

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE SPORTS

Woods, Water, Wildlife

By Hank DeVoss

Good sportsmanship is a thing we attempt to teach as a way of life and yet we have those about us who can undo a great deal of what we attempt.

POACHERS!

When the word got out there was a run of steelhead moving up Bear creek there was a flocking of men and boys to the creek banks. There they quickly began fishing for "carp and suckers," although the fish they kept and had hidden in the bushes were trout and steelhead. These antics by children and so-called adults were observed by many supposedly responsible adults with the result of nothing being done by anyone except the fishermen. Like the pollution of Bear creek, if something is going to be done, "let George do it."

Can we condone these things much longer when every year there is more legitimate pressure put upon our natural resources by a recreation-minded public? Is it proper to allow our young people to grow up with the assumption that "There aren't many left anyway so we might as well take what we can"? Can we afford to let a few ignorant, selfish people spoil those things which we treasure?

LIARS!

There are people fishing on the Rogue river today who are using spinning gear in the same manner by which they caught steelhead last month. When asked they claim they are fishing for salmon. They are catching steelhead and returning them to the water only if they believe they are being watched by anyone in authority. There are no salmon this far up the river as yet and these people are obvious in their contempt for the law and blind in their ignorance of fishery problems.

The first reaction to these people and their misdeeds is to condemn them and wish for stronger laws that could punish and hurt the offenders to the extent that they are afraid to break the laws. I am afraid that this would require a lot of game wardens in a lot of different places. Another solution might be to take off all restrictions and let our fish and game be killed off to the extent that only the best man with the most time could get a return for his efforts.

NOT AN ANSWER

Neither complete restriction nor complete license are the answer to this constant problem of poaching and game law violation. The causes of the acts lie in the ignorance of the individuals involved and their desire to satisfy some inner need, either by breaking the law or by catching fish or killing animals.

It is doubtful if there are many of us who have not been tempted to take more than our share at some time in our fishing or hunting careers. Whether or not we gave in to the temptation probably depended on our knowledge and understanding of the problems of fish and game management.

ORGANIZE AND EDUCATE

The best answer to lawlessness and ignorance lies in the sportsmen organizations in the communities. However, the number of people who belong to a sportsman's group is small in comparison to the number of people who buy fishing and hunting licenses in the state of Oregon. The sportsmen of Oregon should realize that one of the biggest reasons for many of our difficulties in realizing better fishing and hunting is the fact that the sportsman's voice is very small.

There are two good reasons for joining a sportsman's organization. When the over 500,000 sportsmen in Oregon become organized into groups fighting for the same cause, there will be better fishing and hunting. When the poachers and those easily tempted become educated to the needs involved in maintaining adequate numbers of fish and

game we will have better hunting and fishing.

MORE THAN LAW

The primary purpose of the game laws is to protect our fish and game from those who would pursue them until they were all gone. But the laws are not enough unless we indicate that we believe in them to the extent that we all try to do something when we see the law broken. Many of those who break the law now would stop when they learn that we all dislike what they are doing and when we don't mind telling them so.

Sportsmen need to organize in order to protect what we have today. If we wait too long the population pressures will take our water and our forest lands. With a big voice the sportsmen of Oregon could conserve and enjoy tomorrow the sport they enjoy today.

THE OPTIMIST'S CORNER

These troubles will become fewer as time goes on because we are learning more about the problems of maintaining our fish and game. I hope so because it's pleasanter to hunt and fish where you can get away from problems instead of having to face another one whether it's poacher or fish dying from some poison.

GOOD LUCK!

Vickers Big Favorite In Tourney

Denver-UPH-Wichita's powerful Vickers were heavily favored to continue their march toward the national AAU basketball championship here today after breaking the tournament scoring record Thursday night with a 120-82 win over the Baton Rouge, La., Teamsters.

Two big favorites in the 52nd annual AAU meet were ousted in Thursday night's action when the San Francisco Olympic club upset the Denver-Chicago Truckers 91-80 and the U. S. Army All-Stars downed defending champion Peoria by an 81-75 count.

