

Odell Lake's Big Mackinaws Challenge to Anglers

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(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles on Odell Lake fishing which will be published in the Klamath Falls Herald and News.)

By MALCOLM EPLEY JR.

There's nothing like the tug of a fighting big lake game fish at the end of the casted line and Odell Lake may well be the place for Klamath fishermen to head for those big ones. From now on Mackinaw, or Lake Trout, are being propagated in Odell under a "five year plan" of the State Game Commission. The big fish come from his native Great Lakes region of the Midwest, and was introduced into Odell Lake sometime in the 1920's, or earlier. There are stories of the Odell Mackinaw was planted from fish taken from the 1915 San Francisco Exposition.

Until last year the Mackinaw was on his own, running with the Red Salmon, Whitefish, Rainbow, Trout and Dolly Varden of the lake. In 1951, however, 80,000 Mackinaw fingerlings, eight to 10 inches long, were planted in the lake. This year 45,000 more are to be distributed over the lake by boat. The original eggs from which the fingerlings were hatched two years ago came from Canada, but some eggs are obtained from adult Mackinaw themselves.

HERE'S HOW

State Game Biologist Ken Cochran explains how it's done. "Adults are caught in trap nets placed in the spawning areas. They are put in a solution of urethane nitrate, an anesthetic which puts 'em out" hardedly in about five minutes.

The eggs are obtained from the female by literally "milking" her, moving the hand with a drift rod along her belly and squeezing the eggs out without harming her. Last year Cochran said some 90,000 eggs were obtained from females.

The milk for fertilizing the eggs is obtained from the male by a similar process, Cochran explained. The male supplies enough milk usually for two or three females. Last year a male obtained for this purpose weighed out at 22 pounds, and measured 22 inches long.

The average spawning stock, Cochran says, is around 16 pounds, though in 1950 a 40-pounder was hauled aboard for breeding purposes."

MARKING

Each fish planted back or taken about 18 months after hatching is marked. Those fish planted in 1951 had a clip put in the adipose fin, near the tail on top. This year the left ventral fin (about where flippers would be on a seal) was clipped. It took five men three days of off and on working to do the chore.

"The marking," Cochran explains, "is to determine the age of fish at spawning and maturity. On their own, the biologist said, the fish like to spawn out on wind-swept points where there are lots



22-POUND MACKINAW caught in Odell Lake by the State Game Commission during the spawning run last October was captured in a trap net. This was the largest taken last year by game officials during an egg collecting operation.

of boulders. There the females broadcast their eggs which sink down into the protection of the cracks among the boulders.

"They clean off boulders with their tails," he said, "and then lay their eggs. You can see where they have spawned by looking at the tops of the brushed-off boulders."

Fishing season at Odell Lake opens May 3, and will continue through September 30.

Cochran gives away a few secrets of catching the mighty Mack.

"These fish feed primarily on other fish. And they're usually caught in water 100 feet deep or so by using minnows. Dead minnows are legal bait."

It's as simple as that!

For fish over 20 inches in length—and among the Mackinaw there are lots of them—the state game law reads a bag limit of two fish per day, four in possession or in seven days. The smaller fish bag limit is 10 fish, of which

five must be under 12 inches. Generally, Cochran points out, Mackinaw are more than 20 inches, and the smaller ones are slim and not too meaty.

Among the other game fish on the lake, Cochran notes, the Red Salmon were also planted by man

And—despite many doubts—Cochran claims even the Whitefish is highly edible if correctly cooked. He suggests smoking.

Red Salmon also inhabit Davis Lake, and Mackinaw are found in Crescent Lake and one or two others in the Upper Cascades.

Spud Bulking Tour Offered

A tour for local farmers interested in potato bulk-harvesting or sacking equipment has been scheduled for Thursday at 8:30 a.m., starting from the County Agent's Office, Postoffice Bldg.

The tour will follow the beginning of a survey of such harvest machinery due to begin in the Basin Wednesday under a study program of bulking and sacking machinery here, in Central Oregon, in the Ontario area and in Southern Idaho.

One of the toughest labor shortages to hit this area in many years

is expected this harvest season, and bulking spuds is one answer to the problem.

The survey is being made co-operatively by the Oregon State College Agricultural Engineering Dept. and the Oregon Potato Commission.

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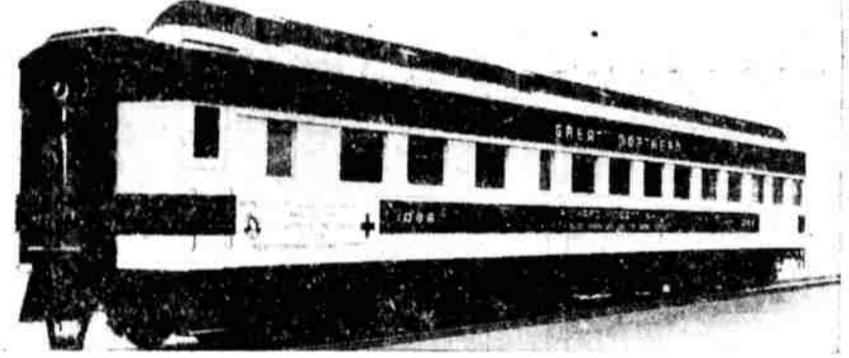
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In the months ahead the Red Cross-Great Northern car shown above will play a stirring role in the lives of hundreds of communities throughout the railway's territory. Dedicated to the procurement of life-saving blood for the nation's Armed Forces, the unique car is a self-sustaining "blood center on rails," with reception lounge, donor room and canteen area adequate to accommodate 120 donors per day.

FARE: ONE PINT OF BLOOD

As a public service, Great Northern Railway has provided the American National Red Cross a special car for collection of blood for our country's Armed Forces.

The Red Cross has advised Great Northern that the blood procurement car cannot be scheduled for every city and town on the railway. Delivery of blood to processing laboratories in the shortest possible time after collection is vital to its utilization by the Armed Forces, so the Red Cross will operate the procurement car only where connections can be made daily with Great Northern trains to speed the refrigerated whole blood to laboratories in the East.

The Red Cross-Great Northern blood procurement car, named in memory of Private First Class Richard Vincent Whalen, first employe of the railway to give his life in Korea, was put into service on April 2 for as long as America's fighting men need life-saving blood.



Pfc. Richard Vincent Whalen
 A Great Northern maintenance-of-way employe before his enlistment in the Army, Private Whalen lost his life in Korea in 1950. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent J. Whalen of Florence, Minn., who were first blood donors on the car named for the young soldier.

The *Richard Vincent Whalen* has been provided and will be operated by Great Northern without cost to the Red Cross, which will staff the "blood center on rails" in its extensive tour of communities throughout the railway's territory.

Operation of the car will give thousands of citizens their first opportunity to give blood for the Armed Forces, and will be directed and supervised only by the Red Cross. Although the Red Cross plans to utilize the car throughout Great Northern's 8,300-mile system, first operations will be in Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Eight times more blood is needed than now is being received by the Red Cross. Blood means life to the Armed Forces, and the Red Cross-Great Northern car is dedicated to increasing the flow of it to fighting Americans.

Fare on the *Richard Vincent Whalen* is one pint of your blood.

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