

OREGON GAME — GREAT STATE RESOURCE

Whales, Ospreys and Elk Teeth

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By F. M. Brown

First it was a whale foolishly coming up the Columbia river to see what he could see that caused the members of the present state game commission to lose a lot of sleep and game fund money. Then along came a number of ospreys and took up bathing and fishing in Mirror pond at Bend, causing Commissioner Vandervert to lose more sleep and to issue a defy to the State Audubon Society, to William L. Finley, and a bunch of other wild life conservationists, by declaring he would sentence the offending ospreys to sudden death. And now it is an elk tooth that is causing more loss of sleep—something similar to the regular toothache. Mixed up with whales, ospreys and elk teeth are a lot of sportsmen all over Oregon who are standing up and waiting to be counted for better game law enforcement, causing Chairman Commissioner Corrigan to lose much sleep and do a lot of traveling around to see what it is all about. The reader is mistaken beyond a reasonable doubt if he thinks the average Oregon game commission does not have troubles of its own. Yea, verily, the promoters of loss of sleep are numerous and of a varied variety.

But the members of the present game commission can absorb solace from the fact that the many game commissions preceding them also had troubles and suffered loss of sleep, although former commissions never had a whale to have a whale of a time with. Further solace may be had in the thought that, if history repeats itself, and some game wardens declare that it does, the present commission has about lived its day. In fact, our old friend Bill Finley, hints in a published article on ospreys, more particularly the Bend ospreys, that if Dr. Vandervert has killed the offending ospreys he should be discharged from the game commission by the governor. Bill appears quite wrathful. But Doc. won't tell—and the ospreys are missing in death or flight.

James H. McCool, the pencil pusher who manages to get out a fairly good wild life column in the Oregonian occasionally, perhaps lost some sleep over the whale episode. Jimmy had a whale of a lot of fun, too, notwithstanding the fact that the whale gave the game commission and the city of Portland a real whaling. One would think from reading the Oregonian that Jimmy really got the whale to come to Portland. Take McCool's whale and the Oregonian's elephant together, and there was a whale of a time while they lasted.

And now comes Dr. Vinning counting sleepless nights and all because a fellow who was fined \$200 and 30 days in jail on the charge of having

parts of elk in possession unlawfully, wants the commission to spend some more of the sportsmens' money and reimburse him for an elk tooth that he claims a game warden extracted from him during the engagement. The Doctor says he has half a notion to have all game wardens who sieze game and other property as evidence put under bonds. Wonder where the doctor could find a game warden these days of state police? The fellow, according to newspaper accounts, says he knows who the warden is, or was, who took his tooth. There is no use in losing sleep over a little thing like this, or spending game fund money either. All that seems necessary in the face of the facts as presented is to name the warden and have him return the troublesome tooth or pay for the extracting. This action might throw suspicion on the real culprit too.

Trout Liberated in Callapooia

According to a statement made by an employe of the state game commission, 10,000 Rainbow trout, ranging from four to nine inches in length, were liberated in the Callapooia river last Saturday. The fish were "planted" in the Callapooia a few yards above the Holley bridge. These trout came from the Roaring River Hatchery in Linn county and were transported in the "Pullman" fish truck, which is especially fitted for this purpose. We understand this "planting" will be the only one in this part of Linn county until fall.

The writer has failed to find any one who can explain why 10,000 trout were liberated at this particular spot in the Callapooia. Perhaps Art Fish the research director for the state game commission can tell 'em? Our guess is that it is a handy place to liberate fish. If the game commission or the hatchery department would give sportsmen notice that fish are to be liberated, by letter or phone, preparations would be made whereby the fish could be liberated at different points in the river where they would have a better chance to fulfill the mission for which they were hatched.

Sunday was a regular "fishing day" in the Callapooia. It is estimated that over 200 anglers tried their luck with varied success, casting their lines at, above, and below, the place of liberation. Anglers from Eugene, Corvallis, Albany, Lebanon and many other places were seen on the river.