

## DRY FLY FISHING HISTORY TOLD BY "OBAK" WALLACE

By W. R. (OBAK) WALLACE  
(In the Sportsman and Fancier for March.)

Dry fly fishing, while it is comparatively new in this country, is an old sport in the British Isles. Its origin dates back so far that it is difficult, offhand, to say just who the ruler was that first encouraged the sport.

In the Mother country, dry fly fishing, like the field trials, was a plan worked out when the wild game began to diminish and the sportsmen were in need of new pastures, so to say. Field trials were inaugurated so that men could still enjoy their dogs without having to shoot over them. Later on, the field trials practice was introduced in America and at once became popular.

**Is Late Sport**

It has been less than fifteen years since dry fly fishing first became semi-general in the northwest. Now it has become so popular and so many anglers have become interested in it, that it might be well, in addition to covering the subject itself, to add a few words on how the English and Scotch do it. They were the originators.

One of the interesting mementoes in my collection of anglers' tools is a fly casting rod of a well-known English make. While this rod is but eight and one-half feet in length and weighs but four and one-half ounces, the English prefer and recommend an eight to ten ounce rod of ten or eleven feet in length. Their reason for this will be dealt with later.

In comparison with this the Americans have adopted rods that will average about five and three-quarter ounces and about nine and one-half feet long.

**"Spear" Is Peculiar**

One peculiarity about this English rod I have—and by the way, it is not so peculiar considering that all English rods are made that way—is that it has an aluminum appendage from the butt end which is screwed in. This is called a "spear," and is merely a metal point with which the rod is "struck" into the ground at convenient times.

The Englishman, you know, does not go out to kill quite in the same spirit as does the American. The English Isaac Walton goes out to his favorite spot on his particular stream, sticks his rod upright into the bank, loads his pipe and sits down patiently. Not until he sees a fish break water does he cast. The jumping fish is the big boy he goes after, and usually gets.

That is his reason for using the longer, heavier rod.

**American Is Killer**

The Americans, on the contrary, are said to be the greatest killers the world has today, going under the guise of sportsmen. A good authority has said that the American Indians were the only conservative sportsmen this country ever had. They never wasted their food. It is a fact, however, that a large percent of sportsmen here find greater pleasure in the killing than in the sport itself—a regrettable fact.

Generally speaking, dry fly fishing in the Pacific Northwest has not become so popular as other forms due largely to the following reasons:

First, with dry fly fishing is nothing more or less than a matching of the manufacturer's skill at imitating the kind of insect the fish like to strike for, against the ability of the fish to discern between real and artificial insects.

Secondly, not all anglers seem to get the knack of casting correctly. To make your artificial fly perform just like the insects who habituate the surface of the water is just another trick the successful fisherman must master. In casting rightly, he should cast in such a manner that his fly "sings" most delicately, just as though its wings were adding in its careful descent.

**Cast Upstream**

A part of the right cast lies in taking advantage of the current and casting down stream, as most insects float down on the surface and the fish simply lie in wait for them.

Thirdly, not all fishing enthusiasts seem to realize that good equipment is needed for successful dry fly fishing. One must have a rod of the highest quality.

As I mentioned before, the rod should be about nine and one-half feet long, stiff and weighing from five and three-quarters to six ounces. The drawback to getting this type of rod in general use is the price; they cost from forty to sixty dollars—sometimes more.

This powerful rod is recommended because one could use in connection with it a 90-foot double taper line, especially treated for this purpose. These sell from six to fourteen dollars.

**Reel Not Important**

In speaking of reels, one need not be so particular. Any of the standard make reels will work for the good sportsman who gets his fish through retrieving.

In this article we will not go into details about the kind of flies to use, but will cling more to basic foundations. We have already covered lightly the origin of the sport. Now let us consider the possibilities here in the Northwest.

First, we had best go back to our English fly fisher who sits on the bank and waits for the fish to jump. He knows where his game is, and that, too, helps spell success.

The Northwest has been especially favored with insect infested streams and especially Oregon and Idaho have waters where real sport abounds.

