

# The Rogue River Country a Sportsman's Paradise

(By Walter F. Backus.)

If you want to know what real fishing is, you must go to Southern Oregon and tackle an eight-pound steelhead trout in the Rogue river. It will make you forget any other fishing you ever had, and if you are lucky enough to get several days of this royal sport, it will spoil you for any other kind of angling. At least, that's what it did for me.

Everything is on a big scale. You have to wade to the very limit, cast every foot of line you can possibly get out, and then handle five or ten pounds of the gamest trout flesh that ever broke man's tackle. There's nothing easy about this steelhead fly fishing. It's hard work, every minute of it, but for the man who enjoys fishing a big fish on a fly rod, it's worth all the energy it costs.

**Steelhead Trout Fishing Unique**  
In the first place the fishing is quite different from ordinary trout fly fishing. The steelheads are found in a different sort of water, and take the fly in a manner quite unlike the rainbow or cutthroat trout.

You may be a successful fly fisherman on the average mountain stream, and then fish the Rogue for a week without hooking a single steelhead. The experienced Rogue fisherman will walk along the stream, completely ignoring places that look very promising to the amateur, and pick out spot after spot where the steelheads are sure to be hiding. You don't find them in ordinary gravel bottom riffles, nor in deep, swirling eddies, but wherever there is a solid bedrock bottom, with crack and grooves scattered through it, and six or eight feet of water running over it at a moderate pace, then look for trouble. Cast your fly straight across the current, and let it swing quietly around until it straightens out below you. Don't try to skip it along the surface or give it any motion whatever. Just let it sail quietly along, until it suddenly disappears, and you feel a tug that makes you, blood tingle clear down to your toes.

**Afternoon's Sport Is Great**  
I had a grand afternoon's sport on the Rogue about ten miles above Medford. At this point there was an unusually long and heavy rapid, and just above this fast water was the finest lot of bedrock I have ever seen. The channel here was probably a hundred feet across, with an average depth of perhaps eight feet. There was quite a swirl to the water, but I could dimly see a series of crevices in the bedrock that looked very good indeed. So I put on a No. 4 Grizzly King, and sent it floating over the pool. No response at first, so I gradually lengthened the line until 40 feet was flying through the air. Then the fly settled a little farther out, drifted a yard or two when bang!—and my rod bent double and the reel began fairly to scream.

Out of the water he came, looking so big that he fairly scared me, and then he made a straight shoot for the rapids below. Down he went to the very brink, taking out line until my reel looked pretty sick. Here he stopped long enough to let me wade ashore, and I was then able to fight him on even terms. After ten minutes of plunging, during which he threatened to go over the falls several times, I finally drew him ashore. I had no scales at hand to weigh him



"Toggerly Bill at the Wheel." Fly Fishing in the Rogue River for Steelhead (Rainbow) Trout is the Best in the World. The Smaller Streams Abound in Brook and Cutthroat Trout. The Camera Caught the Splash of a Seven Pound Steelhead After a Long Fight. The Angler is W. F. Isaacs.—Photo by Gerking.



A Typical Scene in Rogue River Angling—Judge E. E. Kelly is Bringing a 7-lb. Steelhead to Shore After a long struggle.

he went, three times within 10 seconds, the last time failing so close that he splashed water all over me. But the little hook held firm, and he came ashore in due order.

After a few minutes' rest, I went at it again, getting two more, one on an upstream cast of fully 40 feet,

which is something unusual for steelhead fishing.

