

Motorloggers Join Throng Angling In Reopened Stretch of Metolius

Trout Fishermen Jam River Banks Along Two Miles

The following is a condensation of a motoring appearing June 26 in the Northwest Note Magazine of the Sunday Oregonian. It is one of an annual series sponsored jointly by the Oregon State Motor Association and The Oregonian.

BY JOHN DENNY
Market Editor, The Oregonian

What happens when a two-mile stretch of fine fishing stream is opened to anglers after 20 years of closure, during which generations of finny beauties waxed fat and happy in the pristine waters? To find out, The Oregonian market editor, its art director, Ernest Richardson, and sundry small Richardsons and Denny's were dispatched for central Oregon in a brand-new white motorlog Ford supplied by the Oregon State Motor Association.

Destination and mission: Opening of fishing season at Camp Sherman on the Metolius. The game commission gave as its reason for opening the two miles to fly fishing the fact that the Dolly Vardens, unmolested, were multiplying and menacing the rest of the finny population, including the rainbows.

The avid anglers, mouths watering at the prospect of dropping a hook in front of those bread-fattened, soft-living and unsophisticated trout, came by the hundreds from all parts of the state. They jammed the available cabins at the Camp Sherman, filled the attics of nearby farm houses, and huddled shivering around campfires beneath the pines along the banks. Only artificial flies were permitted, but devotees of the worm, salmon egg and plug came anyway, sure that no skill at flicking a fly would be necessary to bag a creature.

Fly Hit Chill Waters

Came the dawn of the big day, a grisly, 15-degree dawn. At 4:30 a. m. as though a master switch had been thrown, a wondrous assortment of royal coachman, caddis flies, ginger quills, gray hackles and salmon flies hit the two miles of river from Gorge camp to Lake creek at about ten-foot intervals. But instead of the waters boiling under the lunges of big trout



Fishing motorloggers made loop trip, one way via Warm Springs, other by the Santiam.



Oregon State Motor Association car was one of many fishermen's autos at Camp Sherman for opening. From bridge bread was tossed to pampered trout. (Ernest Richardson sketch)

rising to snap the flies, exactly nothing happened. Flicking the ice from their frozen lures, the anglers cast again. Nothing happened again. It was thus for an hour or so. As the sun rose higher, shrouding the river in frosty fog, an occasional frozen fisherman shouted in triumph as he flopped a finny prize onto the icy banks.

Ah, this was more like it. The Oregonian team, which had been watching the frigid proceedings from the window of a warm cabin, dropped pencil and sketchbook, grabbed rods and scurried to the bank. Strictly a night crawler and salmon egg man, the market editor snapped a bucktailed creation of feathers and thread into a pool where the fish (a tipster said) had been bread-fed twice daily for 20 years. He caught the limb of an overhanging tree. Impatient tugs and jerks, accompanied by the language customary on such occasions, caused the fly to come loose and fall to the water in a shower of leaves. It promptly vanished into the maw of a 14-inch rainbow. But alas, friends, his first fish was also the last.

It was the same story with the other fishermen. A few of the more expert and persevering who put in 12 hours working the two miles down and back again had limit catches, but more were skunked and many caught only one or two.

Anyhow, the anglers enjoyed some spectacular scenery in what might be called one of Oregon's most accessible remote areas. Most rivers start as a trickle high on some mountain, but not so the Metolius. It boils full-grown out of springs at the base of Black butte, a conical mountain rising abruptly from the pine-forested plateau.

Before it plunges into a narrow gorge, the river idles through green mountain meadows, whose broad expanses afford spectacular views of the high peaks of the

central Cascades—Jefferson to the north, Broken Top and Mt. Washington to the west and the Three Sisters to the south. Motorists have their choice of a wide range of accommodations. Three guest ranches cater to those who want to rough it in comfort. Housekeeping cabins are available at Camp Sherman. And for those hardy souls who want to really get next to nature, there is a string of forest camps along the river with fireplaces and tables for picnickers or camping.

Loop Route Prescribed
The route followed by The Oregonian's AAA motoring party is about right for a week-end trip from Portland. Take the Mt. Hood highway to Government Camp, then the Wapinitia and Warm Springs highways through the Indian reservation to Madras, a boom town in the midst of a new irrigated farming area.

Then on to Redmond, with stops to admire the Smith rocks and the steep Crooked river gorge. At Redmond, turn west on the Santiam highway through Sisters to the Camp Sherman turnoff just west of Black butte. It's close to 200 miles and 4 1/2 to 5 hours from Portland.

The return route via the North Santiam highway is about 50 miles shorter and an hour quicker. You'll see Suttle and Blue lakes, the Detroit dam with its eight-mile reservoir surprisingly dotted with fishermen's boats, and a terrific view of Mt. Washington and the other snow peaks.

Editor's note: First day fishing wasn't too good on the newly-opened stretch of the Metolius, because it was just too cold for fish and fishermen, according to Bill Hulen, The Oregonian's fishing editor.

Since opening day fishing has improved, with catches running mostly to rainbow. Not too many Dolly Vardens have been taken, says Hulen, because they are bait fish, and the area described in accompanying story is restricted to fly fishing only.

Lexington News

By Delpha Jones

The Lexington Christian and Congregational church held their business meeting at the home of Mrs. Ina Nichols on Tuesday evening. Mr. Earl Kendall presided at the Sunday school meeting and the church meeting was presided over by the Rev. L. G. Wetzel. After the meeting, refreshments were served by the hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bots and family are moving this week to Lone where they will make their home.

Mrs. Gladys Young and small daughter Christine were Lexington visitors from Portland on Monday and Tuesday.

Mrs. Helen Sawyer from The Dalles is visiting her son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Sawyer. They are staying at the W. E. McMillan ranch.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Jones and son Kenny were La Grande and Wallawa Lake visitors last week.

