

Apr. 5, 1940
Various references have been made in these columns to the opposition of William L. Finley, naturalist, to the high dams in the upper Willamette river and tributaries, and it is only just to the local county citizen to present his contentions. After holding that the Columbia river salmon industry is valued at \$10,000,000 annually to Oregon, Finley continues his arguments as follows:
"The best remaining spawning area is the tributary, the Willamette, which is apparently doomed to go the same route, all in the name of flood control, in order to obtain federal pork monies, largely at the expense of the more populous states, to the tune of more than 100 million dollars, and to add to the fast growing number of aquatic monstrosities being heaped upon the nation.
"To justify the project on the grounds that it will protect farmers and other land owners along the river from being damaged by flood waters doesn't make sense. The engineers' study indicated that the largest reported floods on the upper Willamette occurred during December, 1861, January, 1881, and February, 1890—all during winter months. Floods on the main stream usually occur between November and March, the main flood water below Oregon City being back-water from annual freshets on the Columbia and therefore having nothing to do with the upper Willamette. Since floods in the Willamette valley come during the winter months, how can there be damage to farm crops?
"From time immemorial we know that river bottoms regularly covered with silt make the richest land for agriculture and that on flats covered with rich, sandy loam without effort or expense on his part the farmer produces his largest and finest crop." *Oregon City Courier*

Finleys Returning Monday
Dr. William L. Finley and his wife Irene will return to Portland Monday after attending the Izaak Walton League of America convention in Chicago and the General Wild Life federation conference in Washington, D. C. Dr. Finley is vice-president of both organizations.

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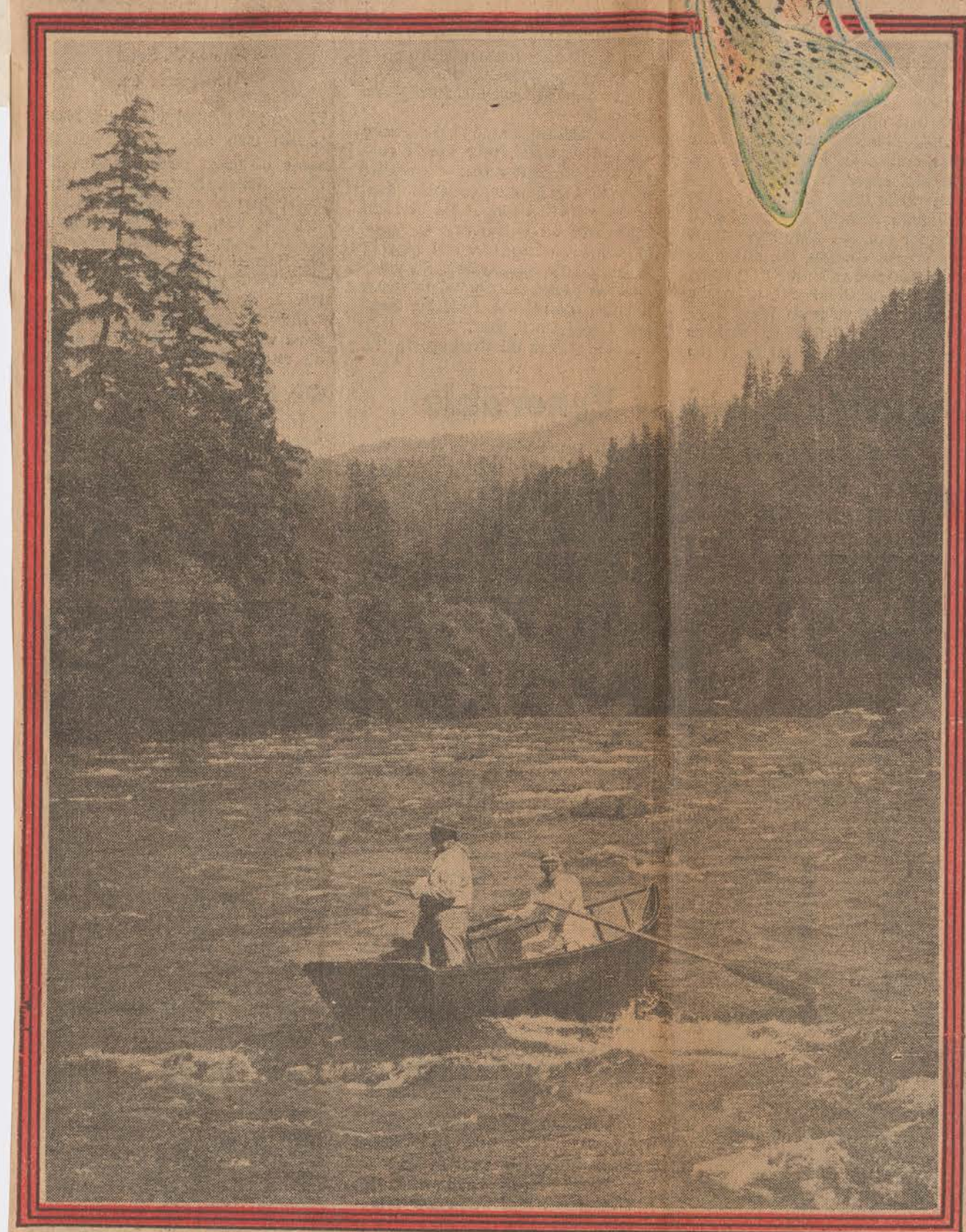
Apr. 7, 1940
**Saturday, 13th,
'Opening Day'**

