

# Chetco Charlie Sez:

OUR RIVER

Once such clean, unspoiled streams as the Chetco and Winchuch were found literally all over North America. To help save such of them as remained to restore and perpetuate the runs of anadromous fish should be the aim of every angler who enjoys fishing the coastal streams.

Fishing is the nation's most universal type of recreation since it is available to young and old, rich and poor, to both sexes, at all seasons, and in most waters in the United States where man himself has not spoiled it. Where people go for rest and play, fishing is usually the main attraction.

In spite of lumbering, pollution, road building, dam construction and other adverse conditions that have utterly ruined other streams anglers are fortunate in having a few streams like the Chetco left; in fact they are far more fortunate than they deserve to be, considering the lack of careful management of these prized resources.

To Rand & McNally, the Chetco is listed under their files "River C" but to those who have felt the Chetco's surge of power against their waders, have seen trout rising in its riffles and pools during the long twilights of June, or have landed a bright steelhead or salmon after a fast, sporty fight, it is a personal thing.

In the course of the river there is a fine analogy of the life of a man. It is a very definite personality to all who have angled along its virgin forested banks. Its smile or frown can make or break a day's — yes a week's — fishing, and in a benevolent period a whole vacation can be prosperous.

In its remote upper reaches, Canyon, Babyfoot, Boulder and Tincup Creeks spread out like the fingers of an outstretched hand.

Somewhere in the wooded ridges the Chetco has its beginning. Perhaps it looms up beside a ton of granite, mossy and deeply wedged into the earth, and it's a mere trickle, feeling the gravitational pull and impatient to be on its way. Already it is restless and as it moves along it gathers much strength; to be sure it is yet an infant and it sprawls and gapes, unsure of itself but while it flows it gains speed as it picks up another trickle and another and another which add to its stature.

Now it's in its childhood, rillsized, and where deer come to drink from its surface it boasts its own self-made stream-bed. In these extreme upper-stretches can be found trout—the young of the various species which spawn in the Chetco: steelhead, cut-throat, silver and Chinook Salmon feeding on the insect life of the stream in order to grow and fit themselves for the long, hazardous migration to the sea.

Now it picks up Mislatack Creek, passes Tolman's ranch and as it comes near to Eagle creek, it loses itself for a moment thru many channels, yet lumbering on downward into a rock slide. From huge boulders it emerges not a beautiful pool—"Falls Pool" to leave spring salmon lying in its depths, it saunters on to enfold the cold, clear waters of Eagle Creek, the South Fork, Wilson Creek and Upper Mill creek, all of which are above the end of the lower road. From here on nearly every pool and riffle are named. Bruce's Hole, Meadow rifle, Meadow hole, Tamba riffle, Summer bridge, North Fork rifle, the Martin hole, Piling hole, Jack's creek, Tide Rock, etc., to carry its career to mid-life.

Even in its final life it seems to be clean, hard and in the prime of its powers as it comes into the influence of tide water.

Along its shores, from its head waters to its estuary are beauty spits surpassed nowhere, offering

days on end of recreation, sport and surprises.

Let us hope that meeting the Chetco a generation hence will not be like meeting a man whom you had known in his hard-living prime and now find him aged and soft, and bloated with some poisonous dissipation.

Trout season opens Apr. 20—this month, so now is the time to check trout tackle—replace old rod windings and worn guides—check lines and leaders; oil and grease reels; look over the fly box and be sure to have some of your hot patterns on hand. Your spinners and hooks should all be gathered and all incidental equipment whipped into shape for the full enjoyment of spring days on your favorite stream.

## Chetco Rod and Club Held Meeting Tuesday

The Chetco Rod & Gun Club held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday evening. Norris Kemp, club secretary-treasurer, resigned, and Hans Nelsen, master-at-arms, was elected to fill Kemp's unexpired term of office. Bill Burrell was elected to fill the master-at-arms vacancy.

It was proposed, at the meeting, that the club buy traps for use of the members. Several members volunteered to make inquiries into the cost and availability of traps and clay pigeons.

New members voted in are Ellsworth Woody, Mervin Hans-

cam, Gerald Moss, of Smith River, and R. J. Oliver.

Ham sandwiches and salad were served by A. C. Thompson who was "chef" for the evening.

## Local News Items

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Dill drove to Crescent City, Tuesday, on a business trip, and to visit Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Carlson.

The regular meeting of Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was held Wednesday evening, April 3, at the Odd Fellows hall. Under new business, a motion was carried for veterans and the women to conduct one social and one business meeting a month. Mrs. Tom Newton was initiated into the Auxiliary. "What's the name of that song?" was the game enjoyed following business. The fun was led by Amber Campbell and Osa Johnson. Refreshments of whipped cream, pumpkin pie, coffee were served to both veterans and ladies by Brita Dahlstrom and Nellie Jagers. The next meeting will be April 17.

Members of the senior class of Chetco school made a trip to Crescent City last week where they had their photographs taken for their annual and senior pictures. All proofs were reported as good.

Mr. and Mrs. Clement J. Baldwin spent a few days here with their cousins, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Sandbo, on their way to Billings,

Mont., after spending the winter in southern California.

John Bowdish, who has been suffering from neuralgia for the past week, or more, left Tuesday for his home at Medford, where he will attend to business matters and receive medical attention. He was accompanied by his son.

R. B. Dexter, representative of Monarch Fine Foods, was a visitor here, Wednesday, making contacts with restaurants and grocers.

Mrs. Edna Newman, who underwent a major operation at the Eureka hospital, has returned to her home after many weeks stay at the hospital.

Mrs. Priscilla M. Robinson left Wednesday for San Francisco on a combined business and pleasure trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Sarver have just returned from an extended visit in southern California, to their home west of town.

Liberty Magazine, this week carries an illustrated article by Jean Muir, on the lily industry of the Brookings-Harbor area. The story is fronted by a full page color print of a Harbor lily field. In the background appear several recognizable buildings. This quite truthful publicizing is of unestimable value and demonstrates national interest, not only in this community, but in the unique industry. Copies, in the area, are very much in demand.

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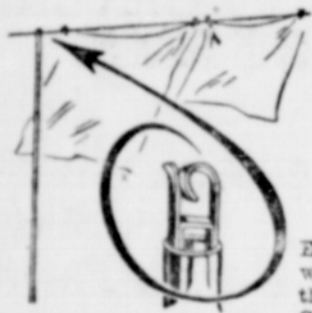


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