The other quarterfinals survivor was Phillips 66 of Bartlesville, Okla., which beat the U. S. Marine All-Stars 86-80.

Semi-final winners will tangle for the title Saturday night.

Hannum said his team was in excellent condition, but that Army was "probably in even better condition than we are."

Army's hustle and outside shooting accuracy were too much for the Caterpillars from Florida. The soldiers, led by former Canisius cager Joe Leone and Adrian Smith, who played with Lincoln University of Missouri, hit 42.4 per cent of their shots against the Cats.

Shoot Scheduled Here Tonight

The new rifle and pistol range attracted new pistol shooters, it was reported. There were 30 in all practicing last Tuesday.

The high five were Max Terzenbach, 266; Paul Rutter, 265; Cliff Friend, 265; Roy Hewitt, 262; and Fred Welch 258.

New shooters were Dr. P. G. Rutter, Norm Pawlowski, W. J. Cooney, Dale Roresee, Deck Alley, Francis Chaney and Bob Kagg.

There will be another pistol and rifle practice tonight.

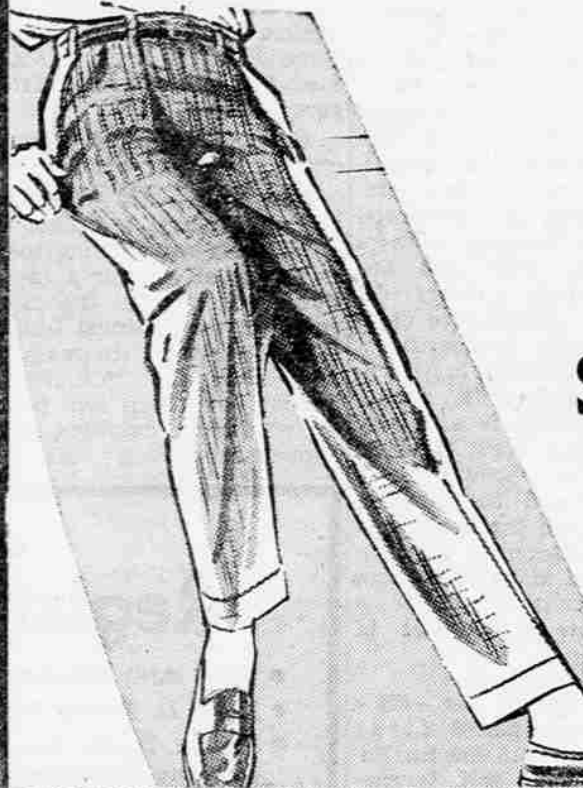
DANISH GYM TEAM

Rogue Valley Racing Association

To all racing enthusiasts interested in racing modified cars. Having a dinner meeting Saturday, March 21, at the Women's Civic Club House in Ashland, 7:30 p.m. Contact Vern Fraysher at SP 2-9749 or after 5 p.m. Home SP 3-5089 or Roy Rodgers, MU 5-8671, Ashland.

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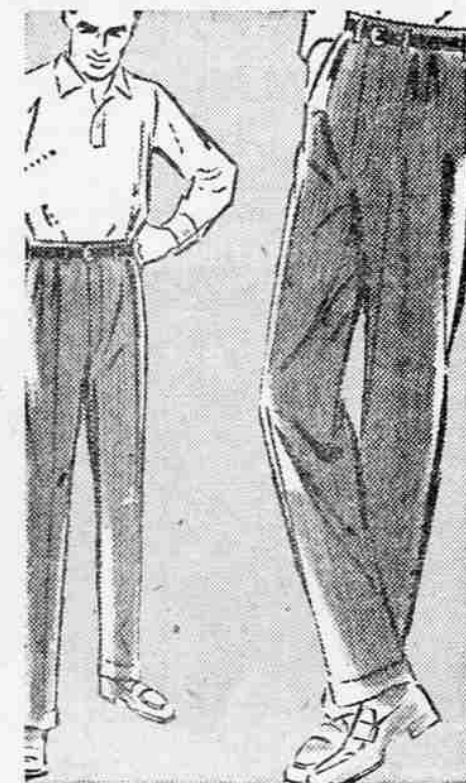
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