Mrs. Bert Darnielle and daughter Betty of Parkdale is visiting at the George Irvin home, returning with the Irvins and Mrs. Carl Breeding who were visiting last weekend in Parkdale.

The intermediate group of the Sunday school held a weiner roast Friday night at the L. G. Wetzel home. Games were played and refreshments were served to the youngsters.

Mrs. Al Winkelman and small daughter Debra Kay have returned to the Elsie Beach ranch from Pioneer Memorial hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Grant from Yamhill were Saturday night visitors in Lexington at the O. G. Breeding home. Their children who have been here visiting, returned home with them. Mrs. Freda Mathews and son Jay accompanied the Grants.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Larsen and children from Everett have spent the weekend in Portland and McMinnville.

Sunday at the Lexington Christian church Miss Roma Belsher of La Grande will be the speaker both morning and evening. Miss Belsher is a missionary candidate sponsored by the Evangelic Alliance Mission. She is also a trained nurse. She will be a guest of her friends Mr. and Mrs. Homer Hughes.

Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Wetzel and family were dinner guests Saturday in Pendleton of Mrs. Emma Peck and Miss Etta Millett. They also attended services at the Pendleton Christian church where they heard the Swiss Bell Ringers.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Tucker from Spokane were visiting at the Bertha Hunt home last week. Mrs. Hunt is a sister of Mr. Tucker.

Skoubo Reunion Held at Boardman

BOARDMAN—Sunday, August 22, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Skoubo was the Skoubo family reunion which is a special feature with lots of fun for this family. Many coming from long distances to be present. The party was in form of a picnic held in the Skoubo orchard, with a bounteous planned potluck dinner of turkey and all the trimmings, together with cake and ice cream served.

Attending were Mrs. Eric Lind, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lind and family, Santa Ana, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Skoubo and family, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Seppa, Petaluma, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Pete Skoubo, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Grishkov and family, Junction City, Oregon; Mr. and Mrs. Einer Skoubo, Junction City; Mrs. Ben Wolf and family, Salem; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Skoubo, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Silverthorne and family, Mr. Alfred Skoubo, Ruth Skoubo, Mrs. Floyd Skoubo and son, Eric and Adrian Similis, Portland; Mr. Sexton Johanson, Bremerton; Mr. and Mrs. Jens Skoubo, Hermiston; Mr. and Mrs. Russell DeMauro and daughters, Hood River; Mrs. Anna Skoubo, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Skoubo and sons; Mr. and Mrs. Edd Skoubo and David, Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Skoubo and Leo, Mr. and Mrs. Gunner Skoubo, and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Higel and family, Boardman; also Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Getchell and grandson, Hemiston; Dick Luhrs, Corvallis and Glenn Luhrs Boardman.

Miss Donna Barnett and Mrs. Trina Parker returned to their summer home at Camp Sherman after some time spent in Lexington attending to business matters.

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Ralph Earwood

BOARDMAN—Funeral services were held for Ralph Earwood Thursday at 2 p. m. August 19th, 1954 at the Boardman Community church with the Miss Zelma Cowan officiating. Bearers were Arlin Hug, Nels Kristensen, George Sicard, Zeari Gillespie, Seth Russell and Lowell Shattuck. Music was furnished by Mrs. John Partlow and Mrs. Nathan Thorpe, accompanied by Mrs. Hugh Brown at the piano. Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Steinke, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Steinke and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Strahm, of Arlington; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Steinke, Olex; Mrs. May Earwood, and Johnny Froberg, Pendleton; Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Calif, Hood River; Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Calif, Alice Shingledacker, and Mr. and Mrs. Pierson, Hermiston; Mr. Jim McKay, Arlington and Mrs. Bobby Stewart and son, Ord-nance.

Mr. Earwood died very suddenly with a heart attack Sunday, August 15th. He leaves besides his widow, Mrs. Louise Earwood, one son Sgt. Kenneth Earwood, who is stationed at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and three daughters, Mrs. Margaret Downey, and Shirley Earwood, Boardman and Mrs. Elnora Calif, Tu-

son, Arizona, and four grandchildren, all being here for the funeral. He also leaves three brothers, Roy, Pendleton, Weldon, Los Angeles, and Paul, Billings, Montana, and three sisters, Mrs. Alta Williams and Mrs. Florence Strain, Caldwell, Idaho and Mrs. Ethel Beal, Grandview, Idaho. Mrs. Strain and Mrs. Williams and brother Roy all being able to attend the funeral. Other out of town relatives and friends were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Steinke, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Steinke, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Strahm, of Arlington; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Steinke, Olex; Mrs. May Earwood, and Johnny Froberg, Pendleton; Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Calif, Hood River; Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Calif, Alice Shingledacker, and Mr. and Mrs. Pierson, Hermiston; Mr. Jim McKay, Arlington and Mrs. Bobby Stewart and son, Ord-nance.

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4-H CLUB NEWS

The last meeting of the Busy Stitches 4-H club before fair time was held at the Rhea Creek Grange hall on August 18. All the clothing projects are nearly completed.

The floodlights that the club is donating to use at the style revue at the county fair have been ordered.

We practiced modeling in the same type of heel of shoes that we will wear at the county fair in the style revue. We also discussed and practiced the proper way to go up and down steps and the way to turn.

Our leader handed out style revue cards that were to be filled in and another form that are to be filled in and given to Mrs. Wright.

Work was continued on record books.

The members present were Sally Palmer, Judy Thompson, Patsy Wright, Sharon Hill, Shirley Peck, Marjie Peck, Brenda Townsend, Meredith Thomson, Helen Graham and Janet Wright. Jean Graham and a friend of Sharon Hill were guests.

Janet Wright, reporter

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