By W. E. FINLEY AND ED AVERILL

BECAUSE April 15, usual opening date of the trout fishing season in Oregon, comes on Monday this year, the game commission, in sympathetic mood, has "jumped the gun" a couple of days, and fixed Saturday the 13th as "opening day"—giving the great fishing populace an opportunity for a week-end of their favorite sport.
But although the season is opening a bit earlier this year, the season as a whole will be 12 days shorter, because it closes October 15, 14 days earlier than in 1939.
Daily period of legal fishing—from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.
Creel limit has been cut, and will be 15 fish or 15 pounds in one day; 30 fish or 30 pounds and one fish in seven consecutive days, or in one's possession at one time.
Roughly speaking, rather more than 140,000 Oregonians go in for fishing during the trout season.
One out of every 10 persons in the state buy fishing licenses, and another 2 per cent. of the population, exempt from license, participate in the sport.
When as a youngster this writer was leaving the prints of his bare feet on the Bandon mud flats and doing all his fishing in Ferry creek, there were just two kinds of trout: "shiners" and "mountain trout." He now knows the "shiners" were young salmon on their way back to the ocean, and that the so-called mountain trout were either rainbows or cutthroats—probably the latter. Likewise there were only two kinds of lure—salmon eggs and fish worms. He had no fishing rod in those days. It was a "pole." An alder pole, cut on the bank of the stream, and he had never heard of an artificial fly or a leader.
But time brings changes and now Oregon anglers may expect not only cutthroats and rainbows, but those in the eastern part of the state may also land eastern brook and loch leven (don't call them German brown, pleads Matt Ryckman). Then, of course, there is the lordly steelhead.
And the anglers of class have their tapered lines, tapered leaders, a vast assortment of dry flies, wet flies, fly rods, casting rods, creels, landing nets, leader boxes, double action anti-backlash reels, and other varied "tackle."
But it is our guess that any of the "regulars" of the old days—Albert Garfield, Lawrence Pendergrass, Lloyd Rosa, Charley Swift, Harry Walker, Lawrence Stitt, Herbert Manciett, Henry Reed, or any of the others—would trade the best of their present day outfits for just one chance to gather again around that little fire under the towering fir tree where the bend in the creek made a deep hole under the roots, always good for at least two or three "big ones." Those were "the days of real sport."



About 10 miles above Maupin on the Deschutes, one of Oregon's famous trout streams.



"White water" on the McKenzie river, favorite of Oregon fishermen for generations—a stream of rare beauty, tranquil and serene, or wild and dashing, as it moves in many moods through timber and gorge—but good fishing all the way.