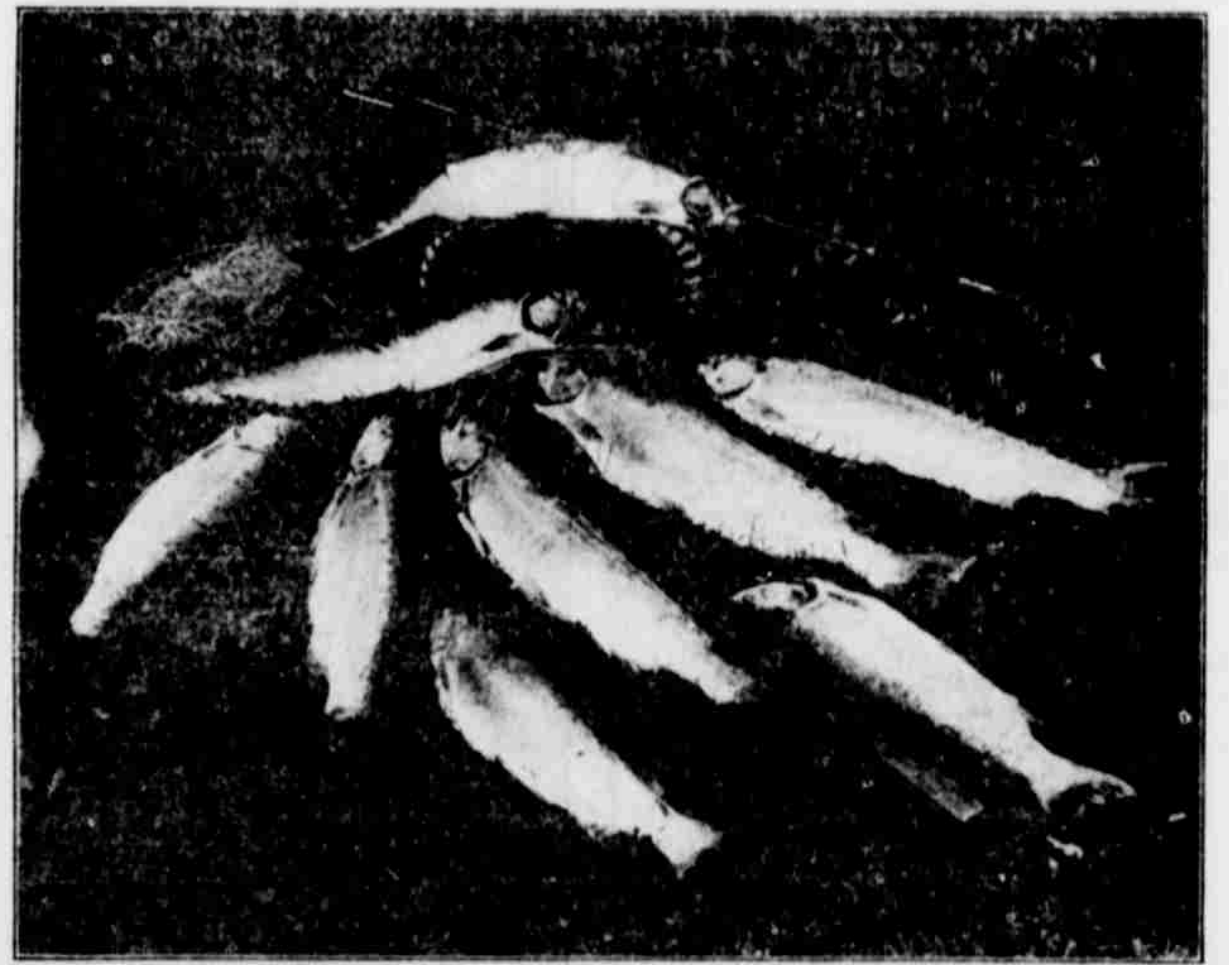
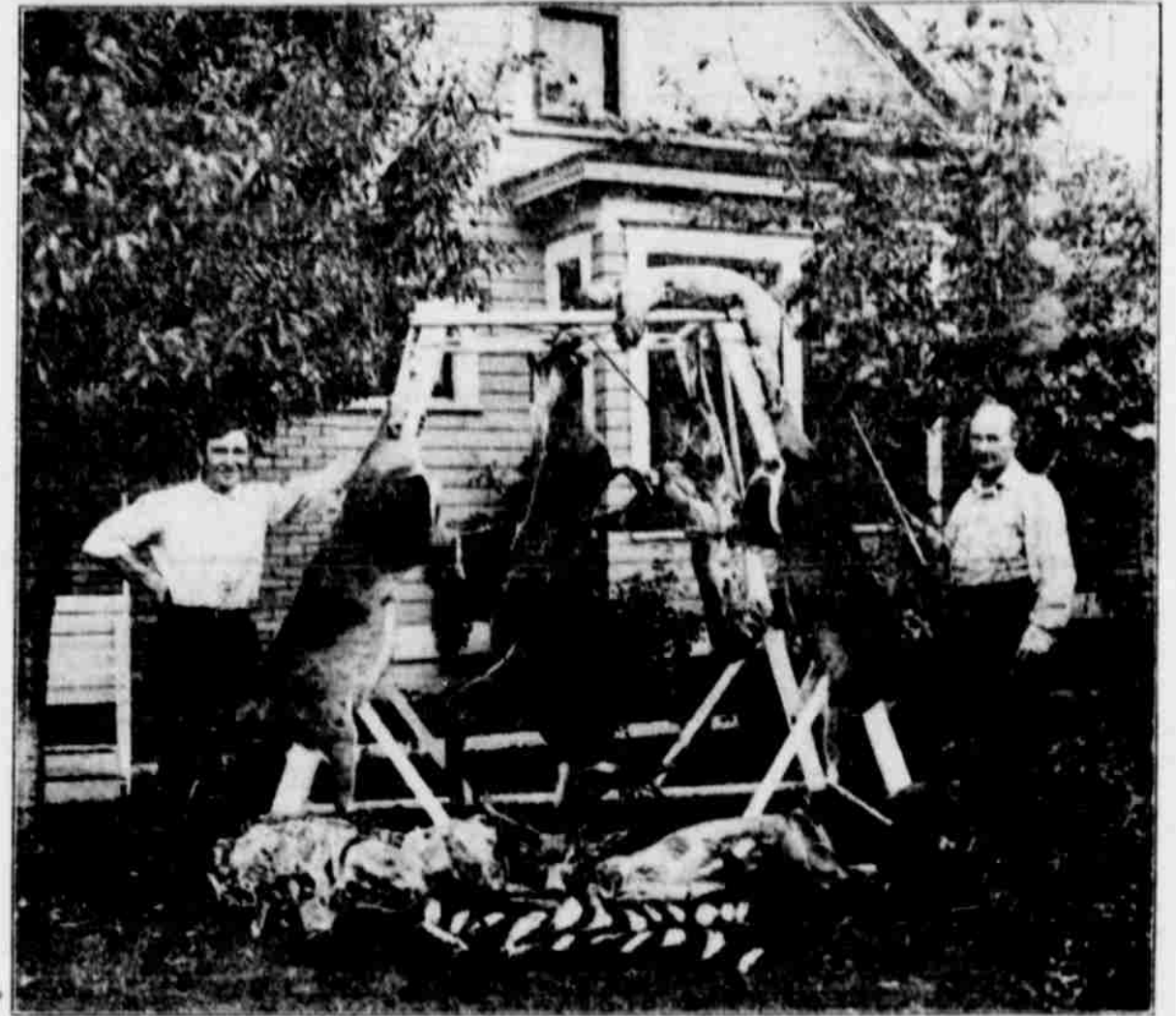
Medford is the home of the majority of the steelhead fly fishermen, and they are a most enthusiastic lot. They think they have the finest fly fishing in the United States, and I am inclined to agree with them.

