

Salmon Run Is Notable Event

Fun and Profit for Those Who Fish, Interesting Scene to Witness

This newspaper is co-operating with the Oregon State Motor association and The Oregonian in presenting a series of motor cruises under the title "Motor Cruising for Fun." It is hoped thereby to stimulate travel in the Pacific northwest.

By HERBERT S. LAMPMAN

The strangest salmon fishing in the world lies right at Portland's civic back door. Here the fisherman doesn't row a boat frantically over miles of water nor gallop spiritedly across acres of slippery, devilish boulders. He simply maneuvers his craft to a suitable location and anchors; he assembles his trolling tackle, cocks his feet indolently on the thwart and awaits subsequent developments.

Gulls wheel insolently above and the thunder of the Willamette river falls at Oregon City becomes a drowsy obligato to the piscatorial symphony.

At least that's the way The Oregonian-Oregon State Motor association travel party found it. Aforementioned party arrived at the state police dock promptly at 7 a. m. Here was found Martin Christiansen, pilot and proud possessor of a new launch built several weeks ago by the Oregon state fish commission for the express purpose of patrolling the river between the mouth of the Clackamas and the falls.

Patrol Stops Netting. It seems that certain of the citizenry insist upon netting the salmon-infested waters immediately below the barrier and that such a patrol is necessary to dampen their ardor. Also upon moonless nights they inhabit the twin fishways across the falls and snag vast boatloads of struggling chinooks in the dark.

The morning was brassy and windless when we set forth. Tackle, bountifully supplied by Guy D. Jones of the Pacific Fishing Tackle company, rattled musically in the stern as the propeller shot a white shaft out into the river.

The salmon were in the river—vast silver salmon of the coveted spring run, that enter the Columbia river with the spring rains and move steadily upstream toward the spawning beds where they were born. The Willamette river below the falls had held the run of several weeks, because for some inexplicable reason these fish had not started to use the rambling concrete fishways across the bellowing falls.

Gunwale to gunwale, the boats were anchored over every favorable eddy. The stern of each boat was decorated by one and some-

Boats Crowd Willamette Below Falls During Annual Salmon Run

times two eager individuals who held heavy salmon poles. From time to time they would raise these in a slow arc and then drop the tip again.

One Man Hooks Fish. We watched for several minutes before we heard the brittle call, "Fish on!"

Far down the line of boats a rod bent to the surface and a paunchy man stood up in a swaying boat. His line cut thin white traceries in the turbid water. His face was tense. For a full 15 minutes we watched until the salmon broke water beside the boat. The river literally exploded. Someone lunged downward with a gaff and the lithe silver body glistened dully as it was drawn into the skiff.

"About 20 pounds," said the pilot of the patrol boat as he let in the clutch and headed the craft toward midstream.

A 20-pounder isn't by any means a big chinook. The average for the Columbia basin is something like 25 pounds. The world's record chinook, taken in Alaskan waters, scaled over 100, and only two or three years ago a 90-pounder was taken at Astoria.

Big Fish Rare. These big fellows, however, are comparatively rare. They are, in the main, 7-year-old fish. The average chinook enters fresh water to spawn in his fourth year. He may run anywhere from 15 to 45 pounds. Whenever a giant is taken you may look for a 5, 6 or 7-year-old fish.

These grow to their prodigious size amply because they have remained in the ocean. Because they haven't the biological urge to spawn—their reproductive organs haven't developed—they stay with mother ocean until they do. After their spawning they die—eaten away by fresh-water fungus that attacks the bruises and sores created in the battering against rocks in the ascent of the native stream.

How do these fish find their way back to the same beds from



Gunwale to gunwale, boats were anchored over every favorable eddy in the Willamette river below the Oregon City falls when the salmon run was at its height. Below, the Oregon fish commission's new launch.

whence they sprang? No man knows. Yet back they come, bright of flank and burning with strength. It is then that the angler takes them from the yellow stream.

We rigged up—heavy rods, linen lines, piano wire leaders and some propeller spoons. From the leader swivels we attached a good 10 ounces of lead.

Must Get to Bottom. "You got to get down to the bottom if you want to connect with 'em," advised Christiansen. He kicked the craft into trolling speed and we paid out line into the current.

Funny thing about the salmon—he won't hit a spoon because he's hungry. He hits it because he's sore as a boiled owl. He seems to resent the glittering contrivance that dances along a few inches above the dark bottom of the river.

Unfortunately for the fisherman, the big fish doesn't resent the spoon all the time. For hours on end, as we can testify, one can drag a pound of such hardware along the course of a stream without a single strike, even though fish are to be seen rolling and leaping on every side of the boat.

hands into the river.

The chinook of the Willamette is world famous as a fighter. He hasn't the brilliance of that silverside, because he doesn't leap and gyrate across the surface. He is bullishly powerful and given to seeking the bottom, where he assumes a "doggo" attitude.

Pumping a 20 or 30-pound fish from the black, ancient river bottom is a "job of work."

