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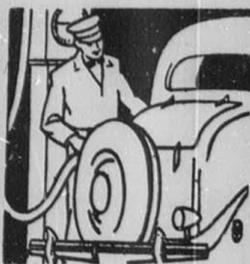
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Three Species of Trout In W. N. C.

Rainbow, Brook, Brown Provide Anglers With Sport In Local Streams

The following article has been prepared by Thomas K. Chamberlain of Brevard, Aquatic Biologist of the Bureau of Fisheries, in an endeavor to better acquaint sportsmen of the difference between the three trout now inhabiting native waters, and to answer some of the questions most fishermen would like to know about the brook, brown and rainbow trout.

John B. Fortin,
Dist. Forest Ranger.

Trout Pioneers And Our Native Trout

We are proud of the fact that our ancestors traveled from far away places to live in the particular bit of America we know best. Here in Western North Carolina there is a glorious tradition of people coming from over-seas to settle in the mountains, and later of other families coming up from South Carolina to settle the bottom lands.

To the fishermen of the streams of Western North Carolina there is justifiable pride in the gamey trout these settlers found in the cool mountain waters, but they can feel an equal pride in those pioneer trout which also came thousands of miles, some from the east and some from the west, to more fully develop the sporting possibilities of these streams, once civilization had come.

For the native trout, also called speckled trout and brook trout, grand as he is, does not take kindly to the changes made in his home surroundings by civilization. He will always come first in the hearts of his friends, who would like the brook trout to have every stream in which he can thrive satisfactorily all to himself. But the cutting away of timber has caused the larger streams to become warmer. This means less oxygen to breathe and greater susceptibility to disease. His pioneer cousins, the rainbow and the brown trout, do not mind this quite as much. They can thrive in streams where the speckled trout can not long exist, and they are fighting for a place of their own in the fisherman's heart.

The speckled trout, although wary, is a greedy fish, whose appetite continually runs away with his discretion. He is, therefore, the easiest of our trout to catch. Perhaps some fishermen hate to have him go because they are not skilled enough to catch the rainbow and the brown. The speckled trout is a beautiful fish. While his head may be a bit heavy and his mouth large, still, his coloration, the olive and black mottling on his back, the red spots on his side and the white marks on his paired fins, always give a thrill when he is freshly caught. His scales, too, are extremely delicate and small and so buried in the skin that he appears without any.

The speckled trout is less inclined to change residence than other trout. In other words he does not move about much, in a stream. When planted too thickly in a given section of stream he will often stay and starve rather than drop down stream, or move up, to new feeding grounds. Since he does best in the small colder streams where he does not grow large, one seldom

sees speckled trout in Western North Carolina larger than one or two pounds. But in the large cold streams of Canada this same species may reach a weight of ten pounds.

The rainbow trout is also an American trout, but he was brought from the far west. It is interesting to note that the rainbow trout is more closely related to the brown trout of Europe than to the speckled trout. In fact one might call the rainbow and brown trout brothers and the speckled trout their cousin.

Just as the early settlers who came to western North Carolina were composed of different families, so the rainbows who came from our far west, were of several strains from several localities. Some came from California streams. Some came from Oregon waters. Each strain had its own appearance and characteristics. The first rainbows brought east might be said to have corresponded with people of Gypsy stock. They did not care to settle down, but persisted in wandering. Apparently they drifted down to the sea and disappeared. Quite likely among these early rainbows were steelhead trout which look so much like rainbows only an expert can tell them apart. Steelheads are the Gypsies among the rainbow group of trout for they like to visit the sea, although, like salmon, they spawn only in fresh water streams. Be that as it may, the first plantings of rainbow in the east were not successful. Many fishermen feared for a long time that these fish never would make themselves at home in eastern streams. But more and more rainbows were brought east. Many were kept in hatcheries, where perhaps, their wandering spirit was tamed down. Perhaps these later rainbows had less Gypsy blood. Whatever the reason, it was finally apparent that rainbows were becoming reconciled to our eastern streams. Certainly they are now doing very well. Quite definitely they are making a place for themselves in the east, but a few still seem to feel the wander urge, once in a while.

The rainbow is a more hardy fish than its cousin the speckled trout. As stated before, the rainbow can stand the warmer water, so it does better than the speckled trout in our larger trout streams of Western North Carolina, which are warmer than they used to be since the removal of the timber.

The rainbow is a gamey fish, reaching a much larger size than the speckled trout. Here in the east an occasional individual runs over 10 pounds. The tendency of the fish, when hooked, to make frequent leaps from the water, shaking its head like a terrier in an effort to throw out the hook, is a great thrill to the angler. Most individual rainbows have a bright red band along the body which makes it easy to distinguish and which gives the fish its name. It shows up well as the fish dashes through riffles, where it is likely to be found feeding.

The brown trout, like his brother the rainbow, came a long way to reach our streams. Like our own forebears he crossed the ocean, starting from more than one locality in Europe. Some hailed from Bonny Scotland and were called, at first, Scottish lakes trout or Loch Loven trout. Others were of German origin and were sometimes called Von Behr trout. But they have been in a melting pot of their own in this country, crossed and recrossed, until they are all good American trout now, and we speak of them simply as brown trout.

Brown trout is a good name for them, too. They have a brownish cast which definitely distinguishes them. Spotting varies somewhat among them. Probably this is due to their different origins. These planted in the South Mills River show bright red spots almost like a speckled trout. However, the brown trout does not have the olive green marbling effect on its back which is so characteristic of the speckled trout.

