

Bert Gray Retires After 21 Years At Fish Plant

By MYRTLE WIMER

PORT KLAMATH—After having worked for the past 21 years at the Klamath Trout Hatchery, located five miles south of Fort Klamath on Crooked Creek, John A. (Bert) Gray was retired on pension this year, at the age of 66.

The pioneer employee of the Oregon State Game Commission has seen many changes take place at the hatchery throughout the years. He can remember how in the old days, fish food was ground by jacking up the rear wheels of a car for power to run the grinding machine; nowadays much of the approximately 140 tons of food used annually is imported ready for use, and the balance is ground by electrically operated equipment. During his 21 years at the hatchery, Bert says the largest amount of fish food used in one month was 52,582 pounds, the quantity varying of course, according to the number of fish on hand. A far cry from modern methods of transporting fish for planting in streams, rivers and lakes was that of the early days, when fish were taken by packtrains, often a distance of more than 200 miles, employees ferrying the fingerling trout in five gallon cans on pack animals. The fish are now moved quickly to their destination in modern tank trucks, and are also planted from the local hatchery by airplanes each year in high, remote mountain lakes and streams.

TROUT DISTRIBUTED

Trout are distributed all over the southeastern part of Oregon, to the south and east of Bend. The Klamath Trout Hatchery is the third largest in the state. Leaburg and Oak Springs being the first and second major hatcheries. At this time, there are 23 ponds at the local plant, with a crew of four men, in addition to the superintendent, Dick Evans, who came here in 1931 from the Diamond Lake Hatchery, succeeding Lynn Webb, who is now in charge of the Leaburg hatchery on the McKenzie River. The hatchery is located in a setting of trees, the trim attractive buildings are well kept and surrounded by green lawns, shrubs and flowers. Bert Gray has seen all but two of these buildings put up since he started work there.

Visitors are always welcome at the hatchery, and are taken on conducted tours of the various ponds, where fish may be seen in all stages of development, from the unhatched egg to fingerling and legal size trout.

HOLDOVERS

This year, Evans stated that there are 200,000 holdovers on hand, trout kept during the winter months, which will be planted soon, and two million fingerling size trout. Species include Eastern Brook and Rainbow, also at the

hatchery at the present time are 30,000 fingerling Mackinaw trout, and already this spring, 4900 legal size of this variety were planted in Odell Lake, where the big fellows thrive in their natural habitat of deep, dark water. The supply of Mackinaws is far below normal this season, Evans said, as no eggs were received at the hatchery. In addition, there are a few Atlantic salmon on hand, and these will be raised for their spawn; resulting salmon will eventually be released in Odell Creek, which runs into Davis Lake, their ultimate destination.

Bert Gray says that during his he has done everything in the way of necessary work. "I did everything except sign the payroll checks," he said, with a chuckle. He is a native Oregonian—at the plains via oxen drawn wagon the age of four, his father crossed the plains from Jackson, Mississippi, with his parents, the Rev. and Mrs. John Gray. The family settled on a pre-emption homestead claim close to Medford, between there and Jacksonville. The Rev. Gray, a Methodist minister, preached at Jacksonville's Methodist church, still used as a house of worship, which enjoys the distinction of being the oldest Methodist Church located west of the Rocky Mountains.

CAME WEST

With her parents, Bert's mother, Olive Higginbotham, came west in 1870 at the age of 20 from Hastings, Nebraska, making the trip by train; the family settled at Gold Hill, Oregon. Romance blossomed, and in 1887, she and Bert's father, George Thomas Gray, were married. Bert was born on February 22, 1888, and the only other child his sister Alice, three years later. In 1918, he was married to May Tower, and was employed from 1921 until 1931 by the U.S. Forest Service, stationed at the Seven Mile guard station west of Fort Klamath; for the next two years, he worked on his Seven Mile homestead, until it was sold in 1933 to Jack Butterfield, Klamath Falls, who subsequently sold the property to its present day owner, R. Seth Dixon.

In 1933 Bert started in at the Klamath Trout Hatchery, and has worked there steadily every since. He and May are parents of three children—son Donald, who with his wife Claire live at Stockton, California, where both are employed; two daughters, Barbara and Annie (Mrs. Richard Dulaney, Boring, Texas, and Mrs. Gene Corbin, Stockton, California, respectively). They have three small grandsons. In addition to their local home, they own a 74 acre ranch on the shore of Agency Lake, where they raise wonderful vegetable crops. Next spring, Donald and his wife



JOHN A. GRAY

plan to forsake city life, move to the Gray ranch and raise pigs as well as vegetables.

