



AN EDITORIAL
Those of us who have fished the Metolius fly area over the last 20 years are beginning to take fright at the deterioration of the quality of the fishing. Is it to become 100 per cent a put and take affair with a 14-inch trout a "whopper?" The Brown trout population of the upper section has dwindled because of the severe pressure, and this is

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**FROM
The RIVER'S
EDGE**
By George MacAlevy

little smarter from the experience, and he will be a little larger the next time he is fooled.

During my two week stay on the Metolius last fall, I was fortunate enough to locate the lair of a sizeable Brown early in the first week. I succeeded in hooking this fish three times at about five day intervals. Each time he beat me in the ensuing struggle. Those Browns are not only smart in detecting artificial flies, they are also clever fighters. He doesn't seem to be there this year, so some one must have taken him in between. If that was still a no-kill area, think of the anticipation and planning I could enjoy in mapping out a strategy to again hook this particular fish.

The Game Commission's big arguments against stocking Browns are: (1) too hard for the majority of anglers to catch, and (2) too cannibalistic when large. All big trout are hard to catch and cannibalistic, but only the Brown is cagey enough to reach good size under heavy angling pressure, and even a Brown population will succumb without some regulation of the pressure.

As soon as a few large Browns ceased to furnish sport for ordinary dry and wet fly enthusiasts, the streamer fly specialists always appear to concentrate on the big boys. In a well managed no-kill stream, special tags could be sold for a three-day season on fish over five pounds. This would control the out-size individuals.

We desperately need more fly-only water and some dedicated no-kill water, to maintain any quality to our angling.

Hay stolen

Fred Morgan, Rt. 2, Box 660, reported to the county sheriff's office Aug. 10 that 200 bales of hay had been hauled from his barn adjacent to Lusted Road. He placed that value at \$100.

RECREATION REPORT

ZIGZAG DISTRICT

Campgrounds

For all those campers who have been waiting for the water to be turned on at Green Canyon Campground, we are glad to be able to say there is now water. We have installed an ultra-violet purifier treatment system. The water is sterilized by means of ultra-violet light without the use of any chemicals, and is filtered through carbon filters. This is the type of system which will not alter the taste of the water in any way.

Turning on the water at Green Canyon also signaled the start of fee collections there. Camping and use fees are being charged at Green Canyon Campground along with the other fee campgrounds in the Zigzag District. Special Item

Our Washington Office has given us the go-ahead for awarding a \$100,000 contract for the ski-lift, sno-cat, and automotive maintenance building to be constructed. This is the first of several badly-needed projects at Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood. Bid opening for this building will be August 26. With such a late beginning on this project, we now hope the snow season will oblige us by also being late.

Huckleberry lovers—the berries are beginning to ripen. By this coming weekend, they should be pretty good and there should be little trouble in finding enough for a luscious pie. Remember, though, the best ones are found back off the roads.

For those of you who do not know, there are red huckleberries as well as blue ones. The red ones seem to be smaller. The bushes have slightly smaller leaves and more berries on them. They are usually found at a little lower elevation than the blue ones, although they may be found intermixed with the blues at higher elevations. They are a little more tart than the blue, but are just as good in pies, muffins, etc. So don't pass up the red berries because you believe they are unripe blue berries. When fully ripe, red huckleberries are a bright red; they are pinkish or an orange-pink when "green."



BRENT PETERSON, halfback from Sandy, kneels next to Metro Assistant Coach Bill Dressel. Dave Harrington and Scott Paul from David Douglas listen in-

tently to the Dallas coach. The Metro and State players will clash Saturday night at Multnomah Civic Stadium. Game time will be 8 p.m.

**Damage Complaints May
Provide Good Hunting**

If the number of big game damage complaints handled by the Oregon State Game Commission biologists during the past month is an indicator, and it usually is a pretty good barometer, nimrods should enjoy reasonable hunting success during the seasons this fall.

During July a total of 223 damage complaints was filed with the commission in western Oregon alone, 100 in the Southwest Region and 123 in the Northwest Region. In southwestern Oregon, most of the damage was confined to the Melrose and Applegate areas, while agriculturists in the Willamette Valley took the

brunt of the damage in northwestern Oregon. Six of the Northwest complaints involved crop damage by elk.

Damage complaints in eastern Oregon remain minimal, the result of excellent forage growing conditions in higher mountain areas and an abundance of green feed available to the animals. Complaints are expected to increase later this summer as ranges dry out and big game, especially deer, move onto alfalfa fields on the valley floors. Winter is also critical, a time of year when big game is forced from the mountains onto agricultural lands below.

Total damage complaints for the year have not been tallied. However, in one small area of the mid-Willamette Valley biologists have handled 134 deer damage complaints so far this summer compared with 112 during the same period last year. The number of complaints filed annually is almost in direct ratio to the population level of animals. As herds fluctuate from year to year, so do the damage complaints, rising as the population increases or falling off as the number of animals declines.