The brown, like the rainbow, is a hardy fish, thriving in warmer water than the speckled trout. However, he prefers more quiet flowing streams of some depth, or with deep pools. Also he prefers the larger forest and mountain streams. In such waters he will make himself master in time, eating up, or driving out, other trout, and taking care of himself very well in the presence of bass.

As his ancestors in Europe had an acquaintance with fishermen running over many centuries he has become the most capable of all trout in looking after himself where fishing is heavy. He is a very wary fish, somewhat more temperamental in his feeding habits than other trout. Once in a while he gets careless, but an angler who consistently out-smarts the brown trout is a real fisherman indeed.

The brown is a pugnacious canaballistic fighter who like his brother, the rainbow, may reach an extreme weight of over 10 pounds. But one weighing 5 to 7 pounds may be considered a large fish. In a moderate sized stream such a fish will often be found in a pool playing dictator. He not only will dominate the pool but he eventually has the pool completely to himself unless caught, for he will drive out or eat up all smaller fish which seek to share the pool with him. The angler will have considerable difficulty, too, in getting such a fish to sample his lure. But once hooked on a light or medium weight fly rod the angler will never forget, with the chances not altogether one-sided either.

There are few persistent brown trout fishermen who cannot tell truthful tales of smashed rods and many lost flies. The brown is a late comer to the waters of Western North Carolina, but he is very decidedly here now, and is making his presence more and more felt, and appreciated, too, by the brotherhood of anglers.

SILLO
A box silo, suitable for Southern farmers to use in storing silage at a reasonable cost, has been developed by the South Carolina Experiment Station.

AT THE CLEMSON THEATRE

Highlighted by "You Can't Take It With You," and "Union Pacific," the Clemson Theatre offers a varied program for the coming week.

For Thursday of this week is offered, "The Return of the Cisco Kid," based on a story by O. Henry, well known writer who spent much of his life in Western North Carolina before going to the west.

W. Somerset Maugham wrote the story around which "Beachcomber" is based. The picture Friday starring Charles Laughton and his wife, is a gripping story of a chap who went down to the bottom, but was "found" by a missionary-minded sister of the South Sea Island doctor, and came back to find the girl his inspiration and "they lived happily ever after."

For Saturday, George O'Brien is cast in a western action story which is replete with the viciousness of a dastardly crew headed by an ex-law who rules the community with fear. Kay Sutton plays opposite O'Brien in this western love story.

Monday and Tuesday's show is one of Cecil B. DeMille's hits—"Union Pacific," starring Barbara Stanwyck and Joel McCrea. History is repeated as the story of building the railroad through the uncharted west, brings the trials, the heartaches, and the glory of triumph of an American epic that opened a new land.

"You Can't Take It With You," featuring Jean Arthur, Lionel Barrymore, James Stewart, Edward Arnold and an all-star cast of players will be shown Wednesday only of next week. The story is taken from Pulitzer prize play by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. One of the years best pictures, is the label given this showing with a group of stars each of whom is able to draw in any showhouse.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank our friends and neighbors for their many acts of kindness and sympathy shown us during the illness and at the death of our wife and mother, Mrs. Ellen McCrary, and for the lovely flowers.
V. C. McCrary and Children.

SOWS MAKE MONEY

J. M. Gouge of Bakersville received more clear profit from three sows last year than from the remainder of his 125-acre farm, reports Mitchell County Farm Agent J. C. Lynn.

641,010 TREES

Buncombe County farmers planted 641,010 tree seedlings on 638 acres during the 1938-39 planting season for controlling erosion, says W. Riley Palmer, assistant farm agent.

EGGS

Larger production and larger interstate movement of eggs than at this time last year are reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its May 1 poultry and egg situation report.

OAKLAND NEWS

The good singing by those who make up the singing convention was greatly enjoyed by a large congregation at Lake Toxaway Baptist church Sunday afternoon. A number of song leaders were present, but the songs most enjoyed were led by Master Wayne Harmon, who seemed to put his whole soul in the music.

A celebration of Mother's day by the Nicholson family was held here Sunday at the home of their mother, Mrs. Belzie Nicholson, who is the mother of 18 children, all of whom are living except one who died in infancy and another child who died later. Of the 11 living children all were present with the exception of three. Those present with members of their families were: Mr. and Mrs. Will Parker and three sons, James, William and Cannon, Mrs. Roxie Dunn and four children, Miss Annabelle, William, Miss Ruby, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Harbin, Mr. and Mrs. N. S. Galloway, Mr. and Mrs. James T. Harrison, Mrs. Walter Lowe and two sons, Roy Holland and Walter Lowe, Jr., and a stepson, Wylie Lowe, Miss Ida Nicholson, Pick Nicholson, Grady Nicholson and son, Grady, Jr.

Miss Louise Rigdon is spending some time here with Mrs. M. E. Nicholson. Ralph Alexander visited his grandmother, Mrs. S. L. Sanders at her home at Lake Toxaway recently, and reported her getting along nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. Burns Alexander, of Cashiers, visited Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hall Sunday. Junior Hall returned home with them for a few days visit. Lane Sanders, who was one of the agriculture class with their teacher on a visit to Norris Dam and other points of interest last week, returned home Sunday and reported a wonderful trip, both as a good time and as an educational feature. The party was out four days.

Every one is requested to be ready to report at Sunday school next Sunday; how many jars of fruit, berries or vegetables they are willing to fill for donation to the orphanage.

ANNIVERSARY

The Extension Service celebrated its 25th year of teaching an enlightened agriculture on May 8, the Smith-Lever Act having been signed by President Woodrow Wilson just a quarter century before.

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