

Woods, Water, Wildlife

By Hank DeVoss

It's a good feeling to have to imagine what it was like in the great outdoors this past week end. Disliking humanity in the mass and expecting the mass exodus that certainly did occur, the decision to spend the Fourth of July week end at home was an easy choice to make. Now it's understood how they get those movie shots of empty cities—they wait for a three-day week end.

NO WORMS
It can safely be said that the more information we have regarding something, the easier it is to draw a more valid conclusion. After reporting on worms appearing in fish from Howard Prairie reservoir on the basis of descriptions given by anglers, it now appears that the fish do not have worms. Scientific examination indicates that the fish are feeding on a wormlike leech and these are the reported worms seen by various anglers. The fish are crammed with this food and when they are caught the leeches are found crawling through the digestive system of the fish.

WHO'S FOR SHAD?
The game commission is interested in a possible shad fishery for sportsmen on the Rogue river. These fine game fish are in large numbers in the Rogue from Rainey falls on down. They are a species of shad called "white shad" and they originate on the east coast. They were first planted in the Sacramento river system and have gradually spread to most of the rivers of the west coast. Those in the Rogue grow to a weight of 12 pounds and migrate into the river to spawn every year during the months of June and July. They are in the midst of their spawning activities right now and should be found in the lower river for another week or two.

HOW TO
The greatest stumbling block to establishment of a sports fishery for these fish has been the fact that they couldn't be caught. Now it appears that they are caught by some and this should be good news for others. The patterns that produce are: a red hackle with silver tinsel body, a red and white hackle with silver tinsel body and red head and tail, and a white hackle with silver tinsel body and reddish-orange head. Rogue shad seem to prefer red as the exciting factor that causes them to strike. This is borne out by personal experience in trying to catch one of these fine fighting fish.

THE COUNTDOWN
The mortality studies on the migratory fish passing through the turbines of Gold Ray dam have been completed. The counts on injured steelhead and salmon found below the turbine outlets indicate a mortality rate of 2.39 per cent for salmon and 22.86 per cent for steelhead. These figures are the result of a cooperative study of several years' duration undertaken by the game commission and the power company. A shutdown schedule has been completed but due to inaction it is too late this year for it to be of any value to the downstream migrants.

THE ANGLER'S LOG
It brought great satisfaction to witness the long arm of the law with a tight hold on one of the most persistent salmon snappers of the area. He has been reported with as many as 13 salmon in his possession in one day and no one knows how many fish are lying dead in the river after being ripped open by his foul-hooking technique. He's had it coming for a long time. Diamond Lake — Fishing has

been fair. Best catches were made stillfishing with cheese eggs or trolling flies in the evening. The slow fishing was caused in large part by the mob of boats and fishermen over the long week end. Things should pick up again and bigger fish are expected now that spawning is over.

Fish Lake — Is excellent. Lots of limits. Anything goes for these fish, they're eager.

Howard Prairie — No worms in the fish as parasites. Still getting reports of 4 pounders being caught most every day.

Lake of the Woods — Limits are caught in 2 hours. Lots of 20 inch rainbow. Kokanee are running from 10 to 12 inches. Trolling with 3T or stillfishing with worms does the trick.

Lemolo — Is good for some. The browns and rainbow are taking flies and brookies go for worms.

Klamath Lake — Lots of lunkers. Most of them are taken on flies. White fly or gray hackle trolled or drifted does the job. Ernest Scare got an 8 1/2 pounder on a fly. Chester Lengele got an almost 12-pounder on a freak. Terry Maxson landed an almost 9-pounder on a wobler. All these lunker lovers are Medfordites.

Squaw Lake — Good to excellent. Trolling with flatfish or 3T does it that way while stillfishing with cluster eggs or vellecia cheese does it another. Cats are also biting.

Willow Creek — Is finally picking up. Water is clearing but the best bet is stillfishing with cheese or cluster eggs.

THE OPTIMIST'S CORNER
The man that knows is holding out for a total of about 29,000 salmon for 1960. This will be a good run of spring chinook and if poachers, floods, and disease aren't too severe, we may see the return run increase itself to about 40,000. Let's hope so. **GOOD LUCK!**

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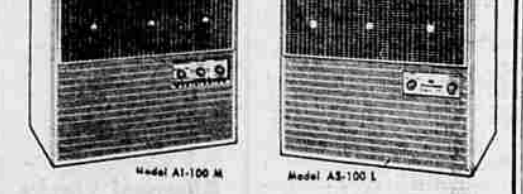
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The youth was taken into custody after admitting to police he took two rifles valued at \$100 from his father, and then sold them to a local gun shop for \$15 apiece.

The youth's parents, who had reported the theft earlier, decided that it would be best for the boy if he was placed in a detention home.

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