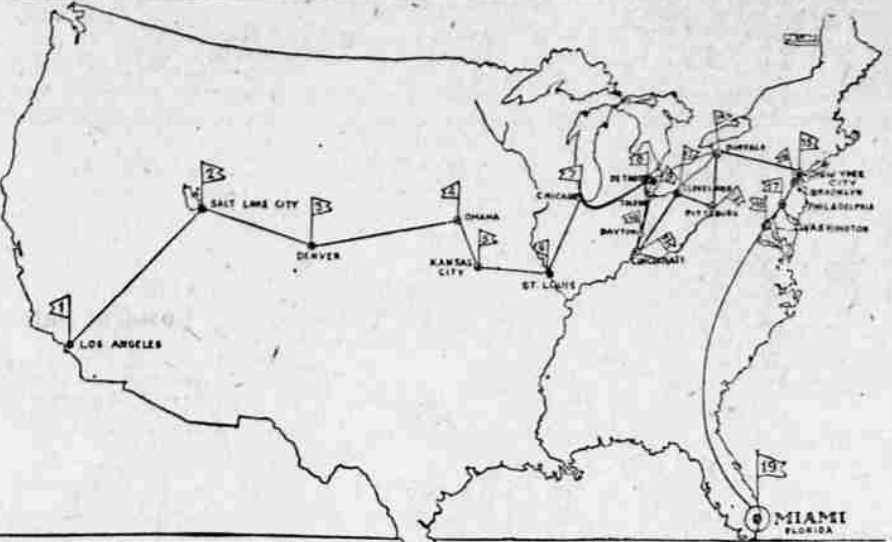
**Know Your Territory**

It is a good plan to learn to know something about the country in which you intend to fish. Although you may get printed bulletins concerning the wonderful catches made by others, you may find yourself unappreciated, "out of luck" unless you select the right location or stream.

Take any stream in which you find rocks, especially moss-covered rocks—whether there is brush on the banks does not matter much. In this kind of "hooking" you are almost always sure to find insect life in abundance. The initial step after that is to determine the kind of insect habitating this particular stream, whether it is the caddis, blue or red up-river or March brown. It is then

## MARATHON GOLF MATCHES ARE IN THE MAKING

Greatest Event of Its Kind Will Start on the Water's Edge of the West Coast, and Will End on the Rugged Coast of the Atlantic



The Masked Marvel

(By NEA Service)

MIAMI, Fla., April 11.—The world's greatest marathon golf match is in the making.

It will start at the water's edge of the west coast, where the placid Pacific Ocean swallows a setting sun, and end at the rock-fringed coast of the east, where the Stormy Atlantic bids Old Sun, "Good morning."

The entire United States is this gigantic golf course; the highways and byways will constitute the fairways and 18 of the larger cities the "greens."

Playing in this most unique match will be Mr. X, champion long-distance golfer of all times; the greatest swinger of a club since the days when Abel knocked Cain for a goal in better than par. Pitted against him will be none other than old "Colonel Bogey."

The match will start early this summer. It will end some time in midwinter and in Miami. Here Mr. X will rest at the 19th hole, commune with "Colonel Bogey" as well as other congenial spirits and recount his tallies for an all-time record.

Playing the largest course ever laid out, this modern Christopher Columbus of golf will play across the entire United States.

Boy, page Mr. Bogey.

In golf, Mr. Bogey is usually a known quantity, but this time is an uncertainty. Speaking approximately in large figures, this intrepid golfer will traverse a distance equal to 1400 championship courses, averaging 71 to 72 strokes for par. This would mean close to 100,000 healthy clouts to cover this titanic journey.

The match will be played under the auspices of the Southern Golfer and will be managed by "Dickey" Martin, sports director for Miami. Mr. X will finish his trip in time to compete in the third annual international professional tournament to be held here.

To make the unique stunt all the more mysterious, Mr. X, aside from keeping his name a secret, will also conceal his facial features by wearing a mask on all occasions.

Mr. X will be one of the game's stars. Celebrities like Hagen, Melhorn, Kirkwood and others will play exhibition matches with the masked marvel on route.

By fall we will know the coast to coast par for overland golf. This knowledge, however, will not play an important part in the welfare of our country as the progress made in aviation or radio. But it's interesting, if true.

**Scouts Hold Rally**

At Round-up Park

PENDLETON, Ore., April 11.—Approximately four hundred boy

scouts from the Blue mountain council which takes in five counties in Oregon and Washington were here recently for annual boy scout rally in Round-up park. There will be competition between troops in all lines of scout craft.

## EXPERT GUNNER TO DO ART WORK WITH SHOTS ON TARGETS

One of the very best things that "Ad" Topperwein does in his daily shooting exhibition is the drawing of heads of people who are in the public eye, drawing them on a sheet of tin with rifle bullets instead of with the brush on canvas.

It is the report of a member of the Winchester shooting team who will shoot here next Monday and he will cut out the profile of Uncle Sam, an Indian Head, President Wilson, or our old friend Matt. The heads that most people and gun clubs ask for are Uncle Sam and the Indian. It takes about 135 bullets to work out the head of the Indian and about 350 to make the profile of Uncle Sam. Mr. Topperwein turns them out so quick that it is unbelievable. He shoots the Indian Head in less than three minutes and Uncle Sam in four. The guns are loaded by an assistant.

The likeness is cut out on a piece of sheet tin about two by four feet, set out in front of the audience, and Topperwein sits on the ground about 20 feet from his tin canvas and puts in the bullets with a .22 Winchester automatic. While this is a remarkable bit of work it isn't the only kind of shooting that he does. He is a remarkable shot and the exhibition will

be worth the time of everyone in this vicinity to watch, it is announced. It will begin at 3:30 in the afternoon and is free to all comers.

Topperwein has just concluded a tour which took him through New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and Arizona. Day after day the average attendance was far over the 1000 mark. Topperwein not only gave exhibitions but in a number of cities he was invited to speak before the Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis and other clubs and in every instance he accepted and made excellent talks.