Attracts Many Sportsmen. But it's exhilarating, exciting work—labor that draws men and women from all over the state and covers the likely spots on the swirling Willamette with literally hundreds of fishing boats.

On a recent Sunday the state police force tallied a total of some 4000 fishermen who carried home with them over 200 salmon—probably more than two tons of firm red fish to be served in crisp slices for dinner or placed in glass jars for later use.

And like most forms of angling, it's a caste-leveler, this salmon trolling. In adjacent boats, engaged in friendly conversation or relating experiences of previous "runs," may be a WPA worker on temporary "vacation," a prominent business man from Portland or some other nearby city and a singham-clad housewife.

Accepts Principalship

UNION HILL, May 22.—Mrs. Jessie Pendleton, teacher in the Underwood, Wash., schools, has accepted the principalship of the Mill City grade school for the coming school year.

Special Sunday Dinner 60c - 75c

Continuous Service THE SPA

Legion Baseball Is Curtailed, Dallas

DALLAS, May 22.—American Legion junior baseball, though being carried on in the junior high school here, will not be carried further into county competition. Bill Blackley, member of the baseball committee of Carl B. Fenton post, reported to the post here Thursday night.

It was explained by Sidney Whitworth, member of the school awards committee, that awards would be presented in the various schools before the close of the school year.

Memorial day plans were discussed and Clarence Smith, chairman of the Memorial day committee, will announce the complete program later. The Legion and auxiliary members plan to attend the Presbyterian church for Memorial day services Sunday while Legion services at the I.O.O.F. cemetery will be held Monday.

Firestone Inn Taken by Bergans of Minnesota

BETHANY, May 22.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bergan recently from Minnesota, have taken over the management of the Firestone Inn here. The place has been managed for several years by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Nichols.

Mr. and Mrs. Nichols have purchased the former Harris place in the Silverton Hills district. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Sund are living on the Harris place.

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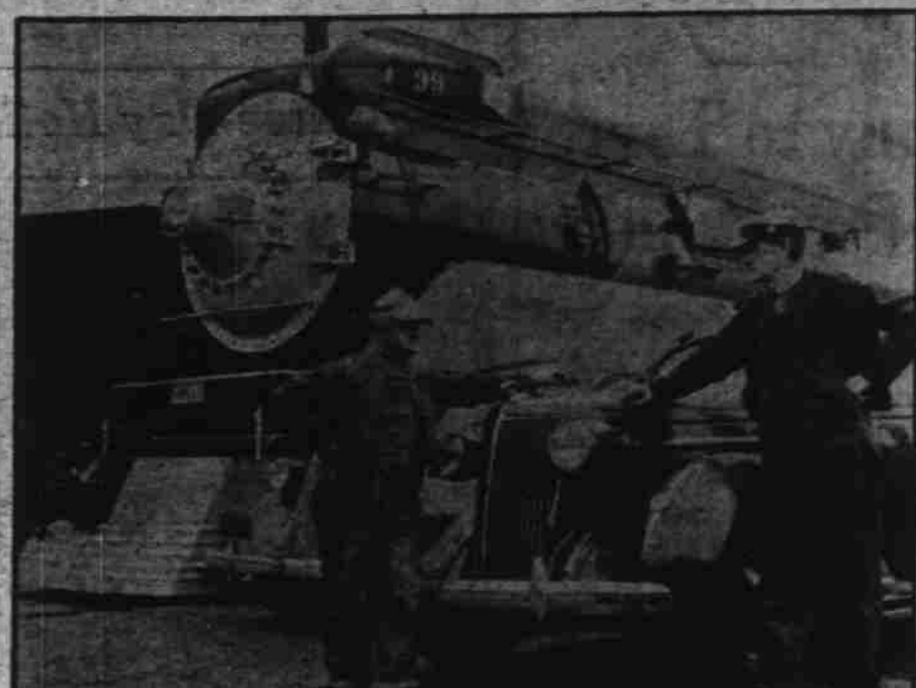
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Lincoln-Zephyr Is Popular Here



The new three-passenger Lincoln-Zephyr V-12 with its ultra-smart body lines is reported by Ford and Lincoln dealers of Oregon as fast becoming one of the most popular body types in the entire line. It is shown above. Valley Motor Co. is the local agency. Owners of Lincoln-Zephyrs in Salem and vicinity include J. E. Donaldson, I. B. Dyatt, A. C. Van Nuys, Dr. A. S. Jensen, Joe E. Roman, Dr. James Sears, Dr. C. A. Downs, Sheldon F. Sackett, Dr. Frank V. Prime, J. W. Ferguson, George M. King, Barkley A. Newman, Ben Pade, Guy Bond, J. C. Jones, Ray L. Smith, Mrs. Ronald Jones, Louis L. Lachmund, Lee Unruh, D. Arthur Lowe, R. D. Woodrow, George B. Guthrie, Oscar E. Price, Rollin Price, Harry Hart.



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