And Trout Fishing Must Be Fun Or 140,000 'Fans' Are Wrong

TWO of the questions with which we always are bombarded prior to the opening of the season, and during the weeks it is open, are: "Where is the best place to go?" "What is the best lure to use, or the best kind of fly?"
So much depends upon weather and water conditions that it is not possible to give satisfactory answers to such questions. Not only must there be fish in the stream, but the state and temperature of the water must be right. It must not be too high, nor too roily; too clear, too warm or too cold. The weather must not be too bright, nor too cloudy, too windy or too still. And even when conditions were apparently perfect, there have been days when we have all returned with empty baskets muttering "never were there such places for fish, but the fish were not in their places."
The trout season will be open in virtually all of the streams of the state. The lakes in the high mountains are still snow and ice bound. May first is the scheduled "first day" for most of them, and if the year runs true to form there will be only a few hardy souls able to reach their shores by that time. Those who do may be compelled to cut holes in the ice and resort to the much maligned "nigger fishing" to land any fish.
We cannot tell where the best fishing water can be found, but we can tell what streams adjacent to Portland will entertain the greatest number of fishermen on the opening day in proportion to their waters. Those will be Dairy, Scroggins and Gales creeks, and their various tributaries. All are in Washington county, and all are tributaries of the Tualatin river which in turn will have its fair quota of anglers.
Incidentally we are of the opinion that the best authority on angling in the Tualatin and its tributaries is Fred Wegner, veteran

Western Union operator for The Journal.
The Clackamas and McKenzie rivers together with all the other tributaries of the Willamette and the "tributaries of the tributaries" will be fished in varying degrees, depending upon the condition of the water and weather. Southern Oregon also has its Rogue river wherein the Steelhead is always a trout. Then there are the coastal streams which thus far are less affected by pollution, dams, irrigation ditches and other deleterious things affecting fish life which comes with so-called advancing civilization. Most anglers believe that civilization would show more advancement if in its uses of the waters of streams and lakes, it would safeguard the welfare of the fish life within them.
Deschutes Is Still Fine Fishing Stream
The Deschutes is still one of the finest fishing streams to be found anywhere in the world, notwithstanding dams, irrigation ditches, and destructive logging operations. However, the experience of our friends causes us to hazard the prediction that fly fishing in the Deschutes will be none too good on opening day. There have been years when it was very good by April 15, but taking it year in and year out, our friends for whom the Deschutes is the one best river in all the world, tell us there will probably be no good fly fishing there until May, with the best of the season coming around about Memorial day.
Our friends up Pendleton way will be going out to McKay, or Birch, or up the Umatilla or to Meacham creek. Ah! Good old Meacham creek and the North Fork. They are two fine streams as yet untouched by highways. Passenger trains no longer stop at Duncan, or North Fork, or Huron to pick up the returning fishermen on Sunday evenings. One must now ride the freights, walk, or go in on horseback. If that is so, it is a very de-

sirable situation as we see it. Under those conditions it will always furnish a reasonable amount of fishing for a goodly number of people, and it will serve as a reservoir for the over-fished Umatilla of which it is a tributary.
And so it goes. Every section of the state has its favorite waters and there will be few sections in which some streams will not afford anglers an opportunity to satisfy the urge which comes to so many at this season of the year.
The "limit" this year has been cut from 20 fish to 15 fish, or 15 pounds and one fish in any one day or 30 fish or 30 pounds and one fish in any seven days or in possession at any one time. These are the limits prevailing for some years on the McKenzie and upper Willamette rivers, and the game commission in an effort to conserve the dwindling supply of trout in the waters for the increasing number of fishermen on the bank and in the boat have made the restriction uniform throughout the state.
The previous regulation which permitted the taking of trout over 10 inches in length in tide water and in certain coastal lakes has been altered. This season had been proclaimed by legislative action, so the commission was powerless to abolish it altogether, but it did the next best thing. It reduced the limit to three of such fish in any one day in those waters at all times of the year when the general trout season is closed. This modified regulation also gives the steelhead fishermen a chance to keep three cutthroats or salmon trout accidentally hooked while trying for the bigger fellows.
But with all the restrictions and limitations the opening of the trout season is still a big day. And the gay and fighting steelhead, rainbow, cutthroat, eastern brook and loch leven have only five more days in which to feed without fear of barbed hook. After that they will do well to go into hiding and view with suspicion anything even resembling the appearance of food.