Mrs. Topperwein, who is also an expert shot, recently emerged from her season of inactivity by shooting at 500 clay targets in the San Antonio municipal range in one hour and ten minutes, a world's record—breaking 481, an average of better than 80 per cent. Her lowest score in any 100 was 97. She had a long run of 187. As a warming up to the endurance and speed test she shot at 125 targets the day previous and broke 124, with a run of 102.

## Few Birds Found at High Altitude

HANOVER, April 11.—(AP)—Airplanes have served to give the world some definite knowledge of the habits of birds in the air, according to Hugo Weigold, of the local provincial museum, and this has corrected a number of previous misconceptions.

No air pilot has reported birds higher than 12,000 feet, and most of them do not rise more than 1000 feet in the air. The blue throat, once credited with a wing speed of 200 miles an hour, cannot actually do better than 25 miles, according to air pilots interested in ornithology.

## TRAPS SOON READY FOR STATE SHOOT

To accommodate the gunners who are to take part in the annual Oregon state trap shoot to be staged at the Eugene aviation field Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 29 to 31, another trap will be installed at the grounds, according to members of the committee of the Lane County Sportsmen's association in charge of the event.

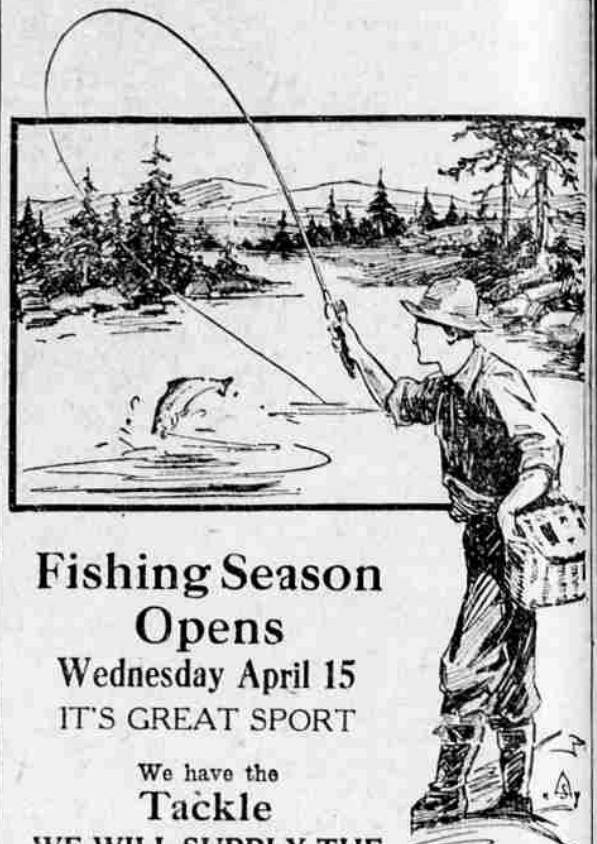
Three traps are now in use at the grounds and the fourth, which will be of the most modern type such as those at present installed, will enable the gunners to complete their string

of 100 birds on alternate traps without having to return for the first 25 shots to the first trap. It is pointed out.

Five gunners will fire at each trap and when each has completed his 25 shots, five at each of the five positions on the firing line at that trap, he will move to the next trap, with the other squad.

This method will add to the speed of the event and will be more convenient for the entries as well as better for the spectators who may see the squads move through the four traps and each complete the string of 100 shots without waits.

As the event will be held over a week-end as well as Memorial Day it is expected that there will be a large number of visitors here from various parts of the state as well as those who are entered in the competition, according to officials of the sportsmen's association.



## Fishing Season Opens Wednesday April 15 IT'S GREAT SPORT

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### When You're Ready to Play-- See Obak!--

**SPRING IS HERE**—and whether you have a few minutes' vacation to play pool, or a few weeks to play with the fish on the old McKenzie, we're ready to help you!

**WE ARE HOUSECLEANING** right now, putting in a mezzanine pool and billiard floor upstairs, with 11 tables. When finished, this floor will be a gentlemen's club and lounge room. There will be two 5x10 billiard tables, one 6x12 and one 5x10 Snooker table, and seven pocket billiard tables.

**NEW FIXTURES** are on the way from Seattle, and will be installed soon. Mahogany, finished in light Ciresian walnut. We expect to make ours the finest billiard parlors in Eugene, and Obak's Cigar store the

HEADQUARTERS FOR EUGENE SPORTSMEN!

### Going Fishing? See Obak!--

"LANE COUNTY—The Finest Fishing Spot in America." This slogan was invented at Obak's, and will become a state and nationwide motto this summer. If you want to know how they are biting, ask here, for we compile regular bulletins throughout the season.

**DRY FLIES**—Designed by Obak and imported especially for Eugene sportsmen, are sold here. These flies were made by Backus and Morris of Portland, and are guaranteed to get the fish.

**DON'T FORGET**—We also specialize in dry fly rods, leaders, reels and lines, and all fishing equipment.

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