

Sport Gags

By K. D. P.

Well, I knew I am due for a ribbing from all of you because I have now used single eggs trying to catch steelhead. But I defend myself as to my right because the water below the dam has been so milky for a long time and I have cast so many times with my flies that I have only in one month of fishing, caught two big ones. Well, I went fishing last Monday night and caught a three pounder on single egg. But the way the water seems to get clearer all the time, it may soon be that I will have some luck on flies. But you never can tell in the long run because while the work of constructing the dam is being carried on, it is impossible not to muddy the water.

So it may be possible that I will use eggs quite a bit this fall but next fall the water will be clear because the work on the dam will be finished and then I can get a lot of steelhead on flies without having to resort to egg fishing and if any of you catch me using eggs next fall you may rib me all you want.

You will say "what about above the dam where the water is clear?" This is true but I don't think I will have any luck because in the last two years I have not caught any above the dam. Two years ago I caught a 7 lbs., 15 ounces steelhead just below Dodge Bridge which enabled me to win a first prize of steelhead rod in the Ross & Ross contest. Then I have never had any luck for the last two years above. My best luck seems to be around in the vicinity of the Hardy Riffle.

Next year if the river don't get too low before August there will be a good run of steelhead coming up and they will not have any trouble going over the new fish ladders and then the fishing above the dam is bound to improve. It will take two or three years before we know how much improvement it has done.

Just had a talk with Coach Hurlbert as to the prospect of having a football team at high school this year. He stated that it is impossible to know right now until the school opens next Monday. Will let you all know next week.

The Vegetable of Death

(THE MUSHROOM)

D. D. DAVIS

905 W. 16th St., Medford, Ore.

The one vegetable that a lot of us we know so well and usually are gambling with our very life when we assume to gather it.

It has fooled many folks who have gathered it often and still there comes that time when they fail to distinguish the variety today as different from what they picked yesterday. "Well, it looked just the same"; this remark usually after the Doctor arrives and before the Undertaker comes.

There is only one way to be sure of

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your mushrooms and that is to buy them from your grocer. He NEVER takes any chances. His source is sure and certain. It comes from commercially grown beds and not from the wild beds of the fields. Buy from your GROCER. Do you realize there are seventy-four poisonous species, not all fatally, poisonous but enough to make the gathering a gamble. Toxicologists have divided them into groups: The cerebral type; The rare but blood dissolving kinds; The species affecting the nerves and the intestinal (gastro) group. The last but WORST the choleraform type with a high death rate:

The action of the nerve affecting species is very rapid, with painful cramps in the stomach and violent convulsions. This group yields to a complete cure if Atropine is given soon enough. Be slow to buy mushrooms from peddlers who come to your back door. They may not know any more about mushrooms than you. It has been established in one case on record where a mother poisoned her entire family by buying from an itinerant peddler who assured her that she "eaten this kind many many times." She evidently had become confused on the "this kind" and mistaken it for another.

Let us borrow an example or two from a story which appeared in the magazine "Frontiers" last year. I do not think there will be any objection. A prominent citizen in Government Service in Washington D.C. ordered from his farmer a load of Caesar's A. Amanita. However the farmer apparently did not know his mushrooms and brought in a load of the DEADLY Amanita Muscaria. Both the buyer and a guest he was entertaining died.

Then we have the pitiful story of the little 12 year old boy who came running to his neighbors in the night crying that his parents were dying. Upon examining the remains of the mushroom stew it was found to contain at least five deadly species. The boy had eaten only one bite and felt fine. His little sister died first, then the father followed by the two guests. The mother because of her wonderful response to castor oil was saved. The older brother recovered but was forced to walk on crutches for two months. The little boy about whom we spoke and who seemed alright, took suddenly ill and died also. The interesting thing about it was in the fact that he had eaten only one mouthful but examination showed him to have eaten a moral of the deadly Amanita Phalloides, sometimes called the "death cup" or "The destorying Angel", a beautiful fungus, inviting in appearance, with no

disagreeable taste and no lurid hues to warn. It looks much like the common mushroom of commerce. The eating of it is almost certain death because it's effects are slow in reaching the nerve centers that by the time it does and distress is felt, it is USUALLY TOO LATE. So when your neighbor says he will bring you some mushrooms, don't let him. Buy from your grocer. Be safe.

