

Big Rainbows Waiting

By MILT GUYMONT
State Game Commission

Would you like to catch some big rainbow trout? I'm sure you would and the big fish are available to you if you don't mind working a bit to get there.

The place to go is the Snake River in eastern Oregon in the Hells Canyon section. If you happen to be on the river when the big 'bows are in a biting mood, we almost guarantee you rainbow trout to 20 inches or more in length and weighing three, four, perhaps even five pounds. These are slab-sided fish, deep bodied and full of fight.

Snake River rainbows have always been there but since the construction of Idaho Power's three-dam complex, which flooded most of the middle Snake and blocked off salmon and steelhead runs, heavy stocking of rainbows has actually built up this sport fishery, especially in the river below Hells Canyon Dam on downstream toward the Imnaha.

Recently the Game Commission released almost 73,000 young rainbows below Hells Canyon Dam. These fish are expected to distribute themselves through the canyon and are also expected to grow to large size. The youngsters are off-spring from the big brood fish held at the Roaring River and Wizard Falls hatcheries.

The middle section of the Snake River has always been a great rainbow trout producer although very few anglers ever fished it. Maybe it was just too much river for most fishermen. Also, trout, although smaller in size, were much more easily caught in the tributaries such as Eagle and Pine creeks. Nonetheless, the big rainbows were residents of the Snake, but I don't believe many fishermen ever knew they were there up until the past few years.

This writer had his baptism with the big 'bows back in 1915 or thereabouts when our home base at that time was at Baker. The discovery was accidental and was the result of speculation rather than actual knowledge.

During those early years eastern Oregon anglers generally found some fairly large rainbow trout from early May into June in the lower reaches of the Burnt, Powder, Eagle, Pine, and other Snake River tributaries. Great runs of salmon and steelhead also entered these tributaries at certain times of the year but that's another fishing story.

Strangely, however, we found that as suddenly as the big rainbows appeared in these tributaries they would also just as suddenly disappear. It was rare indeed to find rainbows of that size in these smaller streams after mid-June. We finally assumed that the big fish were coming up out of the Snake in the spring and then returning again as the water levels in the tributaries dropped. We made a good guess.

The Snake, though, was a pretty messy-looking river dur-

ing the spring and early summer, usually high and muddy or off-color from snow-melt in the Rockies and it seldom cleared before July. Usually by mid or late July and on through the summer and winter the Snake was in fine condition. It was then that we tested and explored the fishery. The later in the summer we fished, the better we found the rainbow trout fishing.

Most of our exploring was done below Huntington and on downriver to Robinette, although frequently we fished the rapids all the way through to Homestead. We found the big rainbows all through the river in suitable holding water. An especially productive area was a series of rapids, shoals, and riffles extending for a dozen miles above and below the old mining town of Gypsum. Shoo-fly, Eagle, Whiskey, and Bay-horse rapids were all prime rainbow fishing waters. Additionally, numerous small islands split the river in many places, creating shoals and riffles which were ideal feeding areas.

I doubt that there were many more than a dozen anglers in all of northeastern Oregon in those days that fished the Snake River for rainbow trout, or even knew that these fish were in the river. Not many people knew that great runs of salmon and steelhead were there. Fishermen in the know weren't telling. We didn't either. The fishing was just too much of a bonanza to be sharing our secret with others and then have a stampede of anglers crowding us from our favorite fishing riffles. Anyway, we've always been a firm believer that if anglers really want to enjoy their sport they should generate some initiative and find their own fishing spots. A little testing and exploring will do just that.

Today, of course, the entire stretch of Snake from Huntington on down past Robinette, Homestead, to Hells Canyon Dam is flooded, which makes stream fishing in that area a dead issue. That leaves the Hells Canyon section below Hells Canyon Dam the only free-flowing section left. And the big rainbows are still there, helped considerably by hatchery plants to build and improve this sport fishery.

It takes a little doing to get there, by boat downstream from Hells Canyon Dam or upstream from Dug Bar or by trail over the top of the mountain from the Imnaha River. We assure you, though, the trip is well worth your time and effort.

Mrs. Lora Moyer and son Melvin were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Wood on Christmas Day.



Elks Plan New Years Eve Party

The Elks New Year's Eve party will start with a crab feed at 6:30 p.m. Dancing will start at 9 p.m. until 2 o'clock the next morning. Music is by the famous "Shadows" of Portland.

A Bunch Christmas

Sharon Brenner of Vancouver, Wn., was up to have Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Al Bunch and Mike. Other guests were Mrs. Bunch's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Man-kin and her uncle Homer Man-kin.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Bunch and Becky, age 5 were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ike Lechelt and Kathy and her grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Olson, all of Kennewick.

