are a greater controlling factor in fish activity than any other single item.

Due to a refrigeration problem in a Game Commission Tank Truck, 5000 legal Rainbow were released in Roslyn Lake a couple of weeks ago. I have been up there several times fishing for them, and have questioned enough others who have been there during the time since, to put this pressure theory to the test on this batch of fish.

Shortly after this fish release, a storm came in and the barometer dropped. What anglers persisted in fishing during this bad weather fared poorly. On the third day, it started to clear and the barometer started to rise slowly. It took just two hours to bag a limit of trout, being selective in the process, as four smaller ones were returned unharmed.

Following this two day respite from the rain, the barometer started to inch down again. A morning's fishing at the lake by three experienced anglers netted two trout on this failing barometer. Checking out everyone who had been there the day before, I found that during the day when the barometer was holding even, catches had been fast and good, but in the evening, short light strikes and very few fish had been caught. This change from hard, taking strikes to light, short strikes, and little activity coincided with the commencing change in pressure.

A fellow angler and I hit the Freezout hole on the Nehalem one bright October morning. For two hours, we had a ball. We had the hole all to ourselves, and we had a fish on constantly. We lost many fish as we were using light tackle. At the end of the two hours we had two large Silvers and seven Jacks on the bank. Then the clouds began to roll in.

The barometer had started to drop. All fishing activity ceased just like that. A young fellow came wading down the riffle above, and I asked him what his luck had been. He was fishing the riffles with single eggs for Harvest Trout, and he had some good ones. He complained also about them suddenly stopping, and it coincided timewise with both our stoppage of activity and the beginning fall of the barometer.

The years of pressure-activity observations have led to these general observations on the barometric pressure influence. A steady barometer at all but the lowest levels does not depress fish activity. A falling barometer invariably causes fish activity to be indecisive and eventually to cease. A barometric pressure reading at a low level continues to depress activity for a time, but it will gradually resume after it has remained steady for several hours. Slow upward changes trigger activity but a rapidly rising barometer has the same result as a falling one.

Now that this is stated, I don't let it interfere with my fishing. The Cortland Line Company put it very succinctly on their fishing calendar years ago, "The best time to go fishing is when you have the time."

Sandy Grad Will Enter University of Chicago

WALLACE R. HEWITT, JR., son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace R. Hewitt, Sr., of Route 1, Sandy, will enroll in the undergraduate College of The University of Chicago this fall. A 1968 graduate of Sandy Union High School, Wallace will enroll in the University under its Small School Talent Search Program.



ADMIRINGLY SURROUNDED by his five children after graduation ceremonies last week at Lewis and Clark College is Carlyle Gay, Sandy Union High School English teacher. Gay, who received the degree of Master of Arts in Education, was hooded by Dr. C. Douglas Babcock, Director of Graduate Studies at the college. The five young Gays are, left to right, Carl, 11; Alan, 9; Elden, 3; Cheryl, 8; and Richard, 13.

Wesley Kent Named Wallace Elector

A former Sandy resident, Wesley M. Kent, was one of six Oregon electors nominated at the statewide American Party Convention Friday night in Memorial Coliseum.

According to Kent, Sandy was well represented at the convention Friday night in Memorial Coliseum.

According to Kent, Sandy was well represented at the convention that nominated former Alabama Governor George C. Wallace for President of the United States.

Kent and his wife, Alice, lived in Sandy eight years before moving to Portland in 1967. He was employed here by the Sandy Lumber Company.

CCC Seeking Rentals

Clackamas Community College is hoping to make lists of rental housing available to both students and faculty members this fall.

Persons having apartments, rooms or houses available for rent are urged to call the college counseling office, 656-0675.

An Indian company on the St. Regis Reserve in Canada is responsible for 97% of the world production of Lacrosse sticks.

Traxler Now Serving On Viet Nam Station

Sp/4 DENNIS P. TRAXLER, the HBB 4th Bn, 8th Artillery, son of Mr. and Mrs. David H. Traxler, Sandy, has been stationed in Viet Nam since March and is currently serving with the demilitarized zone. Dennis is a 1966 graduate of Sandy Union high school.

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A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

by KEN BATEMAN

Labor Day will be a day for concern, instead of a time for parades and picnics for many people. Through the years, labor has seen changing times, changing conditions, changing requirements. In primitive days, man's muscles and hand skills spelled labor. The introduction of machinery brought changes. One of the most revolutionary changes came about when Henry Ford set out to put the world on wheels. He virtually did so in making more than 15 million model T's. His change to an assembly line procedure obsoleted skills, but it rolled out a fondly nicknamed Tin Lizzie every minute against previous production time of more than 12 hours per car.

In today's computerization and automation, monster machinery obsoletes more skills, devours more jobs. This is viewed as a dragon of labor evolution, a Frankenstein of man's making which weakens a man's might for the right to work. The Biblical parable of the five talent, two talent and one talent man is beginning to have special significance. It may perhaps provide the only answer to the problem.

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The HOOD THEATER will open Labor Day at 12:45 P.M. for a Matinee and will have continuous showings throughout the day

Starts Wednesday, Sept. 4th
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