

Business Notes

Bridge Street Bait & Tackle expands with new building and stock

After two-and-a-half years, Chuck and Sharlene Cradit have moved their bait and tackle business into a pole building that Chuck built last summer adjacent to their home. The shop uses only a portion of the building, though archery equipment has been added to the inventory.

The new facility has the atmosphere of a true sporting goods shop, with fishing poles sharing the walls with elk bugles, refrigerators holding fresh bait, hunting bows and arrows, and occasional pictures of Chuck or others

with proof of their "big catch." There are also thousands of lures and flies to choose from. The flies are hand-tied by their son, George Anson, of California.

The shop also offers complete rod and reel repair, plus custom rod building for sturgeon, salmon and steelhead. The Cradits plan to have seminars and videos from time to time, providing the opportunity for people to bone-up on their fishing or hunting skills. One such seminar will be offered on June 11; see the advertisement on page

nine for details.

An open house for the expanded business will be held Saturday, May 14, from noon to five. Free hot dogs, burgers and soda will be served.

Bridge Street Archery, Bait & Tackle is open seven days a week, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., at 872 E. Bridge Street. Although Chuck is a full time construction worker, Sharlene is generally around during the day. The important thing for sports' buffs to remember is: If the lights are on, knock on the door and one of the Cradits will open for you.



Chuck Cradit amidst his pride and joy.

Pond owners should check status under provisions of new statute

If you own a pond that was constructed before January 1, 1993, you may benefit from a law passed by the 1993 Oregon Legislature. However, to take advantage of the benefits under this program, you must act before January 1, 1995.

The pond legislation was enacted because many existing man-made ponds in Oregon do not have water rights. The pond owners may not know that, with few exceptions, water rights are required to store or use water in constructed ponds, even very small ones. Failure to obtain a water right could expose pond owners to fines and other penalties.

The new law creates an "amnesty" period so owners of ponds can file applications and continue storing water without penalty while decisions are reached on their applications. The law also created some exemptions from water right require-

ments.

If you receive water from a municipal or water district supplier, you are probably not affected by the new law. You need a water right if you divert water from a creek or natural waterway to fill your pond.

If you don't know whether you have a water right because the pond was constructed before you purchased your property, call your local watermaster or Water Resources Department (WRD) to see if a water right exists. Be prepared with a legal description of the pond's location when you call.

If you have a small, off-channel pond that was constructed before January 1, 1993, you may be exempt from the requirement to obtain a water right. However, the new law requires a pond owner to notify WRD of the location of the pond and provide other information.

If your pond meets certain requirements, filing an exemption notice will make sure the pond is "legal" and not subject to future penalties. Obtaining an exemption notice is not the same as obtaining a water right.

Holders of water rights are entitled to certain legal protections. In times of water shortage, water right priority dates determine who will get water. Exempt ponds do not receive priority dates, and WRD will not shut off other users to provide water to an exempt pond owner.

Your pond is exempt if all of the following apply:

- It was constructed before January 1, 1993.
- It stores less than 9.2 acre-feet of water or has a dam less than 10 feet high. One acre-foot is the volume of water which will cover one

acre to a depth of one foot. The height of the dam is to be measured at its highest point above natural ground elevation, at the centerline of the dam.

- It is off-channel and outside streambank areas. To qualify, the pond cannot be in, or divert water from, a natural waterway whether or not the stream flows year-round.

If your pond was constructed before January 1, 1993 and is not exempt, you need to file a water right application by January 1, 1995.

If you have a pond constructed after January 1, 1993, and you do not have a water right, this program does not apply to you. You will need to apply for a water right under the normal process.

For more information, contact the watermaster for your county: Columbia and Clatsop, Greg Beaman, 397-0633.

Washington County, Jerry Rodgers, 693-4881.

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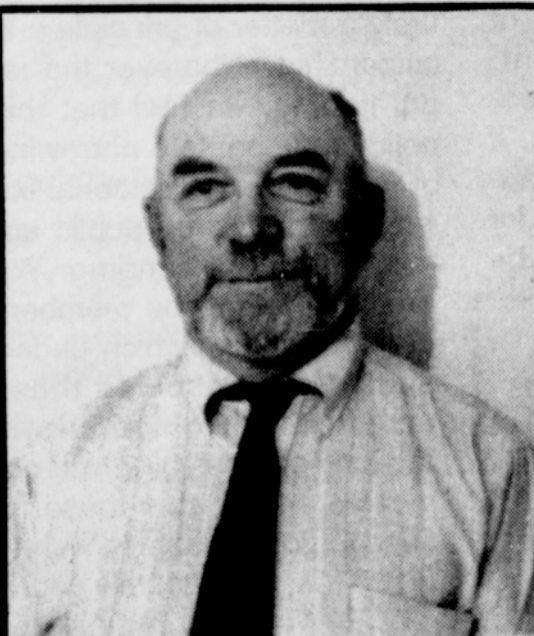
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