PLANS

When asked what his plans were now that he has retired from active work, Bert answered (partly after the manner of the old cliché about the postman taking a walk on his day off) that he intends to "mostly fish and hunt." After looking at fish for 21 years at the hatchery, it would seem that he wouldn't want to spend time trying to catch any; on the contrary, he loves to fish, and enjoys the privilege of getting an annual special pioneer's hunting and fishing license, which is issued by the State Game Commission (for a \$1.00 fee) to bona-fide residents who have lived in Oregon for 60 years. His wife May shares his enthusiasm for the sport, and is always ready at a minute's notice to drop whatever she is doing, pack a picnic lunch, don her overalls, pick up the fishing gear and take off. In the fall, both intend to spend the open deer season on hunting jaunts; in short, to sum up their plans for the future, in Bert's words, they intend to "just relax and take life easy henceforth." Again next spring the couple may go to the egg taking station of the Game Commission near Keno, where they have for the past two years spent two

months. Bert was stationed there as a watchman, and says there is absolutely no work involved in the job, just the responsibility of guarding the premises.

ACTIVE

Both are very active in all community affairs—they are members of the local Community Methodist church, the Fort Klamath Grange, and the Wood River Pioneer and Old Timers—the latter is a group which is purely social, having for its main objective the perpetuation of the traditions and ideals of those who pioneered the Wood River valley; old time residents come from many points for the third Saturday and Sunday of each August, gathering Saturday evening for annual election of officers, etc., followed by a social get-together, with a picnic on Sunday at the Jackson F. Kimball state park at the head of Wood River. May is also a charter member of a local women's group, The Civic Improvement Club, one of the oldest organizations in the Klamath Basin, which was formed in 1924 and incorporated in 1927.

Bert's parents have both passed away, but his sister Alice, also a pioneer resident of the Wood River valley, still makes her home in Fort Klamath, living in her own little cottage next to Bert and May's residence.

Today's Women

By DOROTHY ROE
AP Women's Editor

Few things today are safe from the roving eyes of our top designers.

The astute Elsa Schiaparelli has turned her talent toward practically everything you can mention, from men's shirts to mattress ticking, and heads an American corporation organized to keep her many irons busy in many fires.

Other famous designers, such as Christian Dior, Lilly Dache, Jacques Fath and Claire McCardell, to name a few, have extended their field far beyond their original creations of dresses and hats, to include such unexpected items as jewelry, sun glasses, stockings, gloves, brassieres and blifolds.

Now comes the designer touch in stationery. So far two top artists have turned their attention to this once-static field. One, match, is the busy Schiaparelli. The other is Dorothy Simmons, famed up to now principally for her cherub Christmas card designs.

The idea apparently came separately to the two designers, for their lines of imaginative and colorful writing paper hit the American market about the same time, and both are selling like hotcakes. The decorative, dainty Miss Simmons, who has inlaid mahogany cherub designs in her bedroom furniture and who herself looks like a modernized Dresden doll, took a trip to Vienna last summer and came back with a contract for fine notepaper.

Then she sat down and worked up some designs, for both paper and boxes, that would give women an opportunity to choose colorful and individual stationery for their personal correspondence. No more plain white or gray sheets. The new Simmons designs are decorated with flowers, birds and snowflakes. They may be engraved with the monogram of the correspondent. They come in unusual shapes and sizes, and apparently are stimulating once more the gentle art of

Legal Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS
ON SCHOOL BUS
Notice is hereby given that the board of directors of Union High School District No. 2, of Klamath County, Oregon, will receive sealed bids at the office of the district clerk at Room 200, High School Building, Klamath Falls, Oregon, until 4:00 o'clock p.m., Pacific standard time on July 26, 1954, for the purchase of one school bus, according to specifications and instructions to bidders, on file in the district clerk's office at the above address. The board of directors shall be the sole judge of the merits and qualifications of equipment offered, and reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, and to waive formality or irregularity in any bid. Bids will be opened publicly at a regular board meeting at 8:00 o'clock p.m. at the above address.
H. B. Ashley, District Clerk
July 12, 1954

NAVAL VISIT

HELSENKI, Finland (AP)—A Soviet cruiser and two destroyers arrived Saturday for the first Russian naval visit to this capital since World War II.

QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds



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The Schiaparelli notepapers have a bolder touch. The most striking is a square sheet in Schiaparelli's famous "shocking pink," bordered in white and designed for writing in white ink. Young sophisticates love this one.

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