

Punchy Paragraphs

May 12, 1939

Some Oregon newspapers have been hauling William L. Finley, our naturalist, over the coals for contending that the seven high dams in the upper Willamette and tributaries will greatly lessen the salmon runs. He is right. Some of the critics point to the fact that the salmon are getting over Bonneville dam, but they do not mention the fact that many such have to be taken around in trucks, nor do they contend that any great percent of them get back down the river to the ocean.

Dams, putrid rivers and too many fish traps are yearly now lessening the runs of salmon. We have in the Clackamas river, for instance, open and notorious violation of the state law, there being two power dams, one with an inadequate fishway ladder and the other entirely without one. This is taking something of value, particularly to the people living along the river, by breaking a law. At Oregon City a few years ago the average hook and line fishermen would during the season land from 25 to 30 chinooks. Not so any more. We do not believe the average for the past two years has been above five. There is a reason for this, eggs from Willamette fish being taken and resultant fingerlings planted in the Columbia, along with the unlawful closure of the Clackamas and pollution of the Willamette.

Back to the flood control and irrigation project in the upper Willamette. If carried out it of course will ruin the run of salmon in the river, which could be brought back if the fish hatchery fanatics would allow nature to take its course, the river pollution at Portland done away with and the fish traps made unlawful. The question is whether these abuses are more important to the people than the fish that nature raises for them, even furnishing the food. We pass the decision to the public. *Oregon City Courier*

PROGRAM

SPEAKER

WM. L. FINLEY

Author, Lecturer and Authentic Exponent of Wild Life

CLUB SINGING

(Rotary Club)

PROMPTLY AT 12:15

CRYSTAL ROOM

HOTEL BENSON

Spokes - May 16, 1939

Finley to Speak

May 15, 1939

William L. Finley, author, lecturer and wild life authority, will speak at the Rotary club luncheon meeting Tuesday noon at the Benson hotel. *Journal*

HUNTING, FISHING AND WILD LIFE

Oswego, N. Y. Times

May 16, 1939

By O. BURKHART

William L. Finley, vice president of the National Wildlife Federation, has written a very interesting article under the title of Book-keeping for Rivers. The Federation has been conducting an investigation of some of the promotional schemes which seek to dig into the taxpayers' pocket for money to build dams in our rivers to irrigate large sections of land at a time when we already have a problem of overproduction of farm products.

Costs of water rights to farmers in such irrigation districts run from \$200 to \$400 per acre today while past records show that most of the farmers in the earlier projects went broke at a cost of \$100 to \$120 per acre. The west pays about one-half of one per cent of the cost of these dams while the taxpayers of the densely populated east pay 99½ per cent.

No thought or study is being given to the destruction of the fish resources which belong to the people. Besides the Grand Coulee Dam, there are now efforts on foot to build seven more on the Columbia river and seven on the Willamette river.

Another argument for dams in the rivers is inland waterways transportation. Federal expenditures for improvement of inland waterways to June 30, 1937, were \$2,186,000,000. Inland waterways transportation is about 70 years out of date. The country is lined and interlined with railroads and hard-surface highways. As far as the public is concerned, transportation by water is not cheaper than by land.

For freight moved on rivers like the Illinois and the Missouri, the taxpayers pay from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per ton. Army engineers are deepening the channel of the Columbia river between the Dallas and Umatilla Rapids at a cost of about \$100,000,000. Taking the top figure of the amount of freight the promoters claim will be moved on the Columbia, the taxpayers are going to pay around \$50 per ton.

Few, if any, fishermen give any thought to the way our bait fish are wasted. Perhaps not more than one of every 25 minnows taken for bait purposes is used. There are very few times when the average fisherman does not take as many minnows on a one-day trip as he would need for a week of fishing. Millions of them die in the hands of bait dealers.

Minnows form some portion of the diet of most all of our fish. Show me a body of water where minnows are scarce and I will show you that fish are also scarce. Also that the fish are in poor condition. It is high time that we gave some thought to the conservation of our bait fish.