Super Stitchers Meet

Saturday, Dec. 10 at 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. we had our Christmas party at Sherri Wilson's home. We played games and exchanged gifts. We had punch and potato chips with dip, and candy. The next meeting will be held Jan. 11, 1971 at the home of Mrs. Lee Palmer. We will have cookies and punch. We will make aprons.

Donna Palmer, reporter
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bristow, Kevin, Katrina and Shawn of Portland were here for the holidays with her folks, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hisler and Paul, Jr.

OPEN THE DOOR!

4-H Leader Meetings In January

By BIRDINE TULLIS
Extension Aide

Four important meeting dates are announced for 4-H leaders. Jan. 5, 1971—1:30 p.m.—First National Bank Conference Room will be the South Morrow 4-H Leaders Executive Council meeting.

Jan. 11—1:30 p.m.—Columbia Basin Electric Conf. Room. All 4-H Livestock leaders.
Jan. 12—1:30 p.m.—Columbia Basin Elec. Conf. Room. All 4-H Home Ec. leaders.
Jan. 13—1:30 p.m.—Columbia Basin Elec. Conf. Room. All 4-H Horse club leaders.

Livestock, home ec. and horse leaders are urged to attend to discuss 4-H programs for this year, and make recommendations and plans for the 4-H events at the 1971 fair.

Many items of business require the attention of the Executive Council. It is hoped all members will attend.

Collegiate 4-H Clubs Attract Morrow Students

Sandi Carlson, Ione and John Harris, Heppner, are members of a newly organized collegiate 4-H club at Eastern Oregon College. Sandi reports plans for activities and projects of the group are still in the formative stage since it is new on the EOC campus. She anticipates they will have similar civic responsibilities and activities in 4-H programs as the OSU group.

Four Morrow County 4-H'ers have now chosen to continue 4-H involvements by joining collegiate clubs. Kris Nelson, Lexington, and Debby Warren, Ione, are members at OSU. Debby has been appointed as collegiate IFYE chairman for the county and is currently working on a program of information on the IFYE program and seeking financial aid for Oregon IFYE delegates.

The four collegiate members would be happy to visit with students or other interested individuals concerning events and

activities, membership requirements and goals of the collegiate clubs.

Applications Necessary

Information on scholarship applications for Oregon 4-H Club Conference and National Awards was mailed to 4-H members over 16 years of age last week. Deadline for applications is Jan. 18. (If you did not receive information please call 676-9642).

Many worthwhile scholarship opportunities are available to 4-H members who are high school seniors. Most of the scholarships are awarded at state level, but Union Pacific awards a scholarship of \$400 each to a 4-H boy or girl in

Morrow County who plans to attend a land grant college, majoring in agriculture, home economics or related fields.

Morrow County may send one boy and one girl to Oregon 4-H Conference at Salem Feb. 7-9. National awards are available in many categories to 4-H'ers, 15 years or older.

Applications are necessary for each of the three listed. These are due in the County Extension Office Jan. 18, 1971. Parents and members are urged to study the information and make application.

Mr. and Mrs. Loren Shuman and Clayton came from Pilot Rock to spend Christmas day with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Shuman, Jeannie, Linda and Marie.

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KINZUA NEWS

Spending Christmas with Mrs. Wilma Mabe were Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Sizemore and Mr. and Mrs. James Cloud of Portland. Sargents to McMinnville.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sargent and family spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Vic Sargent at McMinnville.

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Day and family spent Sunday at Mitchell visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Blann.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Oyler and Don of Bend spent the Christmas holidays visiting with their relatives in Kinzua.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Reichelt of St. Maries, Idaho, are visiting their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Malloroy.

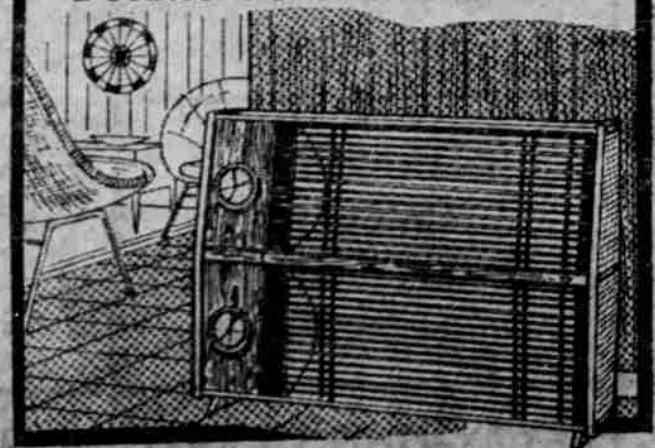
T. R. Blue went to Heppner Wednesday and brought Mrs. Blue home from the Pioneer Memorial Hospital for the holidays, returning her to the hospital on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Denzil White and Susan were in The Dalles Thursday to do some shopping.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Norris and son Kenny of Spanaway, Wn., arrived Thursday to spend the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Don Culver at Service Creek and with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Norris at Camp 5.

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