Copy of African Rubber Plantation

(Continued from Last Week)

March 5, 1941
Well, as you have probably guessed, we have raided the mail bags again and have drawn two more letters from you out of the mess. Altogether we have received four letters. No. 14, 15, 16, and 17, also the letter containing calendars. We are certainly tickled to get so much mail. Altogether we have received sixteen letters in this boat's mail and it is not all up to the plantation as yet, of course, greedy us, we are still hoping for more mail. Now these people can get a bunch of mail and set a letter aside each day to read is more than I can comprehend, for I am so near dead with curiosity when I see all that lovely pile of letters that I would sit up all night if necessary to read every last word, and Joe is the same. Frankly, I think the only time people allot themselves a letter a day to read is in the movies or in story books, don't you? I don't think it's being done in Africa.

We got a kick out of the cartoons which you sent too, and that clipping about the Kebar was interesting. Gee, both the Kebar and Otho sure made the headlines and plenty of pictures were taken of them as they limped into harbor in New York. Captain Smith of the S. S. Otho is visiting on the plantation just a few houses away from us while the Otho is in harbor on her outward voyage, the first voyage since she was dry-docked in New York and he sure tells some hair-raising stories. He said he has been on the sea for 35 years and it is the worst storm he has ever been in. The nose of the boat was under water all the rest of the way into harbor, even after the storm abated. The storm had cracked the plates on the bow of the ship and consequently it did no good to jump out water for as fast as it was pumped out the sea rushed in through the broken plates on the front and bottom of the ship. Whew! All the cargo which was forward on the ship was dumped overboard to lighten the ship and they still couldn't raise it. He said the passengers were not hysterical for which he was thankful. There were four bachelors from the Plantation on this boat, two were sent home because they were habitual drunkards (a fault with bachelors out here), one was going home on vacation (a chemist) and one was returning from special duty out here in connection with the Delaware centrifuge machines in the factory. They took snaps of each passenger as they docked in New York and the chemist looked like he wasn't worth saving, one of the returned bachelors was deathly sick all the way and the other one was formerly a sea-going man and looked perfectly hale and hearty and like he was waiting for the next adventure. It sure was a kick to see those snaps. The Captain said they started dumping Palm Oil overboard of the coast of Florida and he bet there was a path of Palm Oil all the way from Florida to New York for they got rid of tons and tons of it. That will certainly be a nice insurance loss won't it? The rubber and latex from the Plantation happened to be stored farther back in the ship and came through alright.

I am glad you got that letter off the Debar and I guess you were lucky to get it. Several people out here have mentioned receiving word from home with the same news in it about their letters being covered with oil. The Kebar was scheduled to sail the 28th of February from New York but hasn't sailed for here yet as they are having difficulty getting a crew to sail her. There is such a demand for seamen just now that the whole crew got other jobs when the Kebar went in drydock for repairs and conse-

quently the company hasn't secured enough crew as yet. They will probably sail within a few days though. Word was received that the passengers were not terribly hysterical on the Kebar either. They had become resigned to their fate of a watery grave for all hope was given up at the time and they had to face eternity square in the face of their death and so were prepared to accept their fate when it fell. The launch which is always carried on deck on freighters and some of the life boats were torn from the ship and crushed by the waves and when you see that happen before your very eyes you know it is utterly useless to try to save yourself in a lifeboat. They said they were a very meek group of people when they got ashore in New York. I am anxious for Mrs. Foley to return and get her version of it for she has traveled all over the world and experienced many things and could probably give a good description of it. Will let you know what she says.
(To be Continued)

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GAVE BOOW REVIEW—
Mrs. Everett Faber gave a very interesting book review at the Travel Study club in Medford Monday afternoon. Shenandoah and its Byways by Oliver Stephen was the book reviewed.

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