## 1913 a Prosperous Year for Talent

Talent has for the past few years grown from a small railroad station to a town of several hundred inhabitants. The school census is now 292, nearly three times what it was five years ago. Being between Medford and Ashland, with excellent railroad service and in one of the most fertile sections of the Rogue River valley,

it has many advantages over the less favored areas. In spite of the fact that conditions over most of the country have not been the best for the past year or so, the village of Talent has been on the upward move all the time.

Besides the building of numerous residences during the past twelve



Southern Oregon is a Sportsman Paradise. Deer and Bear are Plentiful in the Hills, While Mountain Lion and Wildcat are Frequently Slain. Quail Abound in the Valley. Top Picture Shows the Result of a Deer and Bear Hunt by J. H. Cochran and Guy M. Ingram Last Autumn. Lower Picture Shows an Afternoon's Catch in the Rogue; Trout Weigh from 4 to 8 Pounds, all Caught With Flies.

## Rogue River Salmon Furnish Anglers Excellent Sport, Taking the Spoon Readily



Snapshot of Leaping Salmon at Gold Ray Dam—Commercial Fishing is Not Permitted in Jackson County.

months, the cannery has increased its capacity nearly one-half; a second blacksmith shop has been opened; the Talent Hardware company has moved to larger quarters and are now using the old store for a plumber's shop; the Talent Lumber company has increased its quarters and has increased in stock; the Wagner Creek nursery has put up an office to facilitate the handling of an increasing business. In addition to the above a new Christian church has been built to take the place of the old one that represented one of the four principal religious denominations holding regular services in the town. The Talent school has undergone a number of changes and improvements. A two-year high school course is now offered. An additional teacher is employed this year; a specialist is employed to teach music; manual training, domestic science also requirements to make it a recognized high school, were introduced at the beginning of the present term. A large two-story brick building, 79x 99, feet is now nearing completion. The lower part of this building is in two parts and will be occupied by the Talent Mercantile company and the Talent Drug and Furniture company. The upper portion consists of seventeen office and private rooms, besides the I. O. O. F. hall, kitchen and banquet room.

The Bagley Canning company is an institution which has been in operation here two years. During the past season it has handled nearly 400 tons of fruit and vegetables and employed as high as ninety workers during the busy season. The output has been sold largely on this coast, but this year marks its entrance into central state markets. This company also manufactures pure apple cider vinegar and is bottling a very high class article. It is doubtful if any institution in the valley is filling a greater need than the Bagley Canning company.

Although Talent is in one of the most favored sections of the West for the production of fruit, the people are not content with one source of income. Especially during the past year or so diversified farming has been in vogue. Considerable acreage has been planted to tomatoes, potatoes, beans, onions, alfalfa and corn. The country is making it possible for the town to make a sane development. During the past year the city has installed an up-to-date water system. The streets have been supplied with electric lights, cement walks are replacing worn wooden ones, and the streets have received considerable attention.

The recently organized Ladies' Improvement or Community league, Commercial club, public reading room, young people's societies, and brass band, all claim a share in making Talent a pleasant place to live.

## Central Point

Unique in location and environment, Central Point possesses many advantages not enjoyed by other sections of southern Oregon. While in no way a rival of her sister cities, towns and villages in the valley and with only good will for all of her neighbors and their cherished hopes and ambitions, her people are strong in the belief that their town has a bright future ahead.

Where only a few years ago was a straggling country village "unknown, unlettered and unsung," without civic pride or public improvements, today stands a modern little city of 1,500 people (third in population and wealth in Jackson county), whose progress and enterprise have made this change possible. A complete and modern water system with eight and one-half miles of steel mains, supplies every platted portion of the city with an abundance of

## Eagle Point

During the year 1913 the town of Eagle Point and vicinity has enjoyed a most prosperous season. During the year the town has constructed one and one-half miles of good macadamized streets within the town limits at a cost of about \$8000. Many of the citizens have in various ways greatly improved their homes, for which improvements they have expended many hundreds of dollars. The bank and merchants have enjoyed one of the most prosperous years since engaging in business here. The schools are doing good work and have more pupils enrolled than in any previous year. The orchardists and farmers have reaped bountiful crops and realized good prices therefor. More carloads of fruit, poultry, eggs, vegetables and other farm produce have been shipped out during 1913 than in any previous year in the history of the town. Over \$2000 worth of poultry alone was shipped during the month of November. The Eagle Point & Butte Falls Telephone company have extended their lines over forty miles and installed over 100 new phones among the farming community.