Big game damage is handled by the commission in a number of ways. One of the most common is issuance of repellents, which in most instances are quite effective in discouraging deer or elk from entering orchards, small fields, and gardens. Biologists issue some landowners shellcrackers, explosives which act as frightening devices. The shellcrackers explode at intervals over a period of time, thus spooking any animal which might return to the scene at a later time. Tree cages are frequently loaned to orchardists, especially to protect young fruit trees until the plants have a chance to outgrow the reach of browsing deer.

Most complaints in eastern Oregon involve deer or elk damage to haystacks during winter or trampling and bedding down in grain and alfalfa fields during the summer. Two methods of control are commonly used — issuance of haystack panels or actual hazing of offending animals.

Haystack panels, built by commission personnel at several locations, are loaned to landowners suffering acute damage. Although most landowners do not object strongly to big game consuming some hay, the main damage is the result of herds of animals tearing haystacks apart, then trampling and bedouling the scattered stack, making it unfit for livestock use.

Built in sections for easy portability, the panels are erected to completely surround the stacks, providing them with full protection. Except for an occasional panel fence actually torn down by a hungry herd of elk, about the only hay that can be consumed is the little which may protrude through the slats. Hazing of big game animals is a time-consuming chore, generally conducted at night when herds of deer or elk drop off the higher ridges into grain and alfalfa fields below. Herds

are located by searchlight, then scare bombs and other explosives are used to frighten the animals from the fields. Often it may take nightly hazing forays for a week or more to discourage persistent animals from entering a particular field.

Occasionally the commission enters into a cooperative fence building agreement with a landowner producing high value crops and where other control measures fail. The fence is built to strict specifications with partial cost borne by the commission. When complete, the fence forms a deer and elk-proof barrier and keeps all offending animals out.

In situations where only a few animals are involved and damage is chronic, a kill permit may be issued. The kill permit is a last resort and issued for a specific animal or animals. The landowner is held responsible for salvage of the carcass as well as delivery of the carcass to the nearest cold storage locker. Meat of such animals is given to hospitals, school lunch programs, welfare, or other programs of this kind.

Generally, big game damage is a direct result of too many animals for available food supplies or of clearing and farming lands adjacent to or in the midst of big game habitat. In such areas the commission attempts to control damage by more liberal hunting or through the use of controlled hunting seasons. Emergency hunts are sometimes held in acute cases. The entire purpose is to control herd numbers within landowner tolerance.

One other factor, however, plays a role in big game damage besides available food supplies, but even here it is tied to food. This is weather. Hot, dry weather frequently drives the animals to greener, cooler pastures and when deer or elk look down from a dry, burnt-up slope onto a green field below, it's something the animals find hard to resist. Severe cold in the winter also forces animals onto low elevation agricultural lands.

It would seem black-tailed deer herds in western Oregon seem to be on the upswing from the heavy mortality two winters ago. At least, the number of damage complaints west of the Cascades is up from the summer of 1969.

**Shriners clash
Saturday night**

The Metro and State players will climax two weeks of preparation this Saturday night at the Multnomah Civic Stadium when they kick off the 23rd annual Shriners All-Star football game.

Brent Peterson, Sandy halfback, will be one of the Metro ball carriers that Coach Chuck Petersen can call on. The Metro attack is built around the talent of Woodrow Green, 190 pound speed demon from Jefferson High School. State Coach Fred Spiegelberg said you don't try to stop Green; just keep his ramblings to a minimum. According to Spiegelberg, Green is as good or maybe better than pro football star Mel Renfro at this stage of his career.

Coaches are predicting a free-wheeling, high-scoring affair when the game begins at 8 p.m. Metro has an edge in size and backfield speed. Spiegelberg is anxious about the prospect of running into the Metro line with such players as 275 pound Lloyd Graves from Central in Independence and 245 pound Jerry Shultz of Jesuit. Other linemen tip the scales for the Metros at 235 and two at 225 pounds.

**Football Turnout
Set Next Week**

Wednesday, August 19 will mark the beginning of the 1970 football season for Sandy Union High School.

Varsity and Junior varsity players should report to the school dressing room at 6 p.m. sharp to be issued uniforms and receive physical exams.

All players are urged to bring their \$4 fee with them that night. However, this fee does not include insurance, since the price is not available at this time.

Practice session will begin on Monday, Aug. 24.

Quarterback John Kerr of Eugene's Willamette High School is expected to see a lot of duty if State goes to the air. In practice the 6-footer has appeared to be the top thrower in the State camp.

An extra incentive for the Metro players will be the thought of snapping a four game losing streak. The last win for the Metro team came in 1965.

Good seats are still available for the game. The reserved as well as general admission seats will be on sale the day of the game at the stadium ticket office at 10 a.m.

The game has raised approximately \$500,000 for the Shriners Hospital.

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